

of the family, loved by the children ; there could, therefore, be no sharp line of separation between Jews and Gentiles. "There is a place for dogs in the household, and there is a place for the Gentiles in God's world." Jesus meant this to be brought out, and had really prepared the way for the woman's statement.

Vs. 29, 30. *For this saying* ; of quick wit, which revealed her faith. *Devil* ; demon (see v. 25). *Laid* ; lying quietly.

III. Doing Good, 31-35.

V. 31. *From the coasts* (Rev. Ver., "borders," that is "region") of Tyre and Sidon (Rev. Ver., "through Sidon"). The healing of the Syrophenician's daughter took place in the neighborhood of Tyre. Jesus then went north along the coast line to Sidon. Then he went east to the Decapolis region, likely by way of Damascus, and making a detour through this district, came to the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. It was during this circuit the following incident occurred. *Decapolis* ; originally a league of ten cities, as the name indicates, Greek in population and constitution. The region of Decapolis was the territory in which these cities lay, that is, excluding Damascus, which was one of the ten, the country southeast of the Sea of Galilee.

V. 32. *They bring unto him*. Contrast this with his previous reception in Decapolis, ch. 5 : 17. *Impediment in his speech* ; practically dumb, as well as deaf. *Hand upon him* ; in order to heal him.

V. 33. *Took him aside* ; to avoid publicity. He did not wish to be drawn into another extensive ministry of healing. This was a period of retirement. *Put* ; literally, thrust. *Fingers . . . ears* ; a finger of the right hand into one ear, and of the left into the other. He thus fixed the man's attention on what he was about to do. *Spit* ; an old form of

"spat." On what ? Either the tongue of the dumb man (compare ch. 8 : 23), or his own finger with which he touched the tongue. Spittle was thought to have medicinal virtue, and Jesus uses it to help the man's faith.

V. 34. *Looking up* ; in prayer. *Sighed* ; "groaned" in sympathy. The healing ministry was exhausting, involving severe mental strain. *Ephphatha* ; the Aramaic word for "Be opened." Addressed to the ears, the primary seat of the trouble.

Light from the East

By Rev. Professor E. Davidson, D.D., Toronto

LIBERTY—Some years ago Miss Bell was traveling in Mesopotamia, escorted by a Turkish soldier, Abdallah, and an Arab guide, Murawwah. It was just after the Turkish revolution, and she asked the Arab if he had ever heard of liberty. "Certainly," he answered, "but we know not what it means." "It means to obey a just law," she explained. But Murawwah knew nothing of justice or obedience. The Turk took up the word to tease the Arab. "Oh Murawwah," said he, "when there is liberty in this land, there will be no raiding. And the Arabs will serve as soldiers." "No, they will not," returned Murawwah firmly. Abdallah laughed. "Slowly, slowly," he said, "the government will lay hands on the desert, and the Arabs will be brought in, for they are all thieves." Murawwah, she goes on to relate, drew himself up on his hungry mare : "Thieves," he cried, "thieves are dogs. How can you compare the Arabs with them ? We will not bow our heads to any government. To the Arabs belongs command." And he slashed the air defiantly with his tamarisk switch as he proclaimed the liberties of the wilderness, the right of the feud, the right of raid, the right of revenge—the only liberty the desert knows.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Tyre was situated on the coast of Phenicia, about halfway between Carmel and Beyrout. The city occupied the narrow strip of land between the sea and a background of mountains. This strip was almost inaccessible owing to massive, rocky promontories, the most famous of these being "the Ladder of Tyre," which barred the approach of in-

vaders. Old Tyre, on the mainland, was strongly fortified, its walls being 15 miles in circumference. King Hiram, the contemporary of David, built new Tyre by uniting the scattered islands, half a mile out to sea, till they enclosed an area $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circumference, with two magnificent harbors. The city rose in tiers of houses, gardens, orchards