

**SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS**

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**A CORRUPT JUDGE FRIGHTENED.**

International Bible Lesson for  
Oct. 17, '09—(Acts 24).



After Paul had been five days in Caesarea, the high priest came down from Jerusalem accompanied by some of the elders and a Roman attorney, named Tertullus, one of those sneaking, slyster lawyers, who are sometimes met with in these days, who will undertake any dirty job for a fee, and who are as conscienceless in their cases as they are glib of tongue.

**Prisoner's Testimony.**

But in spite of all the unfavorable surroundings, Paul evinces not the slightest perturbation. He is the same calm, courteous, courageous, dignified Christian gentleman that we have always found him. He has been grossly maltreated, but he betrays no anger. He employs no lawyer to rescue him from his predicament by overmastering or sharp-sighted technicality. He has nothing to fear of exposure. He is consciously innocent, and he knows that his accusers are liars. He boldly takes up each charge that has been made against him, and refutes it completely. He triumphantly vindicates himself of the threefold indictment of sedition, heresy and sacrilege.

And this is the way he does it. He had been charged with sedition, he shows that it had been but 12 days since he passed through the very city where he was then on trial, on his way to visit Jerusalem for the first time for years, and that he was innocent of any such attempt. He had been charged with heresy; he shows that he "believes all things which are in the prophets," worshipping the same God, believing the same scriptures, holding the same doctrines as the Jews. He was accused of sacrilege; he proves that the object of his visit to Jerusalem was to worship, and that when arrested he was fulfilling a special vow to the God of that place. Thus he shows that what was criminal in the charge against him was not true, and what was true was not criminal.

But now, right here appears the corrupt character of Governor Felix. Satisfied that the charge was false he yet adjourned the court without rendering a decision, hoping for a bribe. He knew that Paul was a man of great importance to the church, and his greedy, avaricious soul, itching for a price, for two whole years, kept the apostle in military custody.

**The Sermon.**

A short time after this Paul is once more brought before Felix. This time the governor wishes to have a specimen of what he can do as a preacher. He wants to amuse himself with the eloquence of the apostle. He thinks that he has only to command this Jewish orator, and he will stand up like a puppet and reel off a sermon for his edification. And so he seats the harlot with whom he is living by his side, and brings Paul in to preach a sermon.

Paul at the bar, and Paul in the pulpit are different men. The pleader and the preacher are quite unlike. Facing that licentious pair, as in their marble palace they put him on exhibition, he proceeds to hand out to them a most straightforward message. Just what he said we are not informed. We only have the three points of the sermon: righteousness, temperance, and judgment. He preached of righteousness to a man who was unrighteous; of temperance, to a man who was intemperate; and of judgment, to a man who was not ready for it. Fearlessly, eloquently, pointedly, he hurled the truth straight at the heads of his auditors. And before Felix realized it he was struck under conviction. His cheek blanched, his frame trembled, his knees knocked together. He was frightened, overwhelmed, conscience smitten, and he cried out, "Stop! Stop! I have heard enough! Go thy way this time. When I have a convenient season I will send for thee!" And he broke up the meeting. Felix was scared, but not saved; frightened, but not penitent; trembling, but not converted; wounded, but not healed. And he dodges the truth, silences the preacher, plunges deeper into the sins he loves, and turns away from hope. Ah, weak, cowardly, vacillating Felix! There are many like him to-day. On one side of them a wall of righteousness, that their unrighteousness cannot scale. On the other side of them a wall of purity, that their impurity cannot surmount. And before them, along that track to which they are walled in, the judgment is swiftly approaching. It is not surprising that such people tremble. The wonder is that is all they do. The surprising thing is that such people will idiotically talk about a convenient season in which to repent.

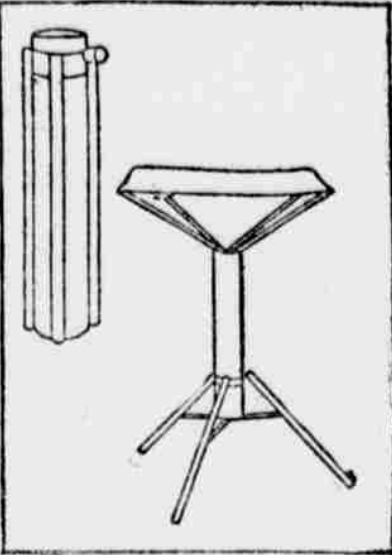
The only convenient season men will ever have is God's ever blessed Now!

**CHAIR SLIPS INTO POCKET.**

When Folded It is not Much Bigger Than a Fountain Pen.

A chair which folds into a shape not much larger than a fountain pen has just been designed as a bit of automobile accessory, but it will be also found useful for many other purposes and occasions. It is often desirable to crowd an extra passenger or two into an automobile when the path being traversed is hard and level, and so the chair shown in the accompanying cut was designed. When not in use it is collapsed and can be stowed away in a corner where it is entirely out of the way, or, if desired, it may be carried in the pocket. When called into active service its strength is assured by reason of the fact that it is made of metal.

It is adjustable to heights of fourteen, sixteen and eighteen inches, has a swivel top, heavy canvas seat twelve inches square, is made of malleable iron and steel with nickel-plate and black enamel finish and weighs complete less than two pounds. When folded it measures only nine inches in length by two inches in diameter and can be easily carried in the pocket.



The Smallest Folding Chair.

It is built to sustain a weight of 400 pounds and its compact form makes it especially serviceable for use in motor boats, camping excursions, sketching, etc.—Washington Star.

**KITCHEN SAFE THAT FOLDS.**

When not in Use in Summer It Can be Placed Behind the Door.

Economy of space is so much sought after nowadays that it is not surprising to hear of the folding safe. This is the invention of a Georgia man, and should be found useful to housewives who have no more room than they need. The back and front of this safe are each made in one piece and the sides are in two pieces, hinged in the middle, so that they can be



Portable and Saves Room.

folded in ward, like the pleats of an accordion, and the whole form a flat surface. When the safe is erected, slides and a drawer fit into the sides and two doors, hinged on the front, give access to the interior. In houses with small kitchens and cramped pantry accommodations the new safe will be found very convenient, and a particular virtue is that it can be easily moved about to any place where it is needed. In summer time, when an icebox is required, the safe can be folded up and put out of the way, or can be placed outside under a shed.

**Reading Masks.**

The "Book Monthly" passes on a warning to the researchers among old volumes. It has been discovered that the ancient volume over which the researcher pores is full of germs, and you should not face the tome without a silk and wire mask to fit over the mouth and nose. Otherwise, the reader, as Hood wrote, will "find more dust within the heap than he'd contracted for." The reading mask is in use in Paris. But one awaits the fashion plate which will encourage the ladies at the British Museum with a really fascinating mask. It should be nothing like the disguise of the motorist.

**Intoxication of Power.**

Power will intoxicate the best hearts, as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough nor good enough to be trusted with unlimited power; for, whatever qualifications he may have evinced to entitle him to the possession of so dangerous a privilege, yet, when possessed, others can no longer answer for him, because he can no longer answer for himself.—Colton.

**Brain, But No Ear.**

Abraham Lincoln could not tell "Yankee Doodle" from "Dixie." General Grant did not know the Army bugle calls.

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