

JACOB THE WRESTLER.

TEXT.—“What is thy name?” Genesis 32 : 27.

In choosing this text I have not done so with any intention of staying with the text. I have simply chosen these words to show that they are the most important in this long chapter, and that an answer to this question, “What is thy name?” meant a great deal to Jacob and to all generations after him.

In dealing with the character of Jacob it will be necessary to deal also with the character of his brother Esau. Here we have two boys, born of the same parents, brought up in the same home, under the same influences and training, educated in the same way; yet how very different they are. In physical appearance they are different: Esau is an hairy man, while Jacob is smooth. Their ambitions, aspirations and gifts all seem so different: Esau was a rambler, while Jacob loved his home. Esau the favorite of his father and Jacob his mother's boy. At first sight we would be inclined to choose Esau rather than Jacob. Esau was an honest sort of