

than perhaps we care to remember. To all of you it must be familiar, but as it serves my text perhaps you will bear with its recital.

Zadig is supposed to have lived at Babylon in the days of King Moabdar. Disgusted with life, he is said to have fled from the city to a secluded retreat on the banks of the Euphrates, where he beguiled his solitude by the study of nature. A habit of careful observation, engendered by such a life, leads to the detection of many trifles which would otherwise escape notice, and these when correctly reasoned upon may lead to discoveries that seem most mysterious and are really marvellous. Strolling along one day near a small wood, Zadig saw hastening that way one of the queen's chief eunuchs, followed by a troop of officials, who appeared like men distraught, running hither and thither as if in search of some lost treasure.

"Young man," cried the eunuch, "have you seen the queen's dog?"

Zadig answered modestly, "A bitch, I think, not a dog?"

"Quite right," replied the eunuch; and Zadig continued: "A very small spaniel who has lately had puppies; she limps with the left fore-leg, and has very long ears."

"Ah! you have seen her, then?" said the breathless eunuch.

"No," answered Zadig, "I have not seen her; and I was really not aware that the queen possessed a spaniel."

By an odd coincidence, at the very same time the handsomest horse in the king's stable broke away from his groom in the Babylonian plain. The grand huntsman and all his staff were seeking this horse with as much anxiety as the eunuch and his people the spaniel, and the grand huntsman asked Zadig if he had not seen the king's horse go that way.

"A first-rate galloper, small-hoofed, five feet high; tail three and a half feet long; cheek-pieces of the bit of 23-carat gold; shoes silver?" said Zadig.

"Which way did he go? Where is he?" cried the huntsman.

"I have not seen anything of the horse, and I never heard of him before," replied Zadig.

The grand huntsman and the chief eunuch made sure that Zadig had stolen both the king's horse and the queen's spaniel, so they haled him before the court of justice, which at once condemned him to punishment. But the sentence was hardly pronounced when the lost horse and spaniel were found. So the judges were under the painful necessity of reconsidering their