

Saturday Night Talks
By F. E. DAVISON
Rutland, Vt.

THE CHURCH MENAGERIE.

April 4, '09—(Acts 10:1-48).

St. Peter was a conspicuous example of Jewish prejudice and the account of the method by which his eyes were opened is highly dramatic.

The great leader and preacher of the new religion fell into a trance while he was praying on the house top, and in his vision he beheld a great sheet let down from heaven in which were gathered all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things and fowls of the air, and a voice said to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat. But Peter, like a well-disciplined Jew said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean. Then came a voice from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. Just then, there came a knocking at the door, and messengers stood there from a Roman soldier, the commander of an Italian garrison at Caesarea, a Gentile by birth, but a worshipper of the true God, beseeching Peter to come and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to him. In that way the scales fell from the eyes of the great apostle, without the slightest hesitation he went with the committee of invitation and as he had opened the door of the kingdom to the Jews on the Day of Pentecost now he swung the door wide open to the Gentile world in the house of the Centurion Cornelius. And he changed his whole course of conduct because of what he saw in this great sheet.

All Sorts and Conditions of Men.

What did he see? He saw the New Testament church as it is and will be forevermore. All barriers broken down, all partitions removed, a home and dwelling place for all sorts and conditions of men. In that sheet were "all manner of four footed beasts of the earth." These were domesticated animals, oxen, sheep, horses. The useful and valuable creatures of earth. These animals represented to Peter the useful, respectable, honorable, valuable members of society both Jews and Gentiles. Men like Nicodemus the Jew, who yet needed to be born again, and like Cornelius, the Roman, who though a worshipper of God, was ignorant of Jesus Christ whom He had sent.

In that same sheet Peter saw "wild beasts"—the lion, the leopard, the bear. The wild beasts represented the untamed savages the barbarians, the great howling wilderness of men just beyond the borders of civilization, those hordes of wild, ferocious, turbulent denizens of far distant lands whom the armies of Rome were at that very moment beating into subjection. They must have the gospel.

And Peter saw there "creeping things"—reptiles, serpents, worms of the dust. The creeping things stand for all the races and individuals who have no higher ambitions than the dirt, the men and women who nuzzle in the mud, and who are slimy and unclean, they dwell in horrible pit and miry clay. As a Jew, every fibre of Peter's soul would revolt at contact with such creatures—but as a Christian they look differently to him. The unclean and the filthy and the abominable must have the gospel preached to them. And Peter saw there also "fowls of the air"—the eagle, the lark, the condor, the flying fowl stand for the people of high-soaring ability. There are men in every nation who fly high—like the eagle. They rise on majestic pinions to the zenith. These men of mighty wing must have the gospel preached to them. At that very hour there was a young eagle being instructed at the feet of Gamaliel, a Roman citizen by birth, who was destined to draw the attention of ages with his sublime flight, Saul, of Tarsus.

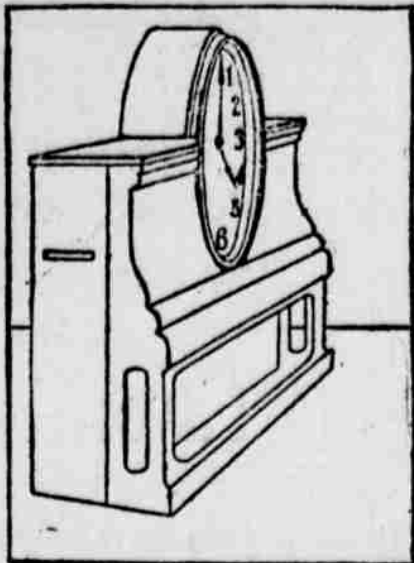
Harmonious, Cleansed, Exhibited Men.

And Peter saw that these animals were all harmoniously together in the great sheet. They were not biting and devouring each other. All animosities were gone. They did not growl, nor bite, nor hook, nor sting. The low were brought up, and the high were brought down. They were all equal in the sheet. Beautiful picture of the levelling, unifying, harmonizing work of the church upon all men everywhere. There was neither Jew nor Greek, Barbarian, Scythian, bond or free, but they were all one in Christ Jesus.

