

SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS

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

PAUL'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

International Bible Lesson for
N. v. 21, '09—(2 Cor. 11: 22-28.)
2 Cor. 12: 1-10.



Some of the most fascinating books in the world are autobiographies. Hero worshipers and scholarly historians give us highly colored or coldly critical accounts of the lives and labors of eminent men, but when a man who has had vast experience, sits down near the close of life, to write out the story of his career, he usually produces a book thrillingly interesting.

Such a volume generally goes into details concerning the birthplace, the home, the early education, the trade, the profession, the public career, of the writer, embellished and illustrated with numerous references to his contemporaries, incidents and happenings covering a wide range of time and circumstances. The public eagerly peruses such volumes, and the young are inspired and encouraged by such examples.

The World's Hero.

There is no man in history who commands the interest and admiration of the world more than the Apostle Paul. His biographer Luke has written in the Acts of the Apostles his marvellous story at considerable length, a story which places him in the front rank as a scholar, an orator, a leader, an organizer, a traveler, an explorer, a theologian, a writer, a sufferer, a tireless worker, and always and everywhere a christian gentleman.

He tells us where Paul was born, where he was educated, when and where he was converted, the regions into which he traveled, the churches he organized, how he was persecuted, the great men he met, in what cities he preached, how he worked at his trade to pay his way, what a profound student he was, what a clear understanding he had of human nature, how he confounded his adversaries in his arguments, how he saved the church from splitting on the rock of Judaism, how he put in half a century of work all over Asia and Europe, turning the forces of heathenism, paganism and Judaism upside down and planting the standard of the cross above the Roman eagles. It is a thrilling memoir this, of the Life of St. Paul, and it will never die.

Summary of His Life.

But this is not all we know of this great hero of the church. In the epistle to the Corinthians the apostle incidentally writes his own autobiography and in the 11th and 12th chapters records with his own pen a summary of the events of his life, without a particle of egotistic, bombastic boasting he puts down a catalogue of the things he had done and suffered for the cause of christianity, and the list is startling enough to make us modern christians hide our heads in chagrin and embarrassment. We are like pigmies in the presence of a giant when we open the volume of the book and read such words as these:

"In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft, of the Jews five times received I forty stripes, save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep. In journeyings 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. Besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches."

Tonic for the Weak-Kneed.

This is autobiography at its best. The modern soldier of the cross does well to keep such a biography near at hand and read it often for his comfort and encouragement, we sometimes think, in these soft and careless days, that we have a hard time of it trying to exemplify christianity. Poor, weak-kneed specimens of piety, when we feel these fainting spells coming on we ought to take a good big dose of the Apostle Paul. There was iron in his blood, ambition in his head, strength in his grip, fire in his eye, and genuine religion in his heart.

The love of personal liberty, the perilous prospect of death, none of these things moved him from the desire and purpose to finish his course with joy, and to fulfill the ministry which he had received as a sacred trust from the Lord Jesus Christ. To be a follower of such a hero is to be in the apostolic succession by the power of the Holy Ghost. When the world gets a race of christians to whom nothing is so dear as the unspeakable luxury and matchless opportunity of fighting in this old hero's company and with his weapons, the Kingdom of God will come.

HOME DRESSMAKING
By Charlotte Martin.

LITTLE GIRL'S NIGHTDRESS.



Pattern No. 444.—For the summer time this plain little gown, made of the thinner white materials is very good. The neck and sleeves are finished with a lace edging and the neck also has a beading run with pink ribbon.

This pattern is cut in five sizes, 2 to 10 years. Size 6 requires 2 3/4 yards of 36-inch material.

SIMPLE MORNING JACKET.



Pattern No. 448.—A morning jacket of almost military plainness with its nearly tied collar and closely fitting belt and peplum is a pleasing change from the more elaborate kimono and negligees. The design here is made of plain blue challis and the edges of the collar, cuffs, belt and peplum are trimmed with a single band of blue santonche set on about a quarter of an inch from the edge. The closing is made in a new and simple manner by sewing santonche on as shown in the picture, leaving one end of the rectangular design free at the edge to serve as a loop. The buttons are covered with silk like the ribbon ties.

This pattern is cut in 5 sizes, 32 to 40 bust measure. Size 36 requires 2 2/3 yards of 27-inch material.

LADIES' BIB APRON.



Pattern No. 421.—This apron affords protection to the dress where most needed without being too large, and the absence of gathers makes it easy to launder. The skirt is circular and has a round waist line and the bib is sewed down over this in front in a becoming point, or may be sewed to the round waist line of the skirt.

This pattern is cut in three sizes, 32, 36 and 40 bust measure. Size 36 requires 3 1/8 yards of 27-inch material.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Send ten cents for each pattern desired to Charlotte Martin, 402 W. 23rd Street, New York. Give No. of pattern and size wanted.

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