

Hebich's Tub

(a lesson from Ephesians 4:16)

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Für all jene gedacht, die des Englischen mächtig und somit in der Lage sind, eine wirklich sehr gute Predigt („mit deutschen Schönheitsfehlern“!) zu lesen, die vor mehr als 150 Jahren in Indien gehalten wurde.

Samuel Hebich war ein Original Gottes. Obwohl er gestorben war, redet er noch heute (und sei es auch nur durch diese Predigt).

Gebe Gott, dass wir die Prinzipien, die Br. Hebich in seiner Predigt aufzeigt in unserem Glaubensleben verwirklichen.



It is rather more than thirty years ago that a missionary of the Basle society, named Samuel Hebich, lived and laboured on the West coast of India.

He was used of God in bringing me out on the Lord's side, and was a remarkable man, brave, earnest, and also more successful as a soul winner among Europeans than any other of whom I have heard.

The striking characteristics of his ministry were the **personality** of the Lord Jesus, and the **personality** of Satan, and the conquest he made of the most determined opposers of the truth were many and striking.

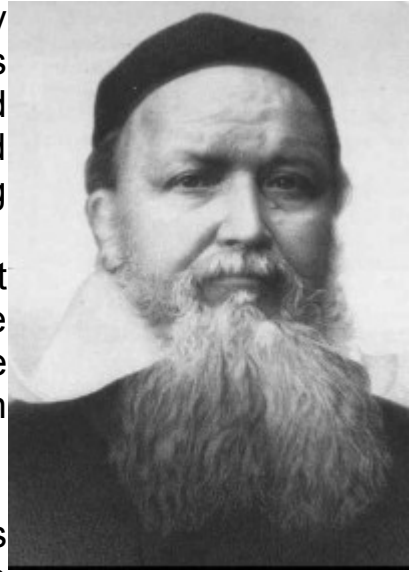
One regiment, that had been stationed at Cannamore, was so powerfully affected by his preaching, and house to house visitation, that no less than **seven** officers and most of their wives were truly converted to God, and were not ashamed to confess their faith in Christ. Several non-commissioned officers and others followed, so that ere it left the station it had earned the sobriquet of **Hebich's Own**.

From Cannamore this regiment was sent to the French rocks, a military station near Seringapatam, and after they had been a year in these quarters the Christians especially invited their beloved friend to pay them a visit, which he gladly responded to. From one house to another, according to his wont, he visited, and, though with tenderness of mannes, put the most searching questions to his children in the Lord.

These elicited a fact which gave him no small uneasiness, namely that the **prayer-meeting**, one so thronged and so much set by, had dwindled away till some were not sure that it existed at all. His presence quickened the flow of spiritual life. Every night he held meetings, and they were fully attended, not only by those who had good cause to love the man, and listen to his words,

but by others from the neighbourhood, who had heard of his fame, and longed to obtain some blessing for themselves.

It was thus the writer found himself in the company of those assembled and he was greatly struck by his first sight of the German missionary, as he stood behind a table with a large open Bible on it, and scanned the audience with his beatiful searching eyes. Hebich had a fine head and full beart, he used to dress in a black gown with a white collar that almost covered his shoulders, and was always more at home if he could freely walk a few paces to the right and left of where he was standing, than when shut up in a pulpit.



I shall endeavour to give his discourse on this particular occasion, as nearly as I can remeber it, in his own language. There is a force and pathos in foreigner's English that so materially helps one to remember the subject, that I shall not attempt to improve it.

Hebich read Ephesians 4, 16

"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

He read the fourth of Ephesians, and expounded it till he cam to the sixteenth verse, which he read slowly, and repeated the words: **„fitly shoined togeder.“**

He paused a few seconds, and abruptly put the question, "Did you ever see a tob?"¹ This homely appeal roused the sleepy and caused a smile to pass over every face.

