

SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1876 by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Christians being multiplied, they appointed seven men to take care for the poor. Stephen, one of the seven, is brought before the Jewish Council.

LESSON XII.

JUNE 18.]

THE SEVEN CHOSEN. [About 33 to 36 A. D.]

READ Acts vi. 1-15.—RECITE vs. 3, 4, 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.—They that have used the office of a deacon well, purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.—1. Tim. iii. 13.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The believing poor are the Church's charge.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts vi. 1-15. Z.—1 Tim. v. 1-10. W.—Eph. vi. 10-24. Th.—1 Tim. iii. 1-16. F.—Heb. ix. 1-28. Sa.—Matt. x. 7-23. S.—Ex. xxxiv. 27-35.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Notice that this lesson covers more than its title expresses, and includes the appointment of the seven, and the arrest, and a part of the trial, of Stephen.

NOTES.—Grecians ("Grecian Jews")—that is, Jewish proselytes and Jews born or living in Greece: "Grecians" mean native born or pure Greeks. Hebrews probably here mean those Jews who were born and lived in Judea. Seven men. These seven appear to have all been Grecian Jews. Little is known of the seven except of Stephen and Philip. Stephen (crown), the first Christian martyr. Philip (lover of horses), preached in Samaria, worked miracles, newly baptized (Acts viii. 5-17), met the Ethiopian eunuch (viii. 26-40), preached in Caesarea, had four daughters gifted with prophecy. Acts xxi. 8, 9. One tradition says he died in Phrygia; another, as Bishop of Tralles. Nicolas, the impure Nicolaitans (Rev. ii. 6) claimed him as the founder of their sect, but it is not certain that he was the founder.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(1.) THE SEVEN CHOSEN. (II.) STEPHEN ACCUSED.

I. THE SEVEN CHOSEN. (1.) murmuring, a complaint; Grecians (see Notes); daily ministrations, daily distribution of food. (2.) not reason, or "it is not our pleasure;" leave word of God—that is, leave the preaching of it; serve tables—that is, give out food for meals. Acts iv. 35. (3.) honest report, were counted honest; this business, or giving out food and money to the needy. (4.) continually, not exclusively, perhaps; ministry, preaching. (5.) proselyte, a Gentile who had become a Jew. (6.) laid their hands, to set them apart for this work. 1 Tim. iv. 14. (7.) priests, There were many in Jerusalem; 4,289 priests returned from Babylon. Ezra ii. 36-39.

II. STEPHEN ACCUSED. (8.) full of faith, and hence power to work miracles; wonders, the first of any not an apostle, to work miracles (Aford). (9.) synagogue, Jewish place of worship; there are said to have been 480 in Jerusalem; Libertines—that is, freedmen; Cyrenians... Alexandrians, African Jews from those two cities of Northern Africa; Cilicia, in Asia Minor, and Paul's native country; Asia (see Lesson II). (10.) not able, one man full of the Holy Ghost overcomes five synagogues. (11.) suborned, secretly hired. (12.) caught him, officers suddenly arrested him; council, the Jewish high court. (13.) blasphemous, wicked, impious; false witnesses, men who swore to lies about Stephen. (14.) this place, the temple at Jerusalem. (15.) steadfastly, firmly with close attention; face of an angel, like that of Moses, whom he is accused of reviling. Ex. xxxiv. 35.

III. Questions.—What did Stephen do among the people? v. 8. How was he fitted for doing these miracles? v. 8. Who were roused up to dispute with him? From how many synagogues? With what success did they dispute with him? Why could they not resist him? What course did they then take to overpower him? What false charge did the bribed witnesses make? With what effect? Where was Stephen brought? What class of witnesses was again set up? State their charge. The saying they had heard from Stephen. Describe the appearance of Stephen before the council.

Illustration.—Giving. "Give, give, be always giving; Who gives not, is not living. The more you give, The more you live."

LESSON XIII.

JUNE 25.]

REVIEW. [A. D. 30 to 36.]

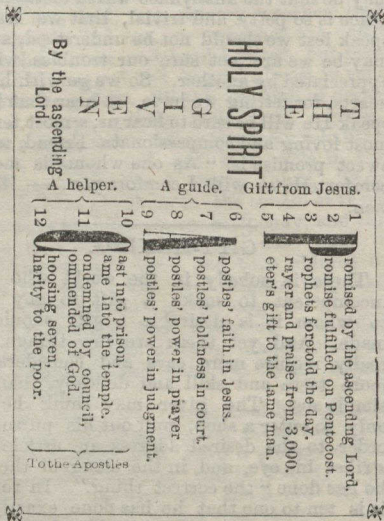
GOLDEN TEXT.—Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.—Isa. lx. 1.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Lord builds up Zion.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts i. 1-12. T.—Joel ii. 18-32. W.—Acts ii. 1-47. Th.—Acts iii. 1-26. F.—Acts iv. 1-37. Sa.—Acts v. 1-42. S.—Acts vi. 1-15.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—The past twelve lessons chiefly show the gifts and work of the Holy Spirit. With this as the leading thought, a good review may be made, which will fix these facts and deepen the impression already gained of the early history of the Christian Church.

