SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From International Question Book.)

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

LESSON XI.—MARCH 15.

PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA.—ACTS 26: 1-18.

COMMIT VERSES 16-18.

GOLDEN TEXT

And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.—Acts 26: 15.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The Gospel is shown to be true by what it does for men

DAILY READINGS.

M. Acts 25: 13-27.
T. Acts 26: 1-18.
W. Acts 9: 1-20.
Th. Matt. 17: 1-9.
F. Gal. 1: 11-24.
Sa. Luke 1: 67-80.
Su. Isa. 42: 1-12.

INTRODUCTION.—Paul had lain in prison at Cesarea when a change was made in governors. Immediately on his arrival in Jerusalem (July 1-12) the leading Jews ask the governor to send Paul to Jerusalem intending to kill him. The governor refuses, and summons the Jews to Cesarea. They accuse Paul bitterly. Paul denies the charges, but, fearing lest the governor be persuaded to send him to Jerusalem, he appeals to Cæsar, and it is determined to send him to Rome for trial; but Festus can find no charges to send with him. King Agrippa and his sister Bernice about this time visit Festus, and Paul is called before him, in order that he, being a Jew by education, may discover some accusation.

THE TRIAL SCENE.—(1) THE PLACE—Herod's judgment-hall or palace. (2) THE PRISONER—Paul, aged 58, bound by one hand to a Roman soldier. (3) THE JUDGES—Festus, of good character, comparatively; Agrippa, a bad, hard man; Bernice, his sister, living with him as his wife. (4) THE AUDIENCE—The leading people of Cesarea, officials in their rich robes, military officers in gorgeous uniforms and a brilliant assembly.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

3. EXPERT—Agrippa was trained as a Jew, and had studied their sacred books. His father, though not a Jew, lived in the Jewish ways. 5. STRAITEST—most exact, particular. 7. OUR TWELVE TRIBES—The nation as a whole. Many of what are called the lost ten tribes were mingled with the tribe of Judah, and the Jews were a commingling of all the tribes. 11. COMPELLED—strove to compel. 14. PRICKS—goads with which oxen were driven; the more they kicked against them the worse they were hurt.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How long did Paul remain in prison at Cesarea? What change was made in the governors of Judea? What did the Jews ask of the new governor? Where were they summoned to accuse Paul? What was the result of this trial? Why did Paul appeal to Cæsar? How was this adding him in his desire to go to Rome? Who came to visit Festus? What favor did Festus ask of them? Why? What trial was now held? Who were the audience? Was this a favorable time to preach the Gospel?

SUBJECT: THE GOSPEL DEFENDED AND PROVED.

I. BECAUSE IT IS THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES (vs 1-7).—How did Paul open his address? What can you tell about Agrippa? What special fitness had he for judging Paul's case? What does Paul say of his early life? Why does he refer to this? What was the promise made by God to the fathers? (Job 19: 26; Dan. 12: 2, 3; Luke 20: 37, 38; Ps 72: 8-11; Isa. 1: 7; 19: 1-22; Dan. 7: 9, 10, 14, 27.) How did the Israelites feel toward this promise? Meaning of "instantly serving God day and night"? How was the Gospel a fulfilment of this hope? How does this show the truth of the Gospel.

II. BECAUSE IT IS REASONABLE (v. 8).—How did Paul come now to speak of the resurrection? Why was it not incredible? Had they been raised from the dead? (1 Kings 17: 22, 23; 2 Kings 4: 32-35; 13: 21; see also Luke 20: 37, 38.) Is the Gospel reasonable? Are all its teachings reasonable?

III. BECAUSE OF THE WONDERFUL CHANGES IT WORKS IN INDIVIDUALS (vs. 9-18).—Give a brief account of Paul's conversion? Did he see Jesus in the bright light? What did he hear him say? Was this a proof that Jesus was living, and divine? (v. 16; ch. 9: 17.) Meaning of "hard to kick against the pricks"? How did it apply to Paul? How does it apply to us? What change was wrought in Paul? How do the wonderful changes the Gospel works in the character of men prove the truth of the Gospel?

