



LESSON,--SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 1909.

Review.

Read Acts I--IX.

Golden Text.

And they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word. Acts viii., 4.

Home Readings.

- Monday, March 15.--Acts i., 1-14.
Tuesday, March 16.--Acts ii., 1-21.
Wednesday, March 17.--Acts ii., 22-47.
Thursday, March 18.--Acts iv., 1-22.
Friday, March 19.--Acts v., 17-33.
Saturday, March 20.--Acts viii 4-25.
Sunday, March 21.--Acts viii., 26-40.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

Do any of you remember what happened at Christmas? Ah, you all do, because Christmas and New Year's Day were not so very long ago. Well, we are to take up to-day for review the lessons that we have studied on every Sunday between New Year's Day and to-day, that makes eleven lessons to review. Do you know what 'review' means? You have reviews in school you say, so, of course, you understand. Are there any other kinds of reviews than the kind you have in school? Who knows what a military review is like? That's when the soldiers of certain regiments are called out to be inspected by a great general who watches them while they drill and march to see how well they do it. They don't know what they may be ordered to do, but they just have to be ready to do anything they have been taught to. Can we review our lessons as a general reviews his soldiers? Not quite, but, I tell you what we can do, and that is, we can review over our minds something like the way a general reviews his soldiers. You have all learnt these eleven lessons, haven't you? Now just make believe that I am your commanding officer and that we are going to have a review, but each one of you is to be the inspector of his own mind just to see how much you remember. First of all we'll have a sort of private rehearsal and go over all the lessons in their proper order, then we'll have the big review and I will expect you to answer any question I ask just as a commanding officer would expect his soldiers to if he wanted to show how well they could do.

FOR THE SENIORS.

The motive of the study in this review is found in the golden text. At the very beginning there comes the commission from the Master; then we study the starting place with the Christians still nominally in the Jewish religion and content to stay in Jerusalem; next we have the equipment, in the stirring memory of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and in the gift of the Holy Spirit; following this come studies of the first recruits, the early joys, the first difficulties from without, the first troubles from within, the first organisation in church matters, the first martyr and the first great missionary enterprise. It is a study of beginnings. This story of the first ten years, or thereabouts, of the church show that God had by no means given His people a fixed and definite plan of procedure. 'As thy day so shall thy strength be' however He had promised and as every difficulty arose, He taught His people how to meet and conquer it. Much of the way in which the early church was led was incomprehensible to it. The bitter persecution must have sorely tried the faith of some, yet it was the only door by which God could effectually lead the church out into the larger field of work. The success of the Gospel in Samaria seems to have been a surprise to the apostles. The first step in church organisation was not

taken according to any plan of divine revelation, but was a commonsense and practical way out of a difficulty. It was recognized that there were spiritual and temporal needs in the church, and that the number of adherents was now so great that the apostles could not adequately attend to both. They suggested a solution of the difficulty to the church and the church took the selection of suitable men to fill the need into its own hands. The detailed and particular rules that were given for the guidance of the Jewish worshippers by Moses were not necessary in the Christian church, for God's Holy Spirit was now abiding in His people, an ever present light in all dark places. The individual responsibility felt by the members of the early church is in great contrast to the present day. All, at that time, were preachers of the word but the modern Christian leaves that to the minister towards whose salary he contributes, and considers his duty done. But can we really shift our responsibility by the payment of a small sum of money? Does that not savour of the crime of Simon Magus? To assist in the support of your pastor is a Christian duty, but to consider that a bill of release from service as regards yourself is a sin far too often committed.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, March 21.--Topic--A great light on the Damascus road. Acts ix., 1-7.

C. E. Topic.

- Monday, March 15.--Hindrances in the way. Luke xiv., 25-35.
Tuesday, March 16.--The Christ door. John x., 7-16.
Wednesday, March 17.--The door of faith. Eph. ii., 18-22.
Thursday, March 18.--An open door. Rev. iii., 7-11.
Friday, March 19.--The door of love. 1. John iii., 14-19.
Saturday, March 20.--The need of perseverance. Luke ix., 57-62.
Sunday, March 21.--Topic--Pilgrim's Progress Series. III. The Wicket Gate. Matt. vii., 7-14.

