

SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS

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BLAZING THE TRAIL.

International Bible Lesson for
July 4, '09—(Acts 16: 1-15).



In two of the greatest epics ever written, the Odyssey of Homer and Aeneid of Virgil, the hero starts from Troy. Here was the tomb of the warrior Achilles, before which Alexander the Great kindled his ambition, and started for the conquest of the East. The

ambition of this soldier was to weld all nations into one vast empire with common laws and language emanating from a central throne.

New Worlds to Conquer.

Four centuries later another warrior stood on the border of Asia, under the shadow of the tomb of Achilles listening to the Macedonian cry, looking for new worlds to conquer. He too was a hero of battles, he bore in his hand an invincible sword, he was moved by a quenchless ambition that could not be satisfied while there was another foot of land that had not been trodden by the heralds of the cross. Paul, the apostle, had come to do by spiritual power what Alexander the Great had failed to accomplish with all his cohorts, weld by the sword of the Spirit all nations into one universal kingdom with common laws and language, issuing from a central throne.

On the Firing Line.

The pioneer in untraveled regions, the pathfinder in the forests and in the mountains, does not explore for himself alone. While he looks forward in anticipation he is ever conscious of the host pressing on behind him, and he seeks for them the safest places and the shortest cuts, and as he goes he slashes with axe the trunks of great trees, that those who follow after may never be out of sight of signals of the proper trail. The career of the Apostle Paul was much like that. He was the pioneer of the churches' advancement. He was on the picket line of the oncoming host. He kept far in advance of the main body of the army of conquest. He chafed and fretted in confinement. He was the embodiment of Charles Kingsley's book "Westward the Star of Empire Takes Its Way." When he gives a summary of a quarter of a century of service, when his work was not yet finished he makes out this catalogue: "Of the Jews five times received I 40 stripes save one—five times 39 equals 195 stripes.—Thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep. In journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." And like a true soldier instead of saying these things to murmur and complain the old hero says: "Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also."

Honorable Scars.

Oliver Cromwell had a vivid scar on his face received in battle. Once a portrait painter attempted to pose him in such a way as that the scar would be concealed. But the grim old warrior would not submit to it. "Paint me as I am," he said, "I will have scars and all." The scars of honorable conflict are badges of honor, certificates of loyalty of which any man should be proud, and this old Christian hero said, "If you think you have reason to glory in what you have accomplished I have a few credentials myself." And then he proceeds to show his scars received while blazing the trail for generations yet unborn.

No genuine pathfinder ever was known to complain of the roughness of the way. The men who blaze the trail expect to endure hardness as good soldiers. Dr. Grenfell, the hero of Labrador, lay down on the ice and slept while drifting on an ice floe out to sea. John Brown had no maledictions for his enemies though riddled with bullets. Commander Peary, again and again, has flung himself against the icy barriers of the North in his attempts to reach the baffling pole. David Livingstone, breathing out his life alone in the heart of the Dark Continent, uttered not a syllable of regret over a mis-spent career. Dr. Judson, the light-bearer for India counted not his life dear unto himself, so that he could get the Scriptures of truth into the hands of the teeming millions of that empire. And Paul, looking across the Aegean sea to the Grecian shore, and feeling the divine call stirring within him, to carry the cross to those regions where the Roman eagle was the highest symbol of power, hesitated not an instant to cut himself off from his base of supplies, and plant the standard of the cross on European soil. Europe and America have been redeemed from barbarism, because Paul, the apostle, blazed the trail for the conquering armies of the Cross.

TITLED WOMEN'S ODD PETS.

A White Elephant, Pelicans, a Hyena and Pythons Fondled.

