

THE GATES OF GAZA.

IT was midnight, (Judges xvi) and in the town of Gaza was silence, save for companies of its citizens who laid in wait in the gate of the city. Around one dwelling place too was a cordon drawn, for the Gazites (who were Philistines) had heard that Samson, God's man, had come thither, and in the morning they counted on taking his life. Great deliverances had been wrought for the people by the hand of God's servant, and Satan and all his legions were now in league against him. At midnight Samson arose; of the Gazites we hear no more, but the doors of the gate of the city with the two posts, bar and all, Samson carried away upon his shoulders to the top of a hill before Hebron! The devil was defeated. Gates and bars could not detain God's man, and watchful hosts were vanquished without a blow. Strong men armed had been keeping the house, but a stronger came upon them and overcame them and spoiled their house.

Again it was night:

"The darkest night this world has known." God's Son, God's Man was in the grave, the citadel of Satan, and against Him were arrayed all his demons. He was in the place of weakness and death. The Pharisees and chief priests had taken every precaution at the bidding of Pilate; they rolled a great stone to the door, they sealed it and they set a watch. Through the long hours of darkness and light they

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