

**SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS**

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

**JUDGING FROM APPEARANCE.**

International Bible Lesson for Oct. 3, '09. (Acts 21: 17-22: 19).



For some years, while Paul was on his travels as an itinerant preacher, his foes were not able to do more than drive him from place to place by stirring up the populace against him, but at length their hour of vengeance came.

Paul returned to Jerusalem, and as his custom was went into the temple itself to worship his God and the God of his fathers.

**A Temple Mob.**

Now it was well known that Paul had taught that the Jewish rite of circumcision was no longer binding on Christians, that it was not essential to salvation, that it amounted to nothing one way or the other, and on this visit to the city of Jerusalem, he had as associates some men who were known to have refused to submit to it. This was enough to kindle their smoldering wrath into a flame. Consequently when these zealots recognized Paul in the temple, they jumped at the conclusion that he had brought his companions into that Holy Place for the express purpose of showing his contempt for their faith and disregard of their feelings. Instantly the worshiping congregation was transformed into a howling mob. With shrieks and curses they rushed upon the peaceful intruder with the intention of assassination then and there. In their zeal for their religion they would have spilt the blood of the apostle upon the sacred pavement itself. But the Roman guard, embodied and authorized law, charged the howling rioters, rescued the prisoner, and dragged him away from the would-be lynchers to a place of safety. It was a narrow escape, and it was all the more dramatic from the fact that there was not the slightest reason for it; the whole thing was based on a misconception of the truth, a supposition merely. The enemies of Paul put this and that together, drew certain inferences, came to certain conclusions, and the mob was the result. Appearances were against him, that is all.

**Mean Suspicions.**

But Paul was not the only man who has had to suffer through the mean suspicions of others. Since the world began, and society was organized it has been the lot of man to be subject to criticism, unjust and foundationless. Hearts have been broken, homes have been disrupted, and communities scandalized, by suppositions stated as facts, suspicions reported as verities, appearances, where evil is taken for granted, the evil existing only in the perverted mind of the disturber of the peace.

The writings of Christ and the apostles contain numerous warnings against unjust and baseless conclusions. "Judge not from appearances but judge righteous judgment." "Judge not, that ye be not judged." "Charity thinketh no evil." With such warnings as these the Scriptures abound. Without any thought of the serious consequences likely to follow, reputations are torn into tatters, characters are blackened, and life-structures destroyed. It is not necessary to repeat a tale of suspicious appearances. A shrug of the shoulder may be all that is necessary, a wink of the eye, or an arching of the eyebrow may be as damaging as an affidavit. When the avalanche is poised just off the balance a single movement may send it into the valley on its errand of destruction.

**Out of Whole Cloth.**

In Paul's case, there was absolutely not a grain of truth in the accusation of his enemies. It was made out of whole cloth. He had not done, nor had he the least intention of doing, what they charged against him. It was wholly manufactured. He was simply under suspicion, and being such his most devout acts were open to criticism and the subject of misinterpretation. His enemies were bound to impute evil to him whatever he did, and they only waited the favorable moment to fire the train which led to the prepared explosive. And though entirely innocent this temple riot resulted in putting the apostle under arrest, and making him a prisoner probably for the balance of his life. From that hour, he was in the grip of the Roman law, a grip which did not relax its hold until the headsman's axe liberated the spirit of the dauntless missionary of the cross. And it all came about, because, while this man was in the line of duty, some unknown, sneaking, suspicious, fanatical Jew started a cry one day in the temple at Jerusalem, that a heretic was polluting that holy place by bringing into it some uncircumcised Gentiles. Paul on the contrary was engaged in performing an old-fashioned, orthodox Jewish vow, for the express purpose of disarming suspicion and relieving the minds of those who had already begun to judge him by appearances.

**THE NEWEST SEA FOOD**

California Abalones Said to Be More Delicate Than Oysters.

The abalone of the California coast, famous for its brilliant shell, is the latest addition to the list of sea foods. According to the Wide World Magazine, the abalone is a clean feeder, so that its flesh is superior in soundness and wholesomeness to that of the oysters and other marine creatures which live near shore in water contaminated by many impurities.

