

SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS

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

PAUL AT ROME.

International Bible Lesson for Nov. 14, '09—(Acts 28: 11-31).



Paul at Rome is a theme that authorizes glowing description. Jerusalem and Rome were the pivotal centres from which went out the world's transforming forces—the one, the home of divine government; in the other, the god of this world was enthroned.

He was a lone man, a poor man, a man in chains, and yet he was the vaunt courier of a rising power that was to turn the tide of Roman history, and revolutionize the world. Had Nero on his throne been aware of the dynamic force embodied in that little travel-stained prisoner he would have been as profoundly moved and greatly troubled as if some foreign foe were thundering at his gates. But he knew it not, and he continued his drunken revels while the city slept, unconscious of the transformation scene which the entrance of that prisoner assured.

Getting a Hearing.

It is not hard to get a hearing for the gospel when the seeker, like Paul, has the "fire in his bones." He was a prisoner after a sort but was so well reported of that he was allowed to live "for two whole years in his own hired house."

But "the Word of God was not bound," and Paul felt that he could not rest without delivering his message. He might have spent his time amid the splendid architecture, world-famous sculpture and historical antiquities, but nothing of that sort could divert him from his work. And hence within three days after his arrival at Rome he calls around him the chief of the Jews, the rulers and leading men of the synagogues, that he might disarm their prejudices. Without a trace of bitterness he forgives and forgets the evils that had been inflicted upon him. One thing must be said to the credit of his persecutors, they had not sent on to Rome their evil reports and base slanders, and he is assured by his countrymen there that they had heard nothing against him.

Expository Preaching.

Paul was not like some modern preachers who take a text and preach from it. He was a splendid type of that very uncommon class of divines who preach expository sermons—the meatiest, juiciest, most interesting of all the styles of preaching. He took his text from the Old Testament, the only Bible there was in those days, and appeared to have no difficulty in finding Christ in the Gospel according to Moses. So captivating, evangelical, Scriptural was he in his exposition, and so tremendously in earnest, that he preached all day but held his congregation to the end. That was the first Gospel sermon that his listeners had ever heard and they were so deeply stirred that they took no note of time.

A Crisis of Destiny.

It makes no difference who the preacher is, or what or how long is his sermon he cannot make his hearers believe. To present the message is the duty of the man of God, to accept or reject it is the hearer's prerogative. It is some comfort to hard-working modern clergymen that even Paul failed to convert the majority of those to whom he preached. Some churches seem to think that if they could only get Brother Silver-tongue for their preacher their entire congregation would be swept into the kingdom. But whoever occupies the pulpit this will be the verdict of history "Some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not." The same truth produces different effects even as the shining of the sun softens ice and hardens clay.

Promoted.

With this lesson the story of the life of Paul abruptly closes. Luke the amanuensis, very likely took the time to write it during the two years in which they dwelt at Rome. And Paul wrote many of the epistles, which are incorporated in the sacred canon during that time. Tradition says something about release, re-arrest and execution after five years more of toil. But the book of the Acts is the only certain historical guide in tracing his life. Nevertheless, all critics agree that the life of Paul did not extend over more than five years from this point.

One day a small procession wended its way through the gates, and "Paul the Aged," was again in the midst. The mightiest mind in the Christian church was on his way to promotion and coronation. He had just penned his last message and was, now "ready to be offered. He had fought the good fight. He had kept the faith. He had finished his course." Soon the soldiers halt, and the executioner steps forward. For the last time those tottering limbs bend in prayer. There is a flash in the sunlight as the headman's axe descends—and the worn and weary pilgrim is at rest.

POULTRY

FARM POULTRY HOUSE.

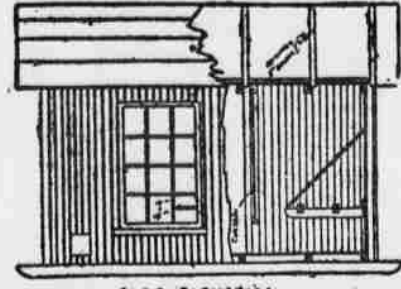
There is Nothing Better Than a Movable Colony One.