Many women of title in England have strange pets. The Duchess of Marlborough has a collection of gazelles and pelicans on Thanet Island, in the mouth of the Thames. Lady Warwick owns a white elephant. She also has several peacocks. One of these is pure white. It is a confirmed hermit, never going near the other birds, and it is believed to be 100 years old. Lady Constance Stewart-Richardson used to carry a snake tucked into the bodice of her gown. Lady Cottenham and her daughter, Lady Mary Pepys, keeps marionettes. Lady Hope has tamed a hare so that it comes to her call and follows her about like a dog. She calls the hare "Mr. Juggins." Miss Rose Boughton Leigh of Rugby probably has the strangest pet of all. It is a hyena, and she bought it from an Arab in Constantinople. Mrs. Arthur Cadogan, one of the leaders of the younger social set in London, keeps snakes and pythons, and a photograph shows her with a python coiled around her waist. She also has two lemurs. The Duchess of Roxeburgh, who was May Goelet of New York, has a herd of goats in which she takes great pride.

Treatment of the Insane.

Hereafter attendants in New York insane asylums who strike and abuse patients are to be prosecuted by the Commission in Lunacy on a charge of assault. The commission finds that there is no need of violence on the part of attendants in managing insane patients. Restraint, of course, is necessary in some cases, but it can be applied without injury to the patients. The decision of the Lunacy Commission to discourage and punish needlessly harsh treatment of persons whose mental condition renders their confinement in an asylum necessary will be gratifying to all humane citizens, and especially to those who have friends among the inmates of such institutions. There is a feeling of dread in the minds of thousands over the fear that their friends or relatives under restraint in asylums shall be subjected to some form of abuse or deprivation. The officials in charge of those institutions should do all they can to allay that feeling and inspire confidence in the management of our state asylums.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Too Good a Story to Keep.

This woman was ill, or thought she was, which came to the same thing. Accustomed to the ministrations of the family physician, she sent out a hurry call, but the medico could not be located for the moment. She grew sick and sicker with every minute, and as a last resort, another medical man was sent for, a stranger, but of high repute.

Before he could respond, the family physician turned up and cared for his patient. He was not told that another had been called in, and when the second man arrived, the lady was so flustered and nonplused by the false position in which she found herself that she sent down word she was too ill to see the physician—would he excuse her?

He happened to mention the strange incident to the family physician, with whom he maintains close relations, and that is how the story leaked out.

When Waking Up.

Here is a bit of information it will pay you to keep ready for reference, though you will perhaps turn up your nose at it at the first reading: "How to wake up, and wake up fully and quickly! Most people prefer not to wake up in the morning—that is, they think of the pleasure there would be in just five minutes' more of sleep if only that alarm clock had not sounded its warning. Of course you have to get up, and if there is really anything that will make the job easier and more pleasant you will want to know about it. Doctors have long ago agreed that dullness on first awakening in the morning is due to sluggish circulation of the blood in the brain. This can be quickly overcome by massaging the neck in the neighborhood of the jugular vein, thus stirring the blood to life and action. Rub your neck well on both sides and drowsiness will leave you. Try it."—New York Times.

An Isolated People.

How much remains to be done before we shall have a complete knowledge of the inhabitants of our little planet is indicated by the failure of Mr. Alanson Skinner of the American Museum of Natural History to get into communication last summer with the Naskapi Indians of Labrador. He had supposed that they could be reached by way of the west coast of Labrador, but found it to be impossible. When driven by starvation in winter, they go to Nitchequan, in the interior, 55 days' journey by canoe from Rupert's House on East Main River. Otherwise they are confined to the interior of Labrador proper, "held back on the east and north by the Eskimo, on the west by the Northern Cree, and on the south by the Montagnais."

Dangerous Oil Wells.

The question of underground connection of petroleum supplies bids fair to be an important one to Mexican and possibly Texas owners of wells and land. At last accounts the Mexican San Geronimo field was in flames, and the fire was steadily spreading. It became volcano-like at last, and in a great explosion blew off the top of a hill. How far it will extend and what effect it will have on the oil-producing territory it undermines are questions which are being asked with not a little anxiety.

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