

east. Notwithstanding the weighty arguments advanced for this site, I believe Tell Hum was the place, principally on account of the size and character of the ruins. The Franciscans have secured the ground and have erected a monastery here.

FEVER—This was very likely malarial fever, which is still common in the Jordan

valley, and was especially prevalent around Capernaum, no doubt owing to low, swampy ground in the neighborhood. It is now known that the poison which causes this fever, which was long a puzzle to medical men, is developed in the body of a certain species of mosquito, and is introduced into human beings only through its bite.

APPLICATION

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Astonished at his doctrine, v. 22. The rest of the verse shows that what surprised them was, not so much the things that He said, as

A Sure Message

His way of saying them. He did not argue, nor guess, nor infer, but spoke with authority an assured message. The message of the gospel is sure: it is God's word. Let us have no hesitation nor misgiving as to its truth, but speak it fearlessly and with confidence. God's message, uttered in conviction of its truth and from experience of its power, is invincible.

In their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, v. 23. The church may seem a strange place for such a character. But the restless

A Welcome

spirit in an unclean heart will drive its victim everywhere, seeking peace. Let him have a welcome and a pew. Do not let us gather up our respectable skirts and say, "Put him in the gallery." The old fashioned door on the family pew, with the lock inside, is gone, thank God!

What have we to do with thee? v. 24. The evil spirit has other business in the sanctuary than attending to Christ. In Macgowan's "Dialogues of Devils"

A "Dialogue of Devils"

two such spirits meet. One is cool and lively; he has been to the theatre and others have done his work for him. The other is warm and weary; he has been to the house of worship, and it kept him busy—work as fast as he could—to pick up the seed that was sown in the heart. In every church and Sabbath school, let the presence of Christ be so manifest that the devils in our hearts will cry out in terror, "Art Thou come to destroy us?"

Torn him, v. 26. How hard is the victory over an unclean spirit! But the power of

Christ is supreme. There is no sin but will yield before His authority. A

The Hardest Battles

veteran of Waterloo well remembered the hot fight on that famous Sunday, when the cavalry of France was hurled in vain against the inflexible squares of the British, but declared that harder still were the battles he had to fight in his own heart. Yet Christ had given him the victory, though he was torn by the struggle.

A new teaching! (Rev. Ver.), v. 27. The truth was really as old as the love of God, though it seemed new to their ears. If we

Welcome the Truth!

dip into the old Puritan divines, we find many thoughts there which we had supposed were the discoveries of our own time. Like the Straits of Juan de Fuca, these thoughts had once been found, then forgotten, then rediscovered. Truth is always new to the man who sees it for the first time. Further, we should never refuse an idea, because we never heard it before. Welcome all light; prove all things; hold fast that which is according to the word of God. A thing is not necessarily true because old, or false because new.

Anon they tell him of her, v. 30. After the miracle of the synagogue, the disciples had such perfect confidence in their Lord that

Faith and the Sick

they immediately told him about Simon's mother-in-law. Let us bring our sick to Jesus at once. After centuries of gracious consolation bestowed upon His people, surely we can trust the great Physician. We do not assert, like the Dowieist, that our faith will infallibly cure. We do not presume to interpret the divine purpose. But we do presume to trust it and can sing:—