

that a similar convention of Sunday School workers of the Methodist Churches or all the churches will be held. The social function of taking tea together makes these workers in a common service better acquainted with one another, and the discussion of important subjects connected with their work cannot fail to be greatly helpful. When these conventions are held we hope the programme committee will not fail to secure the services of the Rev. A. C. Crews, the Sunday School and Epworth League Secretary. His address on "Equipment for Service" was one of the most practical, helpful and soul stirring to which we have listened for a long time.

Paul as Traveller and Roman Citizen.*

IN addition to the material furnished in our lesson notes for the study of the life and character of the great apostle to the Gentiles, up-to-date superintendents and teachers should avail themselves of the latest and best books treating this subject. One of these is the book under review, of which the learned Chancellor of Victoria University, the Rev. Dr. Burwash, F.R.S.C., has written, at our request, the following review. This book is, we think, the most recent and most important of the many admirable studies of the great apostle whose life and labors all Christendom is now following in its Sunday Schools:

Notwithstanding the number and ability of his predecessors in this field, Prof. Ramsay has, in the volume before us, opened up new ground, and from his new point of view, advanced new positions on several important questions—positions which bid fair to modify very essentially our commonly accepted views. It is perhaps as well to say at the outset that these modifications affect questions of history solely, and not at all matters of doctrine. It is also satisfactory to note that these modifications relieve several

important difficulties or apparent discrepancies as between the old interpretation of Acts and the Pauline Epistles.

Prof. Ramsay is a thorough follower of the modern historical and critical school of interpretation. He has set before himself the task of following Paul, step by step, in his career in the light of the geography, history, civil and political relationships and social, moral, religious, and intellectual life of time and place, believing that a knowledge of the living facts and circumstances will make all things clear.

To this task he brings some unusual qualifications. He is a master in Roman history. He is versed in Roman law and civil institutions. He is at home in the details of the Roman administration of the provinces. The provinces of Asia Minor are especially his chosen field. Through these he has travelled extensively; here he has made archeological researches, and has personally followed Paul almost step by step. We know of no other writer who brings to this work the same advantages of ripe historical scholarship, combined with living personal familiarity with the scenes and surroundings.

Some of the results are almost startling in the new light which they throw on our record of St. Paul's life and work. Where all other writers have created confusion and perplexity for want of accurate understanding of Luke's terms, our author finds the lucidity and simplicity of actual facts.

The churches in Galatia thus at once come out of obscurity into plain historical light. They lay right along the great commercial overland highway from the East to Rome. Another example of Prof. Ramsay's historical insight we have in his harmony of Paul's visits to Jerusalem, as described in Acts and in Galatians.

Important as are these and many other contributions of the work to the interpretation of the apostolic history, they are even surpassed by the testimony which the investigation affords to the unity and authenticity of the book of Acts as a work of the first century. Next to the credibility of the Gospels this is the most important point in the historical foundations of our religion. Given the book of Acts as trustworthy history recorded by an eye-witness or from credible sources of information, and our Christian superstructure stands on a solid foundation.

A more perfect demonstration of this fact than that here given can scarcely be conceived. Its perfect consistency with time, place, geographical features, poli-

* "St. Paul, the Traveller and Roman Citizen," by W. M. Ramsay, D.C.L., LL.D., Professor of Humanity, Aberdeen. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1896. Price, \$3.00.