The lessons could be arranged in a circle, with the words "Holy Spirit" in the centre, after the plan of the twelve lessons from the life of David, or they may be placed on the blackboard or on a sheet of paper in this form:



Who wrote the "Acts"? Give some account of the writer. State what other book he wrote. Why did he write? To whom? When? Give the title of the first of these twelve lessons. The central truth. Recite the golden text. Who saw Jesus ascend to heaven? What had He promised to send them? What would they receive after the gift of the Holy Ghost? Acts i. 8. Who appeared to the disciples while they looked up to heaven? State what the angel said.

What came upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost? What power did He give them? How many different nations were represented at the Pentecost? What did the people think of this event? Of what did the disciples speak?

To what did the Jews charge the gift of tongues? Who explained why this power was given? What prophet had foretold the day? What charge did Peter make against the Jews? What had God done for the Jews? What was the result of Peter's Pentecostal sermon? How many were added to the disciples? How did they spend their time? Acts ii. 46, 48.

Who was healed by Peter and John? Where? At what hour? What did he ask of them? Why did they not give him money? What did they give him? How did he show his gratitude to them?

Why did Peter explain the healing of the lame man? How? What had the Jews done to Jesus? How had Christ's sufferings been foretold? What were the people now to do? Why repent? What would Jesus do for them if they did?

Who wished to stop the work of the apostles? Why? Which of the apostles spoke to the rulers? State the effect of Peter's speech. What did the council decide to do? What command did they give to Peter and John? What bold answer did the command call forth?

To whom did Peter and John report the Jews' command? Before whom did the disciples lay it? In what way? How was their prayer answered? What fact shows the perfect unity of the disciples? Acts iv. 34, 35. How did they provide for the poor?

Who lied about his possessions? Who joined him in telling the lie? To whom was the lie told? How repeated? How reproved? State the effect of the reproof on Ananias. On his wife? Who buried them? What effect had this punishment on the Church?

Describe the signs and healing shown by the apostles? Acts v. 12-16. What Jewish party opposed the apostles? Who was the leader of this party? What did they do to the apostles? How were the apostles delivered from prison? With what command? Where were they found? Why were they brought without violence?

Before whom were the apostles again brought? How reproved? What answer did they make? What was the council proposing to do to the apostles? Who advised not to slay them? On what plea? Why was it a poor plea? Why should the council have known that the work was of God?

For what work were seven men chosen? Why? In consequence of whose complaint? What did the twelve wish to do? How were the seven set apart for their work? Which of the seven disputed with the Jews? What is said of his power of faith? Before whom was he called? How accused? How did his face appear? Who gave him this power and appearance? Who is sent to guide Christians now? How may we be guided by the Holy Spirit?

The MESSENGER has taken a new start in its increase of circulation. As yet it has not reached fifty thousand, but is pretty near that number. The present prize competition is likely to be an interesting one, but as yet very little has been done in it. This is being written on the 19th of May and will be printed on the 22nd, and up to this time the lowest amount sent in during the last competition

would entitle the sender to a prize in the present one if it were to end now. There are four good months to work in, and we hope that some of our MESSENGER boys and girls will be successful in gaining some of the prizes.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Orders for the "History of the Guilford Case" continue to come in from all quarters, and the work as a concise and reliable history of one of the most important events of the ecclesiastical warfare now waging, is meeting with much favor.

Nearly the whole stock of Temperance Tracts at this office has been exhausted, but there is still a large quantity of Apples of Gold on hand. The latter comprise an assortment of the most useful readings from the Evangelical press and make valuable tracts. They are sent post free to any address in Canada or the United States for \$1 per 300, or 1,200 pages, the size of the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.

MEDICAL OPINIONS ON "DRESS AND HEALTH."

A few days ago copies of "Dress and Health" were sent to the best known physicians in Montreal "asking their opinion on the principles advanced in Dress and Health." The following are some of the answers:

32 BEAVER HALL, Montreal, May 4, 1876.

Messrs John Dougall & Son, Sirs,—I beg to acknowledge with thanks the little book on "Dress and Health."

The title indicates the nature of its contents. With very few exceptions I heartily endorse the views so ably advocated, which, resting as they do upon a sound physiological and common-sense basis, should receive the attention of every parent in the land.

To those interested in this most important subject the book will prove an invaluable storehouse of practical information well designed to guide wisely and surely to health.