Still further — they were all cleansed. Not by earthly rites and ceremonies, but by divine power, the old distinctions had been blotted out forever. They were all secured. The sheet was knit at the four corners, that is, gathered and held up as a bag by four cords at the corners. It was not a platform, from which they might fall, but a bag to securely hold them. They might fall down in the bag but they couldn't fall out. They were kept securely. Many a man falls in grace who does not fall from grace. He may slip and stumble, but he gets up again and does not fall away from God. These creatures were exhibited on earth for a little while and then taken up into heaven. So the church is put on exhibition here to show the world what God can do with men of such diverse natural characteristics when gathered together by him, and in a little while will be received up into heaven. That is to be the final home of the saints. The vision satisfied Peter; may it be equally satisfying to us.

NOVEL SAVINGS BANK.

Combined with Clock Which Cannot Be Wound Until Coin is Deposited. One of the recent novelties patented is a combined clock and savings bank designed by a Chicago man. Why a savings bank and a clock should be combined will not at once be apparent. The idea would seem ridiculous, as these two articles have no apparent relationship. The purpose of the inventor has merely been to increase the usefulness of the savings bank and assure that it will be constantly employed. He accomplishes this by



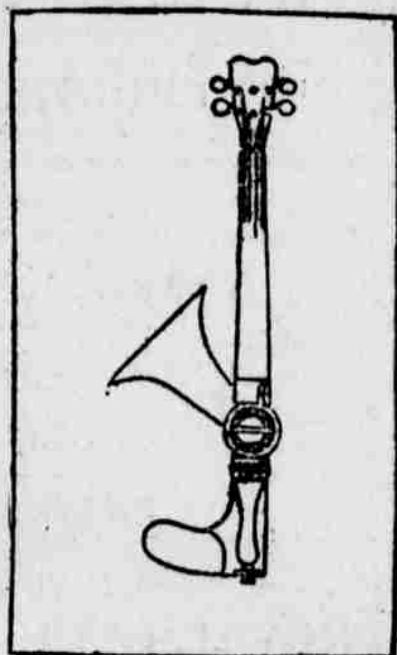
A Novel Savings Bank Clock.

requiring the deposit of a coin in the bank before the clock can be wound. Unless the coin is deposited the clock becomes useless. The amount of the coin deposited is controlled by the size of the slot in the savings bank. The number of deposits can also be increased by requiring a daily winding of the clock. In this way a certain sum must be added to the bank each day previous to each winding of the clock. After the clock has been wound and the key removed the mechanism assumes its normal position so that the clock cannot be wound again without the deposit of a coin.

UNIQUE VIOLIN.

Addition of Horn Which Greatly Increases Quality and Volume.

Improvements in musical instruments are very rare—in fact, so much so as to be at once noticeable. The latest is shown in the illustration below, invented by a Wisconsin man. This instrument is in many respects like the ordinary violin, having strings, tuning pegs, etc., and is played with a bow. The addition is made of a portion of a horn, the latter serv-



Unique Combination Violin.

ing to increase the volume of sound and also to preserve its purity. The sounds are collected by the horn before they emerge from the violin, and are emitted in an even, smooth tone—not ragged nor disconnected, as is often the case with the ordinary violin. As with a graphophone, the horn increases the volume of the notes many times. The inventor, a musician, claims that this instrument cannot be equalled for solo work and also orchestra music.

Novel Kitchen Utensil.

An inventor in Chicago has devised a frying pan with a cover which may be raised, whenever it is desired to examine the contents of the pan, without danger of burning one's fingers. The cover is formed with an extension, which passes through the handle of the pan. A thumb piece is attached to this extension, and passes



Cover For Frying Pans.

vertically through to the upper side of the handle. The cover may then be opened by depressing the thumb piece. Hinged to the handle is a catch, which may be swung over the thumb piece to hold the latter in its depressed position when it is desired to keep the cover of the pan open.

Missing Opportunities.

"I have no patience with a man who makes the same mistake twice," said Armes, rather severely, in speaking of an unfortunate friend.

"Neither have I," agreed his wife, "when there are so many other mistakes to make."

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