

SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS

By REV. F. E. DAVISON
Retford, Vt.

A FAREWELL SERMON.

International Bible Lesson for
Sept. 5, '09—(Acts 20: 2-38).



Tender-Hearted Preacher.

Paul declares, and is not ashamed of it either, that he had been a tender-hearted pastor, that he had warned them even "with tears." Heroic fearlessness and tender tenderness are twin attributes in all truly great souls. This great apostle had gone forth "weeping, bearing precious seed and thus had often returned rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him." He was not one of your "soft" men, disgusting with their constant flow of lacrymal fluid. One tear on Paul's cheek meant more than streams from other eyes. He not only had a massive head, but a great tender heart, and that tenderness gave him a mighty influence among men.

Fearless Preacher.

But Paul was no time-server. "He kept back nothing that was profitable." He did not prophesy "smooth things." If he had been a coward, a man-pleaser, a time-server, if he had been afraid of provoking men he would have kept back disagreeable truth. The test of truth is not what is palatable, popular, pleasing, but what is profitable and permanent. It is no disparagement to a preacher to be cordially hated, soundly berated, hunted and persecuted. Such treatment may be the finest compliment to real worth that heaven can bestow. No man should murmur when that comes in the way of duty.

The reason why some preachers got along so smoothly is because of the facility with which they straddle the fence, appear to take both sides of the same subject, blow hot and cold at the same time, and die at last with the questionable epitaph, "He never had an enemy!" Such a tombstone could be erected in a field of cabbage heads, but doesn't look well over the grave of a soldier. That could never have been said of Paul, the model preacher, no more than it could have been said of his Master. All truly great preachers have been great fighters, and the devil enjoys nothing more than to get his spear between the joints of such a man's harness.

Heroic Preacher.

Paul said in this farewell sermon, "I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there." He was not cowardly fleeing from trouble, he was going heroically, where he was sure he would get worse, and more of it. He did not know what form it would take, but he felt sure that it was inevitable. Many a man in his circumstances would either have "had a call" in some other direction, or would have gone on his miserable way full of lamentations and groans, but this great hero was as calm as if he was going to his coronation. And he was.

Paul was one of the most abused men that ever lived, and his troubles generally came upon him unexpectedly, like lightning out of a clear sky, but he was heroic. It was well for him, as it is for us, that it was so. Had he known in advance how many times he was to be beaten, and stoned and shipwrecked and imprisoned, and how much he was to suffer from hunger and thirst, and cold and weariness, and painfulness and watchings it would have added greatly to his burdens. It is hard enough to bear those things which come as they come, without anticipating them. None of us know the reverses that shall befall us in this life, the injustice, the oppression, the bloody cross of sacrifice. But the true child of God sings, albeit with quivering lip and streaming eye:

"So I go on not knowing;
I would not if I might;
I'd rather walk in the dark with God,
Than go alone in the light.
I'd rather walk with Him by faith
Than go alone by sight."

"None of these things move me," he says. Mark you, he does not say none of these things hurt him. Paul was not a stoic, he was not thick-skinned and indifferent. As gentle as a woman, as finely strung as a harp, slights and insults struck the nerve of his keenest feelings. He felt it to the very core of his being. But it did not swerve him from the line of duty. The hero is not the man who has no fear, he is the man who goes on unhesitatingly in the path of duty though facing the batteries of his enemies, and shot in the back by his supposed friends. With Paul it was duty first, and life second. That is christian heroism which counts the cost, and yet cries out "Neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I may finish my course with joy."

Notes and Comment

Of Interest to Women Readers

TO DRESS POULTRY.

How to Avoid Some of the Bad Tricks of the Marketman.

To dress and clean poultry, remove hairs and down by holding the bird over the flame (from gas, alcohol or burning paper) and constantly changing the position until all parts of the surface have been exposed to the flame. Cut off the head, and draw out the pin feathers, using a small pointed knife. Cut through the skin around the leg one and one half inches below the leg joint, care being taken not to cut the tendons; place the leg at this cut over edge of board, press downward, to snap the bone, then take the foot in the right hand, holding the bird firmly in the left hand, and pull off the foot, and with it the tendons. In old birds the tendons must be drawn separately, which is best accomplished by using a steel skewer. Make an incision through the skin below the breast bone just large enough to admit the hand. With the hand remove the entrails, gizzard, heart and liver. The gall bladder, lying on the under surface of the right lobe of the liver, is removed with the liver, and great care must be taken that it is not broken, as a small quantity of the bile which it contains would impart an unpleasant flavor. Remove the lungs, which are of spongy consistency and red color enclosed by the ribs, on either side of the backbone. Kidneys, lying in the hollow near the end of the backbone, must also be removed. By introducing the first two fingers under the skin close to the neck, the windpipe may be easily found and withdrawn, also the crop, which adheres to the skin close to the breast. Draw down the skin long enough to fasten under the back. Cut out the oil bag, and wash the bird by allowing cold water to run through it and over it, but do not allow it to soak in cold water; then wipe inside and outside thoroughly, looking to see that everything has been removed. Poultry dressed at market seldom has the tendons removed unless one demands this service. They should be withdrawn, as they become hard and bony during the cooking. Another bad trick of the marketman is to cut a gash through the skin, to reach more easily the crop and windpipe. This, of course, causes the bird to look less attractive when cooked. The gizzard, heart and liver are known as the giblets, and are frequently cooked, chopped and added to a brown gravy to give it added flavor and richness.

The Helen Taft Collar.



The Helen Taft collar, named after the belle of the White House, is a low turn-over of lace, rather wide and edged with a plain or pleated ruffle, and a flat pleated jabot in front, over which there is sometimes a small bow of black velvet.

Woman Champion Cotton Picker.

The world's record for cotton picking is held by Miss Margaret Montgomery of Stillwater, Okla. In a four-hour contest she picked 350 pounds, or 87 1-2 pounds an hour. She defeated crack cotton pickers from all parts of the cotton-growing belt, averaging about five pounds an hour more than her nearest competitor. Miss Montgomery is the daughter of a wealthy cotton grower and she picks only for her own amusement. There were men and women in the field against her. For three hours she easily led everybody, then she began to lag from weary arms and cramps in the fingers. She lacked the training of the others, but showed her pluck by holding on and retaining her lead until the time limit expired.

Effect of a Shave.

"Men have one advantage," said the woman, "and that is when they are shaved they are so sure of themselves. If they are not all right it's the fault of the barber, but if they have a good barber, why, then their self-assurance is complete. I sat in the lobby of a big hotel yesterday, looking at a big fat man who had come out from under the hands of his barber, and I never saw anything so placid with pure complacency as his large, fat face. I wish I could have been so certain that mine was all right as he was of his."

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