

**Saturday Night  
Talks**  
By Rev. F. E. DAVISON  
Rutland, Va.

**FINANCES OF KINGDOM.**

International Bible Lesson for Feb. 13,  
'10.—(Matt. 6:19-34).

Homer, in his classic poem the Odyssey, narrates the wanderings of Ulysses in his return from Troy to his own kingdom Ithaca. One of the dangers which the great warrior encountered was the peril of sailing his vessel between Scylla and Charybdis. Scylla was a snaky female monster who dwelt in a cave high up on a cliff, from whence she was accustomed to thrust forth her long necks, for she had six heads, and in each of her mouths to seize one of the crew of every passing vessel. On the other side of this narrow strait was another monster, Charybdis, who was in reality a whirlpool, which three times a day drew the water into a frightful chasm, from which not even Neptune himself could protect and rescue any ill-fated ship. So there was a frightful peril on either side of the narrow passage to guard against. And the poet says, that while Ulysses and his men were keeping strict watch for the whirlpool they forgot the six-headed monster Scylla, and were only made aware of the danger on that side, when six of the sailors were snatched out of the boat and borne away shrieking to her den. Thus we get the proverbial expression, "He runs on Scylla, wishing to avoid Charybdis."

**Money and Trust.**  
In the teachings of Christ, in the Sermon on the Mount, we meet with a statement concerning the finances of the kingdom, that this old story seems vividly to illustrate. The subjects of the kingdom of heaven are nevertheless in this world, and they cannot do without the things of this world, money, property, possessions, houses, lands, real estate, wages or income, whatever form their acquisitions may take. They have to eat and drink and wear clothing, and pay house rent and taxes and support those dependent upon them. They cannot cut themselves loose from the use of money, from its possession and its employment.

On the other hand real piety and trust in a Heavenly Father's care cannot possibly have anything in common with feverish anxiety, worry, perplexity, nervous prostration over the bread question, or a wild and selfish scramble after the Almighty Dollar. The path between these two extremes you observe, is straight and dangerous. It is like the voyage of Ulysses. On one side the whirlpool; on the other side the rock. The yawning jaws of Scylla are on this side, the engulfing waves of Charybdis are on that side. In trying to escape this peril, we must keep a sharp look out for that.

On the one side must be shunned the Scylla of greed; on the other side the Charybdis of care. The one is the real danger of seeking too much, the other the supposed danger of having too little of the good things of life. And this is not as some suppose one caution for the rich and another for the poor. For the rich may be eaten up with care and anxiety and worry in his desire to keep what he has and to get a little more; and the poor may have his heart as anxiously and sinfully set upon the increase of his dimes as the other man upon his millions. It is not a question of class but of qualities of soul.

**Commercialism Condemned.**  
The warning on one side is against making money our treasure. The literal translation is, "Treasure not for yourselves treasures upon the earth." It is not a prohibition of wealth but a prohibition of wealth as a treasure. And this for the reason that such treasures will perish; they will darken the spiritual vision and they will destroy the heart; to set the heart upon the world means to give up the kingdom, for no man can serve two masters. It is true of many a man that riches possess the man, rather than man the riches. He is the bond slave of his pocketbook.

**Anxiety Reproved.**  
That is one side of it. The other side is, a warning against anxiety. The words "Take no thought," in that day meant to everybody, "Be not over anxious." In other words, Do not fill your life with worry, do not be a slave to anxious care. Look at the birds, and the flowers in their freedom from covetousness, and discontent. We cannot escape from trouble, but we can avoid crossing the bridge until we come to it. A vast amount of trouble in this world is only imaginary, we suffer because we persist in bearing not only the troubles we have now, but those we had yesterday and those we are going to have to-morrow. Sufficient into the day is the evil thereof. Don't trouble trouble till trouble troubles you. It is well to remember that the eye that watches the sparrow will not overlook us. In sailing along over this sea of life keep one eye out for Scylla and the other for Charybdis.

