

injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: The "Great Hymn of the Church"—Primary, 595; Junior and Upward, 438, 116, 149, 114 (Ps. Sel.), 534, 245.

Special Scripture Reading—1 Thess. 5: 14-24; given also in Departmental Graded Teacher's Quarterlies. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Hymn for Opening Worship—Hymn 237, Book of Praise; given also in Departmental Graded Quarterlies.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 1396, Paul Entering Rome. For Question on Missions, T. R. 16, An Up-to-date School. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 96 Queen St. East, Toronto.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, Along the Appian Way (Southeast) Constructed in the Fourth Century, B.C. (Order from Underwood & Underwood, 417 Fifth Ave., New York City; further particulars, see page 527).

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—A.D. 60; Rome.

Connecting Links—The lesson follows immediately upon that for Nov. 5.

I. From Malta to Rome, 11-16.

V. 11. *After three months.* The wreck took place about the middle of November, so that the departure would be about the middle of February, when navigation was once more opened. *Set sail* (Rev. Ver.). The Greek is the sailors' word for starting a voyage. *Ship of Alexandria.* Likely this was another grain ship (see ch. 27: 6) driven to Malta by the same gale in which Paul's ship had been wrecked. *Sign*; figure-head, as we should say, only ancient ships had such signs both at stem and stern. *Castor and Pollux*; Rev. Ver., "The Twin Brothers;" the two sons of Zeus, or Jupiter, who were regarded as the sailors' guardian deities. Gemini (Latin for "Twins") is the name still given to a constellation supposed to be specially favorable to sailors, its two leading stars being called Castor and Pollux.

Vs. 12, 13. *Touching at* (Rev. Ver.); again a technical sea term in the Greek language. *Fetched a compass*; Rev. Ver., "made a circuit;" being compelled to tack because of the direction of the wind. *Puteoli.* Because it was a great commercial emporium, all new movements would reach Puteoli, and we find, therefore, that there was a Christian church here, a fact confirmed by an inscription found amongst the near-by ruins of Pompeii, destroyed in A.D. 79, "O Christian, rejoice in the fire."

V. 14. *Seven days*; which would afford Paul the opportunity, in which he would greatly rejoice, of spending a Lord's Day with the Christians at Puteoli. *We came to Rome* (Rev. Ver.). Sir William Ramsay thinks that "Rome" here denotes the territory belonging to Rome, the "state," so to

say, of which the city of Rome was the centre.

V. 15. *Brethren heard.* Between Puteoli and Rome there was constant communication. *Came to meet us*; with a welcome that cheered Paul's heart, and nerved him for the dangers that still lay before him. *Appii forum*; Rev. Ver., "The Market of Appius," a little town 43 miles from Rome, on the Appian Way, a great road named from Appius, its builder. Here the first Roman contingent met Paul. *Three Taverns* (Rev. Ver.). The Greek word translated "Taverns" may denote shops of any kind. A second company meets him at this halting place. *Thanked God*; as he looked back on past deliverances and guidance. *Took courage*; for the future, which was not lacking in reasons for anxiety. It was a critical time, on which great issues hung.

V. 16. *We came to Rome*; the city (see under v. 14). There is a ring of triumph in the words. Paul, though a bound prisoner, entered the imperial capital as a conqueror come to win it for Christ. *Captain of the guard*; probably the commander of the emperor's bodyguard of 10,000 men. One of the duties of this officer was to take charge of those whose cases were to be brought before the emperor. *Dwell by himself*; in his own house, a favor doubtless due largely to the report given by the centurion Julius of his wonderful prisoner. *Soldier*; to whom he was constantly bound by a light chain.

II. Paul and His Countrymen, 17-22.

Vs. 17-22. *After three days*; spent in getting settled and rested. *Chief of the Jews*; leading men of the Jews. Paul follows the same course at Rome as he had followed elsewhere. He goes first to his own people, and seeks to win them to the new faith. He showed that: (1) he was a loyal, patriotic Jew; (2) the Roman authorities had declared him innocent; (3) the opposition of