The Superintendent.

The superintendent of the Sunday-school ought to know something about the business, and as he learns a little day by day he ought to do something.

We learn this work precisely as we learn other things: by study, work and practice.

There are so many opportunities these days for the Sunday-school superintendent to learn something. Never was the world so rich in good Sunday-school literature.

Other things being equal, that merchant will be most successful who keeps the freshest goods, the cleanest store, the politest clerks, and the correctest books, and especially keeps in touch with the latest styles and prices. To do this he has to study the market carefully every day.

The lawyer who hasn't the latest code and decisions in his library will go without clients. The physician who does not keep up with the wonderful progress in medical science will soon be without patients.

There is a business side to running a Sunday-school just as there is to running a church, and the superintendent must learn his business --and he will find that it is a very large business, too; that it will require about as much hard study and work as any other business he could go into.

No business can prosper without a set of well-kept books. It is equally true with the Sunday-school. The superintendent should open account with every member of his school, and he should be able to tell at any time just how each account stands. A Sunday-school without a thorough system of book-keeping is in a state of chaos.

Don't you see if this is done what a magnificent foundation you have for other work? As you take your book from your pocket on Monday or Tuesday night, and begin carefully to study the record of the members contained therein, what a volume of work looms up before you! Here are one, two, half a dozen, maybe twenty-five, members who need 'looking after.' Which is the best way? Some need a gentle reminder in the shape of a postal card; others may need a longer letter;

a personal visit may be required for others who may be either sick or well.

If your heart should not be in the work as it ought, try keeping this book awhile and see if it doesn't soon enlist your heart. I know of nothing which will so effectively interest one in anything as to study what it is doing and what it ought to be doing to do successful work.--Selected.

Religious News.

The railroad companies of Canada are co-operating with the committee in charge of the National Missionary Congress to be held in Toronto, March 31st to April 4th, and have granted a rate of a single fare for the round trip. On account of the annual meeting of the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church, a large number of ladies will take advantage of the special rates. An extension of time will be allowed by the western roads, so that delegates from a long distance may remain east until the last of April. It is expected that about 3,000 persons will be in attendance at the two meetings.

Delegates are already registering for the Canadian National Missionary Congress to be held in Toronto, March 31st to April 4th. More than 500 clergymen are registered as Honorary Commissioners, and 50 of the most prominent men from the United States are coming as visitors. The Executive Committee of Montreal expect to send a delegation of at least 100 men. Hamilton, Ontario, will send 80, and a special committee is at work in Halifax to secure a delegation from that city. The allotment of commissioners as assigned, gives 500 to Toronto, and the Toronto men feel that this is not nearly enough.

In connection with the Canadian National Missionary Congress, it is interesting to note, that for the year 1908, the contribution of churches in the United States and Canada to home and foreign missions increased about \$600,000, notwithstanding the financial depression in both countries, and it is conceded on all sides that this increase is due to the Laymen's Missionary Movement. The Baptist Churches of Toronto in an effort to raise their share at what Toronto churches are aiming at, succeeded in raising ten percent more than the total amount asked for, and secured \$55,000, instead of \$50,000.

Sir Andrew Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, is coming to Canada to attend the National Missionary Congress, March 31st to April 4th, upon the invitation of the Canadian Council, ably seconded by Mr. John R. Mott, who is in England doing special work in connection with the colleges. Sir Andrew was Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly of India last year, and is one of the most zealous workers in that country. His son-in-law, the Rev. J. H. Oldham of Edinburgh, is the Secretary of the Committee in charge of the World's Conference of Missions to be held in Edinburgh, June, 1910.

Canadian Pictorial

[For use of our readers who get the 'Messenger' through a club or Sunday School and who wish to order the 'Pictorial' alone.]

COUPON.

John Dougall & Son, 'Witness' Block, Montreal.

Enclosed find seventy-five cents (.75c) which with this coupon will pay for a year's subscription to the 'Canadian Pictorial' (regular rate, \$1.00), according to special offer made to 'Messenger' readers.

Name

P. O.

Date Prov.

This cut rate good for all Canada outside Montreal and suburbs, also districts mentioned in list on page 15.