For a farmer's poultry house I know of nothing that will give better satisfaction than a movable colony house, such as is used at Macdonald College, Que., a photo and plan of



Front View.

which accompanies. This house is 8 x 12 feet, floor built on two skids and accommodates 25 hens and 3 males in the winter and half as many more during the summer. A team of horses can draw it to any part of the farm that may be desired. This gives fresh ground to the hens, and feed that might otherwise go to waste, can be made use of. For farm use the studding need not be so high, and the house can be built of available material. A loose board ceiling over which is placed straw provides for the absorption of moisture and even in



Plan of Interior.

the coldest days, hens are quite comfortable. A farmer can add to his equipment one house at a time, and gradually work up to the desired number.—F. C. Eilford.

Color of Shell and Quality.

It is sometimes said that the color of the shell of an egg indicates the richness of the yolk, but in the absence of positive proof we should say that the color of the shell in no way affects the quality of the egg.

One breed of hens will lay eggs with white shells, while others will lay eggs with all degrees of shades, from the light tint to the darkest brown, and we have yet to find any person who could distinguish the kind from the flavor.

It is true that all markets have their preference, some demanding the white and others the dark, but this is due merely to a matter of choice and not because the people think one better than the other.

Of course, food, in a measure, may, and doubtless will, affect the richness of the egg, but the color of the shell will not indicate this. Supply the kind your market prefers and your profits will be larger.

Water for the Chicks.

Take an ordinary baking pan and have the tinsmith rivet on an "ear" on one side for nailing to a tree. Have him also make a hole in the bottom in one corner, that the water can be let out every day and the pan be kept clean. Nail the pan to a tree about twelve inches from the ground, so the chicks can drink without getting into it with their feet. The birds will soon discover that it is a fine place from which to get a drink on hot days. Sometimes they find, too, that it is a convenient place for a bath, and this of course makes the water dirty. But it is not much trouble to refill the pan with clean water, and this should be done two or three times a day. Chickens and birds require a great deal of water, and they often suffer for lack of it. Don't neglect them.

Guinea Fowls.

The flesh of guinea is generally dark colored, tender, juicy and in flavor equal to the ring-neck English pheasant. Many think it more palatable, for the flavor is not so pronounced, and there is considerably more of it. The flesh of the white guinea is light in color, and if they are crossed with the pearl variety the meat of the latter will become nearly as light.

Two Yards for Chickens.

Where possible, it is advisable to have two yards, one on the north side of the house for a warm weather run, and the other on the south side. Ground frequently becomes "fowl sick" from long use. It is necessary, when this condition prevails to plow up the ground and plant it in some crop. By this means, the earth becomes clear of poisonous droppings.

MONARCH AND HEIR AT WAR

Prince Albert, Belgium's Crown Prince, is Leopold's Dearest Political Enemy.

London.—No band played, no royal salute was fired, no kingly message was sent when Albert of Belgium, heir presumptive to the Belgian throne, started last spring on his long voyage through the Congo. The band will play loudly when he returns, but there will be discord in its sound.

King Leopold allowed his nephew to start without a friendly message for the most sufficient reasons. He had no friendly message to send him.



Prince Albert.

The king knows that this journey through the Congo bodes no good to him. His consent to it was asked only as a matter of form. Prince Albert, rich by inheritance from his father, endowed with a revenue by the Belgian parliament, owes little to, and knows he will get nothing from the king. When he returns from the Congo he will throw off all pretense of submitting to leading strings, follow a policy of his own, and, inevitably, will find himself at the head of a party hostile to the king.

There may be no open scandal. The prince, surrounded by the atmosphere of the German courts, will break no rule of etiquette. In public he will be deferential to his sovereign. King Leopold, most acute of men, will be, in public, as loving to his nephew as ever. But war there will be, with or without scandal. Prince Albert, while holding aloof from politics, already has done and said enough to show what his policy is. It is a policy opposite in all things to that of King Leopold.

300 GIRLS NEVER SAW PIGS.

This is Brought Out by Inquiry in Kansas City High Schools.

Kansas City, Kan.—The statement of a young woman in the Central High School that she never had seen a pig was regarded as a remarkable admission by the teacher before whom she was reciting. However, when half a dozen other young women in the same class confessed they had never seen a real live pig the instructor concluded it was time for his pupils to begin to grasp a knowledge of everyday things.