IV. BECAUSE OF ITS RESULTS IN THE WORLD (vs. 16-8.—Why did Jesus appear to Paul? Was he to have new light? How does this bear upon the inspiration of his epistles? What was to be the effect of the Gospel? What is the darkness referred to? How does the Gospel bring light? What are the four steps in the Gospel work in v. 18? What is the inheritance of the saints?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. The hopes and promises of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the Gospel

II. The Gospel is proved by the marvellous changes it has wrought in men.

III. It is proved by its purpose and work. Note the results of Christian missions in transforming nations.

IV. When God calls us to be converted, he calls us to some worthy work.

V. Christian knowledge and experience is progressive.

VI. We should all join with all our hearts in turning men from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, March. 3, 1885.

The English grain markets are somewhat improved, wheat being slightly better and corn quiet but steady. For spot wheat in Liverpool there is rather more enquiry. Red winter wheat is quoted at 6s 9d; Canadian peas, 5s 11d.

The local grain market is stagnant and prices are nominal. We quote as follows:—Canada Red Winter, 92c to 93c; White, Winter, 90c to 91c; Canada Spring, No. 2, 90c to 91. Peas, 72c to 73c; Oats 32c; Rye, 60c to 62c; Barley, 50c to 60c. Corn 53c to 56c per bushel.

FOUR.—This market continues very dull. The quotations are:—Superior Extra, to $4.05; Extra Superfine, $3.90 Fancy $3.75; Spring Extra $3.65 to $3.70; Superfine, $3.40 to $3 45; Strong Bakers, (Canadian,) $4.00 to $4.90; Strong Bakers' (American,) $4.50 to $5.00; Fine, $3.25; Middlings, $3.00 to $3.05; Ontario bags, (legs included) Medium, $1.90 to $2.00; do Spring Extra, $1.80 to $1.85; Superfine, $1.60 to $1.70; City Bags, (delivered,) $2.30 to 2.35.

MEALS unchanged.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter is extremely quiet, and prices are somewhat lower than at our last report. We quote:—Creamery, 20c to 23c; Eastern Townships, 14c to 18c; Morrisburg and Brockville, 12c to 15c; Western, 10c to 14c, as to quality. Cheese, too, is very quiet at 10c to 10½c for fall makes, in shipping lots, and 11¼c to 11½c to the jobbing trade.

EGGS, are quoted at 20c to 22c for fresh stock, and 16½c to 17c for limed

HOG PRODUCTS are quiet, but steady. We quote:—Western Mess Pork $15.75; do., Short Cut, $16 00; Canada Short Cut, $16,-25 to $16.50; Hams, city cured, 12¼c to 13½c; do. green, 9c; Lard, in pails, Western, 10¼c; do., Canadian, 9½c; Bacon, 12c; Tallow, common refined, 5½c to 7½c.

ASHES.—First Pots fetch $3 90 to $3.95 per 100 lbs.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

The supply of butchers' cattle is rather large for the Lenten season, and, with the reports of a decline in the British Markets, have caused a decline in prices here all round. The best butchers' cattle have lately been selling at about 4½c per lb., with rough steers and fat cows at about 4c do. Leanish stock and milkmen's strippers are also plentiful, and sell at from 3c to 3¾c per lb. Calves are offered in increasing numbers, and prices are lower. Good sheep are not plentiful, and prices are rather higher. Common and inferior milch cows are plentiful, but good cows, suitable for milkmen, are rather scarce to supply the present brisk demand; prices of this kind are therefore decidedly higher.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The farmers' market has been abundantly supplied of late with nearly all kinds of seasonable produce, and the prices of most kinds of grain are lower; so, also, are the prices of frozen meat and poultry. Potatoes continue plentiful and cheap; onions and cabbages are advancing in price, owing to the demand for shipment south and west. There are no changes in the prices of butter and eggs, old stock being plentiful and cheap, but fresh laid eggs and good print butter continue pretty high priced. Liberal supplies of hay are being brought to market and prices are easier. Oats are 70c to 80c per bag; peas, 75c to 80c per bushel; beans $1.25 to $1.70 do; potatoes 35c to 45c per bag; turnips, carrots, and beets, 40c to 70c per bushel; onions 75c to $1.00, do.; cabbages 75c to $1.20 per barrel; butter 14c to 50c per lb; eggs 18c to 40c per dozen; apples $2.50 to $3.25 per barrel; dressed hogs 6½c to 7c per lb.; mutton carcases 5½c to 7½c do; young turkeys 9c to 14c per lb.; geese 7c to 10c do; fowls 8c to 12c do; ducks 12c to 15c do; hay $5.00 to $9.00 per 100 bundles.

