

omnia, et de eis, qui dæmonia habuerant.

34. Et ecce tota civitas exiit obviam Jesu, et viso eo rogabant, ut transiret a finibus eorum.

*We know that by the law of Moses swine were declared unclean, as well as all other animals with undivided hoofs, with those which, though their hoofs were cloven, did not chew the cud. Perhaps, in the case of the swine, hygienic considerations had something to do with the prohibition, but, however that may have been, that prohibition was very distinct: the Jews were forbidden either to eat their flesh or to offer*

*them up in sacrifice in the Temple. The use of anything made from any part of these animals was equally prohibited, but, in spite of all these restrictions, certain Jews of Galilee, which was on the borders of districts inhabited by the Gentiles, owned large herds of swine, as a speculation, and made considerable sums of money by so doing. Not being able, according to the terms of the law, to keep these animals themselves, they had them looked after by Gentile swine-herds, and sold them later to the Romans, or the heathen inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon, and of the shores*

every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils.

34. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought *him* that he would depart out of their coasts.

*of the Mediterranean adjoining the country of Galilee.*

*On the further side of the lake of Galilee, in the heathen portion of Palestine, there were desert districts of considerable extent, well suited to the keeping of swine, and they were herded together there in great numbers. Jesus sometimes visited these wilds, attracted, doubtless, by the knowledge of the op-*

*pression and miseries of every kind weighing down its inhabitants. It would appear, however, from the Gospel narrative, that the presence of the Saviour, and the miracles performed by Him, inspired the people with terror rather than with gratitude. These rude, untutored peasants mourned more over the loss of a herd of swine than they rejoiced at the advent of a prophet. The extraordinary scene described by the Evangelists filled them with nameless dread, instead of leading them to reflect on its true meaning, and they fled, beseeching Jesus « to depart out of their coasts ».*

