

**Saturday Night
Talks**
By F. E. DAIVSON
Rutland, Vt.

SENSATIONAL PREACHING.

Feb. 14, '09—(Acts 5:17-42).

To say of a man in these days that he is a sensational preacher, is to discount him greatly in the estimation of most people. And yet, not to be a sensationalist, in the proper sense of that word, is to be a counterfeiter, and not a genuine preacher. The real apostolic succession is demonstrated in the ability to make a sensation, for the original apostles were characterized by sensationalism of the most magnificent pattern.

Cannot Be Muzzled.

They could put Peter and Paul into prison but they could not muzzle them. The moment they were set at liberty they began to preach. Peter had no apologies to make for his message. He did not attempt to argue that two and two are four, he stated the fact, reiterated it, thundered it in the ears of those who disbelieved it, no matter what the consequences to himself. In the opinion of his critics Jesus Christ was merely a fanatical Jew, who had set Himself up to be a God, and who had got Himself put to death for his pains. Peter bluntly told his countrymen that Jesus of Nazareth was not only the son of David, but the Son of God, that He was the Messiah, whom all the prophets for 2,500 years from Moses down to John the Baptist, had been foretelling, and charged them with blindness of eyes and hardness of heart for not accepting Him.

And he did not whisper this in the ear; he thundered it on the housetops. He did not make this claim to a little handful of congenial spirits in the privacy of a secret gathering; he boldly proclaimed it in the temple itself, and to the judge and jury composed of the highest council of the Jewish people when arrested for doing so. He made such a sensation in the ancient city that the very officers of the law pleaded with him to stop it, lest the populace should turn upon them and tear them in pieces. If modern preachers got into jail as often as Peter and the other apostles did, and were chased out of town by mobs of infuriated people as frequently as they were, no church in the country would be brave enough to call them to its pastorate or lift up a voice in their defense. And yet those preachers made the gates of hell tremble and filled the world with the words of this life. Sensational preaching, the world is asleep for want of it! The truth concerning Jesus Christ will always make a sensation. It will make a sensation in the heart, in the family, in the church even, certainly in the world. Of that sort of sensational preachers the world has but few, and they are growing fewer every day.

Peter did not go off into some obscure corner among the Gentiles, and there, where the people knew nothing about the circumstances, preach against the Jews. He erected his pulpit in the very city where Christ was crucified, and to the very men who had killed Him he boldly declared that they had executed their Messiah. He made no apologies, he offered no excuses, he refused to be bribed, he scorned bonds and imprisonments, when commanded not to preach any more he asserted that he had higher authority than theirs to continue, and he kept at it, until the very authorities confessed that all men had gone after him. They said, "You intend to bring this man's blood upon us." It certainly began to look that way.

Makes Men Mad or Glad.

That sensationalist affected the people in two ways: he made some of them mad and he made others glad. Those who were determined to be unconvinced gnashed upon him with their teeth, those who accepted the truth were filled with rejoicing. The first class hissed, the second class applauded. The same truth hardened one and softened the other. The one class, like a set of owls, put their wings over their heads to keep the glare of the sun out of their eyes and hooted, Daylight's a failure! the other realized the fulfillment of the prophecy, "The sun of righteousness has arisen with healing in his beams."

Only Preaching That Tells.

Explain it as you will, this is the only kind of preaching that tells. If the preacher cannot deliver a message that will stir people up and set them to talking, he had better not call it preaching. No one will act until he is moved. If a man can neither make his hearers glad or mad there is something the matter with the man. He has either got the wrong message or he don't know how to use the right one. Peter never suffered from the fear of having his congregation request his resignation, or being snubbed, by his leading members, or being roasted over the slow fires of the sewing circle, or being criticised in the columns of the newspaper, or getting a reputation for eccentricity among the brethren, consequently he was free as the air and as untrammelled as light. And no man will become a sensational preacher, until he casts out of his heart the fear of the face of clay, and dares to act as an Ambassador of the King of Kings.

