

I will delight myself in Thy statutes.—Psalm cxix. 16.

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OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM THE S. S. LESSONS.

BY REV. JOHN McEWEN, Secretary S.S. Association of Canada.

[Feb. 22.] Paul Before the Council. [Acts 23: 1-11.]

Paul has told the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and nothing but the truth. He has been stripped and scourged. He has defended himself as a Roman citizen and the scourge has been dropped, and now he is before the highest court of the Jews. How procedure is often rolled along on a personal or popular *supposition*. It was supposed that Paul had brought Trophimus into the temple.

1.—PAUL APPEARS WITH A GOOD CONSCIENCE and a courageous heart, and can steadily look his judges in the face. A good conscience always comes to a scholar or teacher by obedience to God. "Herein do I exercise myself always, to have a conscience void of offence, toward God and toward man." Paul never forgot that presence and that voice, that met him on his way to Damascus.

PAUL INSISTS ON PERSONAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

2. As a Roman they had no right to scourge him, and as a man they had no right to smite him while acting in defence, and if he had spoken unadvisedly, he was as prompt in his confession and apology.

PAUL'S CONFESSON OF FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

3. As the term GENTILES, enraged the mob, so the *Resurrection* arouses and divides the judges. The Hope of Christ and the Resurrection of the dead are inseparable, if the first is held, the second follows. There was real christian wisdom in Paul's position and this is not to be lost sight of in the cause of Christ.

PAUL'S EXTREMITY IS GOD'S OPPORTUNITY FOR RICH SUPPORT.

4.—"Be of good cheer." If you want salvation Christ has provided it. If you are saved and want strength, the Lord has that for you. If you are in sorrow, the Lord has comfort. If you are persecuted the Lord knows it and will come to your relief. "Therefore at all times and in all circumstances." "Be of good cheer." Paul's fidelity in these trying days prepares him for a still grander sphere of influence from Jerusalem to Rome.

[ORIGINAL.]

Comfort in Sorrow.

BY MISS CELIA DEVINE.

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.—Rev. 7. 11.



Is your spirit sad and weary,
Do dark clouds o'erspread your sky,
Are you sighing—vainly sighing,
For the joys that from you fly?
Raise your aching eyes to heaven,

To that city bright as day,
List, a gentle voice is saying,
"God shall wipe your tears away."

Do the things of earth deceive you,
And loved friends prove all untrue,
Does their coldness sadly grieve you,
As you walk this sad life through?
Take to God your every sorrow,
For He kindly says you may
Freely "cast your burden on Him."
"God will wipe your tears away."

Though the angry storm is beating,
On your poor defenceless head,
Dark and dreary be the pathway,
That your bleeding feet may tread,
God will shield you, if you trust Him,
His almighty power display,
And with hand so soft and tender,
"God shall wipe your tears away."

When this weary life is ended,
And your spirit sinks to rest,
You sha' find a home forever,
On the Saviour's loving breast,
Then shall dawn upon your spirit,
One eternal joyous day,
And the hand, once torn and bleeding,
All your tears shall wipe away.

The Dusty Room.



YOUNG GIRL was sweeping a room one day when she went to the window-blind, and hastily drew it down.

"It makes the room so dusty," she said "to have the sunshine coming in."

The atoms of dust which shone golden in the sunbeams were unseen in the dimmer light. The untaught girl imagined it was the sunshine which made the dust.

The light of the Spirit is like the sunshine in the dusty room. It reveals what was before hidden. When we begin to feel unhappy about our sins, let us never try to put away the feeling. Do not let us put down the curtain, and fancy there is no dust. It is the Holy Spirit's voice in our hearts. He is showing us ourselves; and better still, He will show us the true way to happiness.