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A Model Preacher and a Model Hearer.

BY THE REV. G. M. PHILPS, B.D.

THAT passage in the tenth of Acts which describes the interview between Peter and Cornelius, contains two verses which suggest respectively some characteristics of a model preacher, and some characteristics of a model hearer.

a. Ver. 26: "Stand up; I myself also am a man." Here we have (1) The Humility that is both becoming and necessary in a preacher of the gospel. His aim should be as far as possible to lose sight of himself, in order to make men see and hear the blessed Saviour. (2) The possibility of Sympathy between preacher and hearer, without

which little good can be done. There is a clear advantage in the fact that Christ's servants are merely men: they have themselves needed and tried the remedy they bring. (3) The holy Boldness of him who delivers a message he has got from God. His work is done with prophetic courage and zeal. He can truthfully say, with real humility, and with justifiable pride, "I myself also am a man."

b. Ver. 33: "Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God." These words of Cornelius show him to have been a model hearer. (1) We have here the fundamental thought underlying true worship: "We are all here present in the sight of God." When we say, "Let us worship God," the reference is not to an absent Divinity, but to a present Saviour. (2) We have here a fine