The weight of a fairly large fresh abalone is two pounds, of which all but half a pound is good meat, the shell being very light. The meat is nutritious, being highly albuminous, like that of clams, oysters, lobsters and shell fish generally. Albumen is one of the chief elements of nutrition in milk, cheese, eggs, etc.

The flesh as it comes from the shell is too tough to be eaten, whether uncooked, boiled, stewed or fried. The toughness used to be partly eliminated by pounding and hammering it, but this did not render the meat really tender. No matter how long it may be boiled the fish remains hard.

After many experiments a San Franciscan named J. W. Gayetty discovered that if the abalone is killed by electricity its flesh is rendered soft and succulent like that of an oyster. A company uses his method at an abalone canning factory in San Luis Obispo county.

This company owns several roomy, seaworthy boats, each carrying two Japanese divers, one of whom goes down for three or four hours and is then relieved by the other. The diver tears the abalones, with moss and seaweed attached to them, from the rocks and sends up the shells as rapidly as possible. Under ordinary conditions he can send up a ton of abalones in an hour. As soon as the boat comes to shore the abalones, if not wanted at once in the cannery, are thrown into a tank of salt water, the bottom of which is strewn with rocks, so as to resemble the floor of the ocean, and are kept there till they are wanted.

The flesh and juice of the abalone are treated together and the product acquires a flavor more delicate than that of the oyster. This abalone food may be stewed or fried, while the juice makes a good broth, soup or appetizer. It is relished by invalids. The leading hotels of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland and other California cities have "abalone chowder" on their bills of fare, and there are many delicious ways of cooking the prepared flesh.

**When Her Turn Came.**

The Journal had taken on a "woman editor," whose duty was to look after the "Woman's Page." Space being scarce in the "local room," a desk was given her in the managing editor's room, directly adjoining. For a week or two no fault was found with her work, but one morning the managing editor said to her:

"Miss Penfield, your style of writing is a little too terse and epigrammatic for the needs of your department. You must study expansion."

"Very well, Mr. Ringgold," she answered. "I will try."

Thereafter her work appeared to give entire satisfaction, for there was no further criticism. About six months later, however, the managing editor, after a morning spent in working at his desk, suddenly wheeled in his chair and said:

"Miss Penfield, I want a wife. I want you. Will you marry me?"

"Mr. Ringgold," she responded, with a mocking smile, "that is rather terse and epigrammatic. Don't you think you ought to study expansion a little?"

**Wasted Time.**

Mrs. Newrich was growing accustomed to power. She enjoyed it, and was irritated when any one presumed to differ from her in opinion. When the sailing-party of which she had been a member landed on the shores of the lake, rain-soaked and frightened, Mrs. Newrich was the only one who cared to talk.

"It could all have been avoided if that captain had done as I told him," she said, between the chattering of her teeth, as the party stood huddled under a small shelter.

"When I saw that cloud coming from that corner of the lake, I said to him: 'I think you'd better make straight for home, and not spend any more time tacking'; but he paid no more attention than as if I hadn't spoken!"

**A Family Name.**

A new boy had made his appearance in the schoolroom, and Miss Adair, the teacher, summoned him to her desk. "Do you expect to come to school here regularly?" she asked him.

"Yes'm."

"Where do you live? Are you in this district?"

"I guess so. I live down this street 'bout four blocks."

"What is your name?"

"Martin Luther Hicks."

"Martin Luther?" said the teacher.

"I presume Martin, you know for whom you were named?"

"Yes'm," answered the boy, brightening up. "I was named after me uncle on me mother's side. He keeps a liv'ry stable."

**An Army and Navy Standby.**

Friar's balsam (compound tincture of benzoin) and witch hazel for many years have been a standby in armies and navies for the treatment of abrasions and sunburns, and either remedy should be mixed with cool water which has been boiled and sterilized. This can be dabbed on the skin with cotton in a commonsense way.

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