The fact that so many students in one class were acquainted with pigs only through hearsay led to inquiries to ascertain how extensive the ignorance of school children with regard to pigs really was. A canvass of the three Kansas City high schools revealed that almost three hundred girls never had seen one. And this in Kansas City, one of the largest live stock markets in the world.

TOO MUCH PROSPERITY.

Prevents Boys from Studying, Says Kansas University Chancellor.

Kansas City, Kan.—Overflowing granaries and bulging banks have brought a new danger to the University of Kansas. Chancellor Strong, pointed out the peril. The university is determined, however, to offset the result of too much prosperity.

"So much money has been made in this Western country in the last ten years," Chancellor Strong said, "and the boy has been furnished so much of it, that he has desired to live pretty well, and some of them have craved and have had motor cars. All of this has a tendency to distract attention from studies and we have had some hard work to combat the tendency."

AERIAL LODGE FORMED.

Ceremonies Formally Conducted at an Elevation of 7,200 Feet.

Greenfield, Mass.—Aerial Lodge No. 1, A. F. and A. M., has just been formed here, the first aerial lodge of Masons in the world, at an elevation of seventy-two hundred feet above the earth.

The lodge was conducted with all Masonic observances possible under the circumstances. J. J. Van Alkenburg, of South Framingham, Mass., was worshipful master; Jay Benton, of Boston, senior warden, and Chas. J. Glidden, of Boston, junior warden.

The Masonic ceremony was the chief feature of a short but interesting aerial journey from Pittsfield.

Boys, 4,634 Years Old Make Merry. Winsted, Conn.—Fifty-eight "boys," their ages aggregating 4,634 years, made merry at the thirteenth annual reunion of the Old Men's Club of Bristol at Lake Compounds. Elias Burwell, who will be ninety-eight next month, joined the others in eating baked sheep and friend corn. The youngest boy present was seventy-one years old.

ROLL of HONOR

Attention is called to the STRENGTH of the

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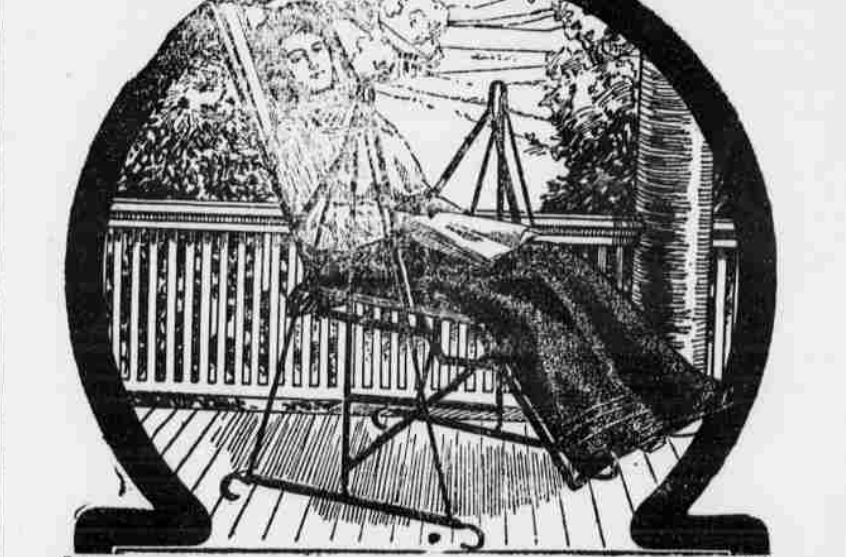
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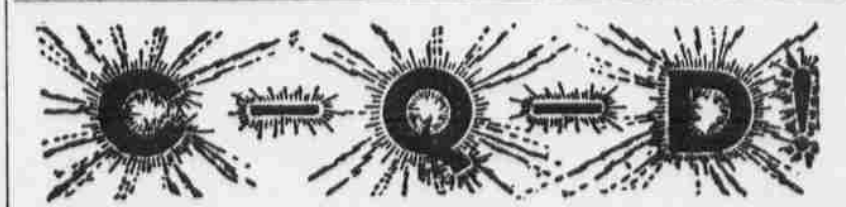
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