

Superintendent. Observe how blind was the zeal, and how furious the rage, of the unbelieving Jews, against the apostle. Well might he say, as he does in the Second Epistle to the Corinthians, eleventh chapter and twenty-third verse, "In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft."

HYMN.

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave, and follow thee;
Naked, poor, despised, forsaken,
Thou, from hence, my all shall be:
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought, and hoped, and known;
Yet how rich is my condition,
God and heaven are still my own!
Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Saviour, too;
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like man, untrue;
And, while thou shalt smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate, and friends may shun me;
Show thy face, and all is bright.

Superintendent. Though many strange places were occupied as a pulpit by this pioneer preacher of the cross, none was so striking as this the stair-way in the temple. Standing chained to two nailed men, he commands the attention of the excited mob in the temple court by his relation of the story of his conversion which we find in the seventh lesson.

School. With great wisdom and tact Paul addresses the maddened crowd. He repeats, with most courteous address, the story of his marvelous conversion, how he had been changed from the persecutor to the preacher, and how he had received his great commission to tell to dying men the story of the crucified Redeemer.

Superintendent. In the eighth lesson we find the apostle brought before the great council, the Sanhedrin, to answer the charges made against him. Will the boys repeat the Golden Text of this lesson, which contains assurance and comfort from the Lord Jesus?

Boys. "And the night following, the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul."

Superintendent. Will the girls give the reason of this divine personal visitation to Paul?

Girls. As once before in a vision for the cheer and stay of Paul's spirit, for the consecrated worker was questioning concerning the present, and depressed concerning the future. Not for his own Christian comfort, or peace in trusting; for his faith was adequate to his personal needs; but Christ came to Paul at this time, partly to acquaint him that his work in Jerusalem was finished, and that it was approved, and to assure him concerning the long-looked-for work at Rome, that he should finish his course with joy.

Superintendent. Were Paul's trials over?
School. No, for in the ninth lesson we find the apostle the victim of a treacherous design to take his life.

Superintendent. Will you tell something concerning this plot.

School. "And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul." The tribune Claudius Lysias, upon learning of the vow of these fanatical zealots against the apostle's life, and fully aware that the sanctity of the temple nor the strength of the citadel would afford protection to the man of God, the same night sent his prisoner under a strong protecting guard to Felix at Cesarea.

HYMN.

Father of love, our Guide and Friend,
O lead us gently on,
Until life's trial time shall end,
And heavenly peace be won.

We know not what the path may be
As yet by us untrod;

But we can trust our all to thee,
Our Father and our God.

Christ by no flowery pathway came;
And we, his followers here,
Must do thy will and praise thy name,
In hope, and love, and fear.

Superintendent. Will you repeat the topics of the next two lessons?

School. "Paul before Felix" and "Paul before Agrippa."

Superintendent. In the first of these lessons we see Paul, the devoted preacher, not merely refuting the false charges which have been brought against him, but *improving the opportunity to preach Jesus*, and directs attention to his life, which furnishes the evidence of the truth of his faith. In the other lesson he sees before King Agrippa the *operations of divine grace* and the twofold mission which had been given him to do.

School. Paul, in the presence of Felix, was as the inferior before his superior, as the prisoner before the free Roman, as the accused one before his judge; but in the light of divine things it is the governor who stands accused before the free judge, as one bound by the cords of sin before the freed man of the Gospel, as the inferior alarmed before the hero of God.

Boys. And as Paul embraced the opportunity to preach Jesus.

Girls. So Felix lost the opportunity to embrace Jesus.
Superintendent. What defense did Paul make before King Agrippa.

School. The address of Paul before the king is one of the longest which Luke has recorded. It is a defense of himself against unjust accusations, yet he does not seek to demonstrate his personal innocence, but to vindicate his mission and labors as an apostle. It is the last public testimony which the apostle delivered on the soil of Palestine.

Superintendent. In the next and last lesson of the quarter, we are told of the effects of these wonderful words of the apostle. Will you tell something concerning Paul's royal listeners?

School. The simple earnest words of the follower of Jesus were delivered before the most distinguished assembly, in a secular point of view, in the presence of which he had ever appeared; but they had no appreciable effect upon the hearts or minds of his noble hearers—each and all. The governor Festus and King Agrippa neglected the golden opportunity, for the one replies with a jest, and the other with words of derision and scorn. Paul's joyful assurance is met by Agrippa's mockery; Paul's joyful assurance of faith by Agrippa's lamentable want of decision, and Paul's overflowing love by Agrippa's affected indifference.

Superintendent. What was the judgment concerning Paul?

School. He was declared innocent of offense.

All. In the summing up of the quarter's lessons we find the thought of consecration connecting them, like a series of pearls strung on a golden thread. "Two things lie in the conversion of Paul, and in every conversion: the man gets an Almighty Saviour, and God gets a willing servant." Paul was a chosen vessel, and all through his Christian life he was permitting God to use him in answer to his earnest request made at the time of his conversion. The name of Christ is the precious thing wherewith the vessel is charged. "We are so many vessels labeled on the outside with the name of Christ. Some are looking on who do not believe that the Spirit which fills us is the Spirit of Christ. Before them bear the name of Christ, when needful, on your lips, the Spirit of Christ in your heart, the example of Christ in your conduct."

HYMN.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.

NOTE.—As each lesson-topic is mentioned in the above review service, have it written upon the blackboard and the initials will spell CONSECRATION, which is the central thought of the quarter, and a good topic for an address.

Or, have the letters (cut from card-board) suspended from a wire at the rear of the Superintendent's desk, each letter being brought forward and placed in position when the particular lesson is mentioned.