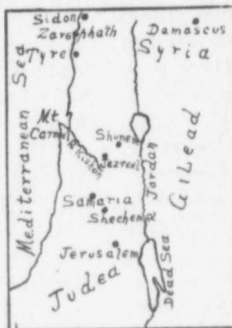


and vineyards. Its wealth was furnished largely by the trade in purple dye, extracted from a shell fish known as the murex. The gradual failure of these shell fish on their own shores led the Tyrians to become great explorers. Tyre has "now sunk to a miserable stagnant village, where the waves mournfully crash amid the ruins of her former magnificence."

Sidon was situated almost midway between Tyre and Beyrout, on a small promontory jutting out into the sea from the edge of a fertile strip of plain stretching from



the mountain to the shore. "The site was chosen doubtless because of the excellent harbor formed by a series of small islets, a short distance from the shore, which protected shipping lying by the city. Sidon became a great city before Tyre. Her "early pre-eminence was due no doubt to her success in commercial enterprise, the skill and intrepidity of her mariners and merchants, and the progress of her sons in arts and manufactures." The dye, which later became known as "Tyrian purple," was really first used by the Sidonians.

THE LESSON APPLIED

By Rev. M. B. Davidson, M.A., Galt, Ont.

1. In some moods it seems to us as if the evil things of life were obtruding themselves everywhere, as if we simply could not get away from them. It is well to remember that the good has a way of obtruding itself too, so that it cries aloud to those who have ears to hear. And so Jesus one day went into foreign parts in order to get some time of respite from the insistence of the crowd; he sought out a quiet house, and planned to make a sort of sanctuary of it. And he could not be hid. Genuine character must reveal itself. The writer was calling on a doctor in Montreal who had spent his early days in Scotland. In his consulting room there was a photograph of the late Professor Henry Drummond. "If I have any good in me at all," said the doctor, "I owe it to that man." Many another could have borne a like testimony. And because Jesus possessed in surpassing measure that strange thing we call personality, he could not be hid. Nor can he be hid to-day. Wherever he has entered into a human soul, as we all should long to have him enter into ours, there he reveals himself in all his mysterious power.

2. Faith and hope are beautiful things, but, if they are to be made useful to us, we must learn to translate them into action. It would be strange if this woman in our lesson did not feel some degree of hesitation in coming to Jesus with her request. She was a

woman, and it was the custom, in the days of Jesus, for women to keep themselves in the background. She was a foreigner to Jesus, and the antipathy of the Jews to foreigners was well known. But her daughter, her little daughter, was in danger and her need determined this heathen woman to put her faith and hope to the test. The fatal defect of hesitation may easily rob us of some of the finest things in life. Hamlet is one of the most attractive persons in Shakespeare's wonderful gallery, but Hamlet failed because he hesitated to translate thought into action. If our thoughts of Jesus are worth anything, they demand to be translated into terms of life.

3. If our faith be of the right kind, obstacles will but help in its development. The discouraging words of Jesus only served to bring out into a bolder relief the remarkable faith of this woman. So we see little enough of the power of water in the raindrops or in some little, quiet stream; but when the waters meet with some obstacle such as great rocks or masses of ice, then we see them rise into terrible power. So steam, floating through the air, may seem a powerless enough thing, but let it be confined in some engine, and its power will develop so as to turn the mighty wheels of industry.

4. It is a great thing to have friends. It is still a greater thing to have efficient friends, who can be relied upon to help us at the right