"If you go to Palhully (a factory in the neighborhood), you will see some fery² large tobs. You and I cannot make a tob; it requires a cood³ carpenter to make a tob; or it vill⁴ hold no water, because it is not made of vone⁵ peece of

1 Tub – d.i. Fass

2 Very – d.i. viele

3 Good – d.i. gute(n)

4 Will – werden

5 One - ein(em)

ood,⁶ but of many, and de ⁷many must be **fitly shoined togeder**⁸. Dere ⁹are four tings to make a good tob.

"1. It must have a cood bottom.

"2. Each of de peeces must be fitly shoined to de bottom.

"3. Each von must be fitly shoined to his fellow.

"4. Each von shall be kept close by de bands outside.

"Von peece may be narrow and de next peece be vide¹⁰, yet it shall be a good tob; but if a little shtone¹¹ or bit of shtick¹² vill come between de peeces it vill not do at all. If de peeces are near, but do not touch, it vill not do at all; and if all de peeces but von touch, and are fitly shoined togeder, and dis von fall in or fall out of de circle, it is no tob at all. Now if vee haf a good bottom and efry peece be fitly shoined to de bottom, and all are fitly shoined togeder from de top to de bottom, haf vee now a tob? No, it vill not hold water for von moment till the bands are put on. De ¹³bands press hard on each peece of ood, and den are dey yet more fitly shoined togeder.

"Oder foundation can no man lay dan dat is laid, vich¹⁴ is Jesus Christ.' Here vee haf de **cood bottom** for our tob. It is perfect, and efry von¹⁵ dat truly believes is resting on dis cood bottom, and is fitly shoined to it by de Holy Spirit of God.

"Dere are many who call demselves Christians who are not so shoined, but vee are not speaking of dem now.

"In de Acts of de Apostles, we read often of being 'filled vid de Holy Ghost,' and ven gadered togeder ¹⁶for prayer vonce, de whole house did shake vid His power. Shust ¹⁷so now He fills vid peace and shoy ¹⁸de soul dat loves de Lord Jesus, and likewise de company gadered togeder in His Name.

Sometimes! not always. Sometimes—not always—Vy not always? Vee shall see. Vat is de small shtick or shtone between de peeces of ood dat make de tob? ***It is de leetle quarrel—de hard vord—de dirty bit of money***, dat

6 Wood – d.i. Holz

7 The – d.i. der/die/das

8 „fitly joined together“ - d.i. wohl zusammengefügt!

9 Unser Bruder hatte offens. Probleme, das „th“ auszusprechen: there are -d.i. es gibt ... (things)

10 Wide - breit(er)

11 Stone – Stein, kleiner Stein

12 Stick – Stock, Stöckchen

13 De – oder dey – d.i. The und They

14 Which, welches

15 Every ony – d.i. Jeder /Jedermann

16 To gather together - Zusammenkommen

17 Just so – Gerade so...

18 Joy

keeps broder ¹⁹from being fitly shoined to broder. Vat is de space between de peeces from top to bottom, troo vich you can see de light? It is de coldness dat you feel, but do not tell. De Major's vife and de Captain's vife vill bow, but not speak or greet each oder as formerly, because vispering has come between dem. Vat is de peece of ood dat falls out of de circle? It is de **proud, unforgiving spirit** dat efry von can feel is in de meeting, and vich causes all heavenly peace to run out. So you vill pray dat de power of de Spirit may be known in de meeting but de Spirit is grieved and cannot act because you are no more fitly shoined togeder. You are fery sorry dat you have no blessing, and you leave de meeting because it can do you no cood. You stay at home vid de debil²⁰, and become dry indeed.

"Oh, beloved, **be fitly shoined togeder!** You haf no power of your own. Dat vich shall keep you is de **encircling bands** of de love of Jesus, from head to foot, and as dis power presses on each of you, so vill you become yet more closely shoined togeder. Den de Holy Spirit shall remain among you and fill you to overflowing. Den all who come into your midst shall be refreshed, and de Name of de Lord Jesus be glorified! Amen."

Orig.: W.B. Horner & Son, 27 Paternoster Square, London

Don't forget the story in
Ephesians 4!



19 Brother

20 With the devil