

Achan, Ahab, Gehazi, Haman, the rich young ruler, Ananias and Sapphira. Not a very desirable or praiseworthy company to be found with!

### Heart Talks on the Lesson.

The temple of Diana was one of the wonders of the world. It was great in size, beautiful in design, and costly in adornments. It was the pride of Ephesus and of all Asia. Women gave their jewels to help build it. In it was an image of Diana, their chief goddess, which they believed had fallen down from heaven. The image was not very beautiful, but it had many worshippers. A profitable trade was carried on in Ephesus by men who made silver shrines, or little models of the temple and image, and sold them to the people of the city and to strangers passing through. These shrines were used by some in worship, as you see the crucifix used, and by others they were prized only as souvenirs of the great temple.

It was a business which brought wealth, and Demetrius would have found many men and women of his way of thinking if he had lived in New York, or London, or Paris, or Chicago, just the same as he found in Ephesus. Anything which interfered with his money getting must be put down whether it was good or bad.

The love of money makes men very selfish. Demetrius did not hesitate to excite a mob and put lives in danger if he could protect his own interests. No matter if the whole city was in confusion and the lives of Gaius, Aristarchus, and Paul were in danger. What was all that to him if he could keep his gains by putting them out of the way? No wonder Jesus warns us to beware of covetousness. He knows how it dries the fountains of the soul and kills that beautiful flower of love about which we learned last week. It creeps in before we know it, and the more we own of this world's goods the more we are in danger. People who have very little are often more generous than the rich. Not always; for some very rich people keep their hearts big and warm by liberal giving. The covetous spirit does not belong wholly to great money getters like Demetrius. If we search we may find some of the bad seed in ourselves. Do we really love to share our good things with others? Or does it give us greater pleasure to spend all upon ourselves? Even a child may be covetous of a penny. The best way to be rid of such a spirit is to conquer it by generosity. Give, give, give when you would rather keep the gift for yourself. Never, never let the evil weeds of selfishness choke the flowers of love in your heart. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty"—poverty of soul, which is far worse than poverty of purse.

### The Teachers' Meeting.

Review the events of Paul's ministry in Ephesus. .... Describe briefly the temple of Diana; "the image which fell down from Jupiter;" and the theater. .... Show pictures of them to the class. .... Present, in contrast, two ways shown in this lesson: (1) The way of persecution; (2) The way of the Gospel—"that way," verse 23; the current name for Christianity in that age before the word "Christian" was used by disciples.

### Before the Class.

Begin your class work with a general view of the Third Missionary Journey.

1. Refer to the map, call attention to the country lying between the region of Asia Minor, which Paul evangelized during his first journey, and the provinces of Greece, where he labored during his second journey. His third missionary journey was devoted to this region. 2. The seven churches of Asia to which divine messages were sent (Rev., chaps. 2, 3) were founded during this journey. 3. This journey also included visits to all the churches formerly founded in Asia Minor and Greece. 4. His arrest at Jerusalem closed the third missionary journey. 5. His literary work during this time is very important. He wrote First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, and Romans.

Call out by questioning the following:

Three facts concerning the founding of the church in Ephesus: 1. Aquila and Priscilla went to Ephesus with Paul, and all three labored in the Gospel. 2. Apollos joined them. 3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit at Ephesus.

Three facts of Christian history: 1. This church became a stronghold of Christianity. 2. It was known as the abode of the Virgin Mary. 3. The apostle John spent his last years here.

Three facts concerning the city of Ephesus: 1. Most important city in Asia Minor. 2. It rivaled Athens in sculpture and excelled it in painting. 3. It contained the temple of Diana and was a city of great wealth, and was noted for its commerce with the East. Have one of your pupils prepared to give a description of the temple of Diana. Call attention to the Book of Ephesians, which Coleridge says is the "most sublime book ever written." Its height of Christian experience is a testimony to the proficiency which Paul's converts had attained under his preaching at Ephesus.

Try reading an elliptical story of the lesson, having the scholars supply the missing words: After Paul had passed through .... and .... he purposed to go to .... saying I must also see .... So he sent into Macedonia two men .... and .... but he himself stayed in Asia. About this time a certain man named .... and .... which made .... for Diana brought no small .... unto the craftsmen