NEW YORK, March 2, 1885.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 90¾c Feb.; 90¾c Mar.; 92⅜c April; 93⅜c May; 94⅜c June. Corn, 53⅛c Feb.; 50⅛c March; 49⅞c April; 49⅝c May. Rye, quiet, 63½c. Oats, higher 38⅜c Feb.; 36⅞c March; 36⅜c May. Peas nominal.

FLOUR.—We quote:—Spring Wheat—Superfine, $2.70 to $2.80; Low Extra, $3.05 to $3.35; Clears, $3.80 to $4.75; Straight $4.00 to $5.00; Patent, $4.65 to $5.75. Winter Wheat—Superfine, $2.85 to $3.00; Low Extra, $3.10 to $3.30; Clears (R. and A.), $4.25 to $4.50; Straight (R. and A.), $4.25 to $5.30; Patent, $4.65 to $5.65; Straight (White Wheat), $4.35 to $5.25; Low Extra (City Mills), $3.10 to $3.25; West India, sacks, $3.40 to $3.65; West India, barrels, $4.60 to $4 85; Patent, $4.60 to $5.40; South America, $4.75 to $5.20; Patent $4.75 to $5.65. Southern Flour—Extra $3.50 to $4.60; Family, $4.75 to $5.40; Patent, $4.75 to $5.65. Rye Flour—Fine to superfine, $3.40 to $3.85.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, $3.00 to $3.25 in brls; oatmeal, $5.00 to $5.90 per brl.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter unchanged. Creamery, ordinary to fancy 18c to 36c. State Half firkins, ordinary to best 15c to 26c; Western ordinary factory, to choice imitation creamery, 9c to 26c. Cheese, state factory, fair to fancy, 9½c to 12½c; do. light skims, good to choice, 7½c to 9½c; Ohio flats, ordinary to prime, 5c to 11c; Skims, 1c to 3c.

THE C. O. D. YOUNG MAN.

A fashionable youth, who is of a very economical turn, has the habit, when he sends a note to his girl, of adding this postscript: "Give negro boy a biscuit for carrying this note." Recently the young lady promptly sent the young man quite a number of biscuits, informing him that he could henceforth prepay postage, and when the rations were exhausted to draw on her for more. A cold wave now blows between that young lady and her C. O. D. young man.—*Hartwell Citizen.*

THE LASSIE "SOLD."

"Div ye ken whit they're sayin' ?" asked a blushing lassie of her backward wooer. "No; whit is't ?" "They're sayin' we're gaun to be married." "Are they ? We'll cheat them," answered the laddie, and the blushes paled in the fair damsel's cheeks.

ROSSA'S BEST HOLD.

"I understand O'Donovan Rossa is out of danger." "Well, that's nothing new. Give him half a chance and he'll always keep out of danger. That Rossa's bes hold."—*Chicago News.*

AN ENTOMOLOGICAL BORE had just begun afresh on the eye of the common house fly, which he declared, considering the size of its owner, to have the largest organ of vision in the whole animal word. "You presume to deny the fact I state," gasped out the astonished man; "why, Buffon, Cuvier——" But before he could finish his sentence Sydney Smith was vehemently down on him once more with his "Yes, sir, the weight of tradition, the infallible instinct of poetry, is against you. For what is the verdict of poetry on this very issue? Why, 'I, said the fly, with my *little* eye, I saw him die.'" At once the table was in a roar, and the discomfited bug fancier lapsed into silence, and suffered the talk to become general.

AN EDITOR who had advertised for a man to do clipping for his paper was met by a sly-looking personage who said that he would like to secure the position. "Do you think that you could look over papers and find items of interest?" "Yes, sir." "What is your regular business?" "I am a detective." "Dear me! you won't do. You would never find anything."—*Arkansaw Traveller.*

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