**Foresight.**  
Christ does not forbid foresight and provision for the future; for the birds neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet they do build their nests, gather their food, and make their annual migration to warmer climes as though everything depended upon their vigilance and activity. They work but do not worry. They are beautiful examples of perfect trust. They seek their food as if they expected to find it; care-free and happy.

**PROPELLED BY EAGLE POWER.**

Unique Flying Machine Which is Carried by Our National Bird.  
In these days of successful flying machines it is interesting to note some of the curious methods of aerial navigation heretofore proposed. In



Eagle Motive Power.

United States patent granted May 17, 1887, to C. R. E. Wulff, and now expired, was shown a new use for the American eagle. Instead of being allowed to pose in lofty independence as our patriotic emblem, this utilitarian inventor has put him to work. A team of live eagles, each hitched up in special harness, was connected to a balloon as shown in the illustration, and formed a means of controlling and directing the flight of the balloon, says Popular Mechanics. This motive power was capable of indefinite radius of action and all the aeronaut had to do was to keep his team of eagles headed in the direction he wanted to go, which was done by a turntable arrangement to which the eagles were secured by their harness. The inventor in this case was a Frenchman and his invention was patented in France before it was patented in the United States. This may account for his lack of respect to our national bird.

**Before You Strike.**

Many are familiar with an old story of a merchant travelling on horseback, accompanied by his dog. He dismounted and accidentally dropped a package of money. The dog saw it; the man did not. The dog barked to stop him, and as he rode farther, bounded in front of the horse and barked louder and louder. The merchant thought he had gone mad, and shot him. The wounded dog crawled back to the package, and when the merchant discovered his loss and rode back, he found the dying dog beside the package. The late George T. Angell told in the Children's Friend a story related by a friend which adds force to the thought: Think before you strike any creature that cannot speak.

When I was young and lived up in the mountains of New Hampshire, I worked for a farmer who gave me a span of horses to plow with. One of them was a four-year-old colt.

The colt, after walking a few steps, would lie down in the furrow. The farmer was provoked, and told me to sit on the colt's head, to keep him from rising while he whipped him "to break him of that notion," as he said.

But just then a neighbor came by. He said, "There is something wrong here. Let him get up, and let us find out what is the matter."

He patted the colt, looked at his harness, and then said, "Look at this collar. It is so long and narrow, and carries the harness so high, that when he begins to pull it slips back and chokes him so that he can't breathe."

So it was; and but for that neighbor we should have whipped as good a creature as we had on the farm, because he lay down when he could not breathe.

**An Eye for Automobiles.**

In the crowd at the automobile show was a gentleman who had been going from one exhibit to another for two hours, trying to make up his mind as to the particular make of motor-car that best suited his requirements. It was not a question of cost. He could afford to pay any price likely to be asked. Every car had some peculiar feature that recommended it, but the difficulty was to find one that embodied all the strong points. In this emergency he chanced to spy an old acquaintance.

"Hello, Rogers!" he said. "I'm having an awful time trying to make a purchase I promised my wife long ago that I would make. Have you got a good eye for automobiles?"

"I ought to have, Swigert," answered the man whom he addressed as Rogers. "I've been dodging them for seven years."

**Irish Gooseberries.**

An Irishman—or Irishwoman—is rarely at a loss to give quite as good as he gets. The American tourist who figures in Sketchy Bits found this out to his cost.

An old Irishwoman, who kept a fruitstand, had some melons exposed for sale. The Yankee, wishing to have some fun with the old lady, took up one of them and said:

"These are small apples you grow over here. In America we have them twice the size."

The woman slowly looked up at him and in a tone of pity exclaimed:

"Sure, sorr, ye must be a stranger in Ireland, and know very little about the fruit of our country, whin ye can't tell apples from gooseberries!"

**A Monument in the Snows.**

The highest placed monument in the world is situated on La Combra, the summit of a pass in the Andes, and marks the frontier of the Chilean and Argentine republics. It stands at an altitude of 12,796 feet above the sea level, and for awe inspiring grandeur its surroundings would be hard to match.—Wide World Magazine.

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