

to continue his work? Does God promise such help? (Ex. 4: 12; Josh. 1: 5; Rom. 8: 31) What is the reward of steadfastness? (Rev. 2: 3, 10) Before what great persons had Paul preached? Did his preaching agree with Old Testament teaching? What did he say about Christ's resurrection? Of what was it a proof? (Rom. 1: 4; Acts 13: 32, 33) Of what was it the pledge? (1 Cor. 15: 13-22; 1 Thess. 4: 14) Was Christ predicted to be the Saviour of the Gentiles as well as the Jews? (Isa. 42: 6; 49: 6; 60: 1)

24-25. Why did Festus think that Paul was mad? To what did he attribute his madness? Was Jesus ever similarly accused? (John 10: 20) What did Greeks think of the gospel? (1 Co. 1: 23) What other persons received the title of "most noble, or "excellent"? (Luke 1: 3; Acts 23: 26; 24: 3) Is sobermindedness a christian grace? (Rom. 12: 3; 1 Tim. 2: 9; 3: 2; Titus 2: 8; 1: 11)

26-29. What evidence have we of the fame of Jesus? (John 12: 19) Give the different interpretations of Agrippa's words and Paul's reply.

30-32. What conclusion did they come to regarding Paul? Why could he not be set at liberty? How often is Paul's innocence declared? (ch. 23: 29; 25: 25)

TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

(Senior.)

- 1.—What did Paul preach everywhere? (4)
- 2.—What did Festus say and what was Paul's answer? (5)
- 3.—What did Agrippa say and what was Paul's answer? (5)
- 4.—What different meanings are given to Agrippa's words? (6)
- 5.—What did Agrippa think of Paul's innocence? (5)

(Intermediate.)

- 1.—To whom did Paul first preach immediately after his conversion? (5)
- 2.—Why did the Jews hate Paul? (5)
- 3.—What did Festus say of Paul's preaching? (5)
- 4.—What did Agrippa say? (5)
- 5.—Why could not Paul be set at liberty? (5)

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

Although defending himself from the charges of the Jews, Paul did not lose sight of the spiritual need of those whom he was addressing. His judges seem to have felt the force of his address. Like Felix, they confess themselves brought to the bar of conscience by their prisoner. He is the vicar of a mightier king than Cæsar, and purple robes will not shield a guilty conscience from the Searcher of Hearts.

Even Agrippa must acknowledge that Paul could not be disobedient to such a command. If he really saw the glorified Jesus there was no alternative for him. Festus might say that the whole story was the creation of a disordered intellect, but Agrippa, believing, at least formally, in the reality of divine communications, could not deny its possibility. Then there were the soldiers accompanying Paul who could testify to the light and the voice. A celebrated infidel once studied the narrative of Paul's conversion, with the view of proving that Festus spoke shrewdly and wisely when he called Paul a madman, but the result of his impartial study was that he first sided with Agrippa, and then became "altogether" such as Paul, a devout christian.

What Paul believed he held with no mere otiose assent. He was willing to stake goods, reputation, and life itself, upon his religious convictions. He lost no time in proclaiming his change of views, and the reason for it. Do not delay to confess Christ if you really love him. Let others have the joy of welcoming you into christian fellowship; give the weight of your example towards helping those who are timid and hesitating; and strengthen your own weak faith by entering upon active and open service for Christ.

We need no further evidence to prove that Paul's speech had made a profound impression upon Festus. He was plainly in its grip, and wished to shake himself free. If Paul was right, then he himself was wrong, and should take his place as a penitent. It was easier for him to believe that Paul's mind was a little unhinged. It must be that he was somewhat of a fanatic. Religionists usually did not speak so earnestly and set such store upon the conversion of men. Strange, isn't it? that a man can put his whole soul into business or into great enterprises until he is able to think and speak of nothing else, and men think it all right; but let him put his whole soul into