

Christ has charged them to proclaim everywhere, that He will judge the living and the dead. At the close of Peter's words, the Holy Spirit falls on all who heard, and thus the divine signal is given that the Gentiles are to receive all the privileges of the gospel. In recognition of this fact, Cornelius and his household are baptized as true believers in Jesus, vs. 21-48.

Light from the East

By Rev. James Ross, D.D., London, Ont.

UNCLEAN—The distinction established amongst the Jews between clean and unclean animals, which exists in some form among many tribes, was founded partly on that instinctive repugnance to certain forms of life which prevails among all civilized peoples; partly for the promotion of health, by prohibiting the animals whose flesh was not

adapted for use in the climate of Palestine, or whose loathsome food, or filthy habits, or parasitic diseases, made them dangerous to man; and partly to separate the Israelites from surrounding nations, not only in the eating of insects, reptiles and carrion, but in those degrading feasts of warm flesh and blood, which are connected with idolatry. In cholera epidemics the Jew has enjoyed a large degree of immunity, and in Life Insurance offices his life is said to be a better risk, all other things being equal, than the life of a man of any other stock. But when the church was to be extended into every nation, the law of each member's life was to be his own enlightened judgment and conscience, and all legislation founded on local conditions or national peculiarities was withdrawn. The intimation of this to Peter was to suggest that the distinction between the Jew and other men was also abolished.

APPLICATION

By Rev. J. W. Macmillan, B.A., Winnipeg

With all his house, v. 2. There is a story called, "In Search of the Beautiful". It describes a person who resolved to seek and to find the beautiful. He be-
 thought him of the mountains of Switzerland, and the sunny plains of Italy, and the forests of America, and ever so many wonders of the world. Before he completed his arrangements, however, a little bird whispered, "Begin at home". The little bird was wiser than the man. The beautiful is always with us. "Oh, my friend", says one writer, "make the place where God has put you beautiful. If it be only a tent in the desert, make it beautiful. If it be only a cottage in a lonely street, or an attic room in a cottage, or a fireside, or a bench in a workshop, or a seat in a school, or a place on your mother's knee, or a place in her heart, make it beautiful. And the sadder, the darker, the poorer the place is, be the more eager to make it beautiful."

A memorial before God, v. 4. Henry Drummond used to tell of a little girl who once said to her father, "Papa, I want you to tell God something for me. I have such a little voice that I don't think He could hear it away up

in heaven; but you have a great big man's voice, and He will be sure to hear you". Then the father took his little girl in his arms and told her that, even though God were at that moment surrounded by all His holy angels, sounding on all their golden harps, and singing to Him one of the grandest and sweetest songs of praise ever heard in heaven, he was sure that He would say to them, "Hush, stop the singing for a little while. There's a little girl away down on the earth, who wants to whisper something in my ear."

Peter went up. to pray, v. 9. So many things have happened during prayer, that it may fairly be called one of the most event-

ful times in the life of man.

A Mighty Engine

Isaac found his wife while he prayed. Hannah got a son, the wish of her heart, for praying. Daniel shut the mouths of lions with his prayers. Paul recovered his sight in response to prayer. Jesus prayed on the mount, and the fashion of His countenance was altered. Queen Mary said that she feared the prayers of John Knox more than an army of ten thousand men. Instead of being a gentle and powerless occupation, as many think, prayer is the mightiest engine in the hand of the human race.