

Saturday Night Talks
By Rev. F. E. DAVISON
Rutland, Vt.

THE KING OF THE NATURAL WORLD.

International Bible Lesson for Mar. 13, '10.—(Matt. 8:23-34).

He who bears kingly credentials must not only have power to conquer the hearts and the bodies of men. He must be the master of life's environment as well. Christ must prove His divinity by His power over the forces of nature. And this He did in the marvellous story of this lesson. The sailing of a tempest on the Sea of Galilee.

Tempest on the Sea.

Crossing that land-locked, mountain-guarded body of water with His disciples in an open boat, one of the sudden storms for which that sea is famous swept down through the mountain gorges upon them, and the little boat was almost covered with the waves. The disciples were old fishermen, brought up on the shores of that sea, getting their living for years out of its crystal depths, rocked on its bosom often by tempestuous winds, not easily frightened at the heaving of a gale. But this time they struck a tempest such as they had never encountered and they were afraid the boat would go to pieces in the squall. They did their utmost to keep her afloat, but when they became convinced that they could not weather the gale they suddenly remembered that they carried the King, and they cried out to Him for help.

Master of Neptune.

Worn out with the day's labors Christ was fast asleep. His human nature no more disturbed than a child by the rocking of a cradle. But at the first cry of alarm, the Master arose. First, He quieted the tempest in the disciples' hearts, rebuking their unbelief and calming their fears, then He stills the storm without rebuking the winds and the sea, "and there was a great calm." It was all done without effort, naturally, calmly, as a God. It reads like the story of creation. Here is one among men who wears the crown of kingly authority over the forces of nature. No wonder the astonished disciples exclaimed, "What manner of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" No wonder that John writing long after of this wondering being, said, "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made." He who in the beginning had let slip the winds of heaven out of His fingers could easily drive them back into their caverns. He, out of whose palm had dropped all the stars, and all the seas, and all the oceans had only to speak the word of command and the boisterous waves crouched at His feet in humble submission.

This was not the only time in the career of the King that He proved Himself master of the natural world. While there was never any outgiving of His power to meet His own personal needs there was never any diminution of His power to help those who were in peril from the elements. He was in His world, the Master and King of it, always, and everywhere.

Ruler of the Invisible.

But visible nature is not man's only environment. There is an unseen universe besides to which man is more or less subject. We are all conscious of an invisible world, surrounding us on all sides, mysterious, incomprehensible, yet exerting an influence over us which we cannot escape. We are just as much moved upon by that world as we are by this. This world affects our physical nature, that world affects our moral nature and we cannot escape it. Whatever may be meant by demonic possession, the old-fashioned statement that some people are possessed of the devil embodies a great truth. There are storms in the spiritual world, more to be dreaded than electrical storms in the material world, more terrible by far than any cyclone that ever raged over a western prairie town. But the King of men is Master even here.

Demons Own His Power.

The disciples had no sooner escaped the peril of one storm than they came up against another in the person of two demoniacs—men who were under the power of an awful brain storm. These men were set free from their peril and suffering by a word of power, the demons which possessed them being hurled into the deep by the fiat of the King. Mysterious? Yes. Incomprehensible? Possibly. But the fact remains that when men ask for the credentials of Him who comes claiming to be the King of all Kingdoms, this Christ of the New Testament can produce them. His word is power. His look is authority. His attraction is universal. He is in world, but not of it. Great nature, which is the master of ordinary men, recognizes His authority, "the wind and the sea obey Him," and "the Prince of the Power of the Air," and all his legions, ground the weapons of their rebellion at His feet, and retreat in abject terror to their subterranean abodes.

Therefore, whenever the King of the invisible world came in contact with the powers of darkness, one look, one word of command from Him was all that was necessary to eject the demon that had camped upon the territory of the human body. The powers of darkness recognized His authority and retreated before His kingly presence.

SLAVE BECAME EMPRESS

The Sultan of Morocco Is a Direct Descendant from Her.

HAD GREAT BEAUTY

Davia Was Only Seven Years Old When Her Father Obtained Freedom on Condition That He Should Leave Her in the Sultan's Harem.

It is not generally known that the Sultan of Morocco is partly of French descent, but such is the case; and strange was the fortune that placed a young French girl on the throne of Morocco within comparative recent times. The present Sultan of Morocco is of direct descent from a beautiful French slave girl, Davia.

About 1769 a Corsican merchant named Franchesi, returning from the island of Sardinia with his newly made bride, was captured by an Algerine corsair. The young couple were taken to Algiers, exposed for sale, and purchased by a rich native. Franchesi had the good fortune not to be separated from his wife, and she contrived to win the good graces both of his master and of the Pasha, amassing a fortune, and was eventually allowed to return to Corsica, then French territory. Together with his family and numerous gifts from the Algerine Pasha, Franchesi set sail for his native land, but his vessel was overtaken by a Barbary pirate, most of the crew were thrown overboard, the ship set on fire, and the unlucky Franchesi and his whole family carried off to Morocco.

Again the family of Christian slaves were put to public auction and purchased by a powerful Tunisian noble. Once again Franchesi obtained the favor of not being separated from his wife and again he gained the good will of his master, so much so that he was taken before the Sultan himself, who treated him graciously and asked to see his family. His daughter Davia was then only seven years old, but the child's extraordinary beauty must have impressed the Moorish sovereign, for he loaded the Frenchman with gifts. Franchesi, however, yearned to return to his own land and implored that favor from the Sultan, who granted it on condition that Davia should be left behind to be reared in the seraglio. The condition was a hard one, but was accepted; he sailed and with his wife and sons reached Corsica in safety. Once in Corsica he brooded over the humiliation of leaving his beloved young daughter in a Moorish harem, and conceived the project of equipping an expedition to kidnap one of the Moorish princes and obtain his child by way of exchange or ransom. He chartered a vessel and landed at Saltee, but was struck down with fever and died a few days subsequently. The expedition, deprived of its leader, returned to Corsica.

For a long period nothing was heard of Davia until in 1789, agents of the Sultan of Morocco arrived in Corsica to trace the Franchesi family. The little Davia had grown up and was now empress. Her mother and brothers returned to Morocco where they were received with royal honors, and a palace with five hundred slaves was set apart for their use; as a special mark of favor, Davia was permitted to join them. She had unbounded influence over the aged ruler who recognized her ability as well as her beauty; this monarch, however, was poisoned in one of the many palace revolutions by one of his sons, who succeeded him. Davia remained unmolested by the new Sultan, and died of the plague in 1802. Her mother remained in Morocco with one of her sons, Augustin, and the other son became consul-general for Morocco at Genoa, where he died about 1820.

Skeptical About It

"I didn't see you in church Sunday morning," said Mrs. Oldcastle. "No," replied her hostess, "toying with a \$2,500 solitaire. I was so nervous I knew I couldn't sit still if I went, so I gave up and laid in bed nearly the whole morning." "That was too bad. You ought to have been there. Dr. Miggs-worth exorcised several of our leading financiers, and considerable anger was exhibited by some of them." "Is that so? I didn't know they could do such things in our church. Spoused only the Pope had that power."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Lincoln Knew He'd Grow Old.

Venerable Ira Haworth of Kansas City recently exhibited to friends who came to see him on his 90th birthday a black walnut cane, whitened out and presented to him by Abraham Lincoln in 1860. "The cane," said Lincoln, "is to use when you get old. I know you will live to be old, because the good die young."

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