I am, gentlemen, yours very truly, E. H. TRENHOLME, M.D. Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children, Bishop's College, Montreal.

MONTREAL, May 8.

GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your favor of 29th ult., accompanied with the book entitled "Dress and Health," I beg to say that I have read it and consider it a sound, practical and concise work which fully explains the effects of the present unhygienic style of ladies' dress, well worthy of careful perusal. The chapter on cutting and fitting will enable any lady to carry out the principles of reform without any difficulty.

Unless the leaders of fashion inaugurate the reform, I fear it is a hopeless effort to introduce such a change.

I remain, gentlemen, yours very truly, E. K. PATTON.

237 ST. ANTOINE ST., Montreal, 8th May, 1876. The book entitled "Dress and Health" contains most important advice to the ladies on the momentous question of dress, considered from a sanitary point of view.

If they will only adopt some of the practical rules thus given they will stand less in need of physicians and prescriptions, and find life much pleasanter to themselves.

J. L. LEPROHON M. D., Professor of Sanitary Science, University of Bishop's College.

May, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—I have read the little work on "Dress and Health" with much interest, and find that its teaching is based upon sound physiological rules. Nature will not allow these rules to be broken with impunity.

Mothers of large families should well consider the lessons to be learned by its perusal.

I have often been astonished in my own practice how inadequately the lower extremities are protected from sudden changes, and the serious consequences that sometimes follow such want of prudence. Yours truly, JAS. FERRIGO, M. D.

It may be a matter of pleasure as well as of interest to ladies whose attention has been directed to this matter to learn that the reform so strongly approved of by medical men whose opinions are below quoted requires no change in the outward apparel. The discussion on the change of woman's dress has become so associated with bloomerism and woman's rights that to some the mere suggestion of change is regarded as tending to something unlady-like or indecent, but the changes recommended in "Dress and Health" have a tendency directly in the opposite direction. The price of this book is 30 cents, post paid.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Table with 2 columns: Quantity and Price. 1 copy \$0.30, 10 copies 2.50, 25 copies 6.00, 50 copies 11.50, 100 copies 22.00, 1,000 copies 200.00.

J. DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

JOHN DOUGALL, 2 Spruce street, New York.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

COMBINATION PRIZE COMPETITION.

I. We offer the following prizes to the persons who mail us the largest amounts for all the publications on or before AUGUST 15th, 1876:

Table with 2 columns: Prize description and Amount. 1st prize \$20, 2nd do 15, 3rd do 12, 4th do 10, 5th do 8, 6th do 7, 7th do 6, 8th do 5, 9th do 4, 10th do 3.

II. We want this year to introduce the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY everywhere, and will give an additional prize of \$15 to the person who sends us the largest amount in subscriptions to this magazine during the time above stated, whether they compete for the other prizes or not. All the subscriptions for this prize count in the other as well.

III. To the one who sends in the largest number of subscriptions to the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, either for three, six or twelve months, we will give a prize of \$10. This prize is not open to the winner of No. 2. Three or six months will count as much as a whole year.

IV. To the person who sends us during this competition the largest amount in subscriptions to the NORTHERN MESSENGER we will give a prize of \$10. This is open to any competitor for the other prizes, and the amounts sent will count in for the first competition.

V. To the person who sends in the second largest amount in subscriptions to the NORTHERN MESSENGER we will give a prize of \$5. This is also open to all competitors, and the amounts will count in the first competition.

VI. A prize of \$5 will be given to the person sending us the largest amount for subscriptions from Newfoundland.

VII. A prize of \$5 will be given to the person sending us the largest amount for subscriptions from Manitoba.

VIII. A prize of \$5 will be given to the person sending us the largest amount for subscriptions from British Columbia.

The following are the prices for the publications included in the competition, and the commissions allowed to competitors:

Table with 3 columns: Publication, Subscription price, and Deduction on remittances. Includes DAILY WITNESS, TRI-WEEKLY, WEEKLY, NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, NORTHERN MESSENGER, NORTHERN MESSENGER Club of 10, WEEKLY WITNESS, with NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.

It will be seen by the above table that every one working for a prize is sure of a full commission on new subscribers under any circumstances, and may obtain a prize as well. It should not be forgotten that no subscriber is allowed a commission on his own subscription; it is only given to canvassers who obtain subscriptions. All competitors should invariably collect the full subscription prices. Let the contest be a sharp one—one worth winning. All competition lists must be marked "In competition." Without this or similar notice the amount sent cannot be recognized when our prize list is made up.

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"This book has been issued to meet a general want for a full and complete history of this now world famous affair."—Cootenook Observer.

Price.—In paper covers, 50c, post free; neatly bound in cloth, \$1, post free.

J. DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

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A Book for Ladies. Price 30c, post free.

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