HABITS OF HINDOO SERVANTS.

If Not Watched Will Sell Household Stores and Rent out Washing.

Excellent servant as the Indian is in many respects, honesty is not one of his qualities, and he has to be strictly looked after when either money or goods are entrusted to him. A mistress cannot go into her kitchen, consult the cook as to what the meals should be and what should be ordered from the shops and leave the rest to him. She has to give him out from her locked up stores every spoonful of everything that is required for the day's cooking, else the goods would be sold outside.

The dusters, the name in India for every description of kitchen and pantry and stable towel, have to be doled out every day or every two days, the soiled ones being counted and locked up till they are given to the dhoobi (washerman), who must not be allowed to keep the clothes of the household longer than is absolutely necessary or he will let them out to his friends for small sums—silk handkerchiefs for feast days, stockings and woolen undergarments in the cold weather, so that holes appear in unaccustomed places.

A khitmatgar (table servant) will be observed to wear a pair of cotton socks one day, silk ones the next, woolen ones the next, not belonging to his master—detection would be too easy in that case—but hired from some one else's dhoobi at a pice (a farthing) a pair. As the house servants of course never wear shoes indoors the stockings suffer considerably.

The cook goes to the bazaar every morning to buy meat, fish, ghee (native butter), vegetables—all the food in fact that cannot be stored, and his book is brought for inspection every day or else expenses would increase in a surprising manner. He of course pockets a percentage on all he spends, and so long as it does not exceed an anna in the rupee, 6 1/4 per cent, no one objects. But it is only by long experience that one gets to know proper prices, and newcomers are woefully imposed upon, 100 or 200 per cent, being often charged.

The cook arranges his prices to suit the circumstances of his master, and as soon as promotion with increased pay comes up goes everything, so that a Colonel's beef or mutton costs more than a Major's, a Major's than a Captain's, a Captain's than a subaltern's, though there may be no change at all in the style of living or in the number of the family.

In the civil service the same thing happens. The pay of every post in the various services is published in the official lists, and the servants know to a halfpenny what their master gets. Some ladies try to do their own marketing, but things are always much dearer for them than for the natives in the bazaar, so that there is no advantage in it, and it is, besides, extremely disagreeable, for the less one sees of the stalls there, particularly the meat stalls, the better.

Big Nose a Mark of Beauty.

In Japan the nose is the only feature which attracts attention. The nose determines the beauty or ugliness of the face, according as it is big or small. This is probably due to the fact that difference in noses constitutes about the only distinction between one Japanese face and another. The eyes are invariably black, the cheek bones high and the chin receding. In Japan a lady who has a huge proboscis is always a great beauty and a reigning belle.

Unique Among Inns.

The Chequers inn at Slapstones, near Osmotherly, must be unique among English inns in one respect, it boasts of a fire, which for more than a century has never been allowed to go out. The place is a quaint little building, to which many visitors resort on account of its never extinguished fire and the turf cakes baked upon its hearth. It has been in the occupation of one family for over one hundred years.

New Form of Chromium.

Chromium prepared in the electric furnace by Moissan proved to be slightly soluble in molten copper. Further investigation has revealed a new form of chromium, which is crystalline, has a density of 7.1, is chemically active, and burns with a brilliant flame when heated alone in the air, being attacked at red heat even by nitrogen.

The Reform of Society.

It is a mistake to imagine that human society can be reformed by mere organization; for the church at least, treatment in the mass can never take the place of treatment of the individual. You must have that personal effort, the one life bending down to lift up the other.

Needed an Hourglass.

A clergyman made an unusually long call at the home of a parishioner recently. He talked and talked, until finally little Edna, who was present, whispered: "Mamma, did the preacher forget to bring his 'amen' with him?"

Thoughtful Girl.

"Can you take a little care of that card of mine?" implored the impetuous girl to the office boy who was rapidly rolling it into a wad, "and bring it back to me so I can send it in somewhere else? Cards cost me a cent apiece."

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