

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From International Question Book.)

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

LESSON VIII.—FEBRUARY 23.

PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL.—ACTS 23:1-11

COMMIT VERSES 9, 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul:—Acts 23:11.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Acts 22:17-30. T. Acts 23:1-11. W. Matt. 22:15-40. Th. Rom. 1:1-17. F. Ps. 91:1-16. Sa. Ps. 143:1-19. Su. Ps. 139:1-18.

THE SANHEDRIM.—The chief Jewish Council, consisting of 72 members; 21 chief priests, or heads of courses, 21 elders, leading Jewish laymen, 24 scribes, or doctors of the law.

INTERESTING EVENTS.—As soon as Paul, in his address which we studied last week, mentioned his call to preach to the Gentiles, the Jews in the court of the Gentiles below him grew greatly excited, and shouted, and threw dust in the air. Lyasus, the chief captain, not understanding a word of his words, he being in Hebrew, and his king that he had a good criminal to awaken such hatred, took Paul in, to the castle and commanded his soldiers to torture him by scourging, to compel him to confess his crime. Paul then declared that he was a Roman citizen, and it was contrary to law to scourge such an one. He was then kept in prison over night, and the next morning Lyasus brought him before the Jewish Council, in order to learn with what crime they charged him.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

2. SMITE OF THE MOUTH.—It was the custom in the East to punish for speaking words not liked. It was usually done with a shoe, as more insulting. 3. PAUL SAID.—They probably had not struck him. WHITED WALL.—A mean kind of stone well covered with whitewash to make it look like marble. A term for hypocrisy. 4. I WIST NOT.—I did not know, or did not know in my mind. He either did not know that the word came from the high priest, or he forgot in his indignation that he was high priest. 5. I AM A PHARISEE.—See Phil. 3:5, 6. In the hope, etc.—Paul, however with the Pharisees, in the future life, and in the resurrection, and presented Christ as the one by whom they could be justified. In his own words—Paul would be united to be disengaged, but his life should be taken, and he should fail to present the same in Rome, as he had desired and prayed. (See Rom. 1:10-12, Acts 23:21.)

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Where was Paul speaking, in our last lesson? To what audience? How did the defence when he spoke of the Gentiles? What did the chief captain command to be done to Paul? For what purpose? How did Paul answer? What were the privileges of Hebrew citizens? Where was Paul taken the next day? Of whom was the Council of Sanhedrim composed? Who were some of its members?

SUBJECT: GOOD CHEER IN THE HOUR OF TROUBLE.

HIS ANSWER INTERPRETTED. (vs. 1, 2).—Why did Paul gaze earnestly at the Council? What was his first sentence? Had he lived in all good conscience before he was converted? (Acts 20:24.) What more do we need than a good conscience? Should every one live according to the dictates of his conscience?

JUSTICE IN A COURT OF JUSTICE. (vs. 2, 3).—What did the high priest command to be done to Paul? What did this net signify? Was it a great insult? Did they probably do it?

HAVEY WORDS.—(vs. 35).—What did the bystanders reply to Paul's judgment remark? Was Paul wrong in saying what he did? Is it right to be indignant at wrong? What harm might come to his cause from speaking so to a high priest?

Did Paul confess that he had done wrong, or did he explain the seeming wrong? Meaning of "What net?" How could Paul help knowing? What good rule does he quote as to speaking about parents, teachers and rulers? Why comfort is there in confession? In explanation?

THE INTENSE HATRED OF THE JEWS. (vs. 6, 9).—Why did the Jews hate Paul? What did they wish to do to him? (Acts 21:21; 22:22.) Into what two parties were the Council divided? What was the difference between them? How did Paul gain one party to his side? Was this wise? Was it right? How was Paul on trial for his life, and the resurrection of the dead?

ANOTHER MOR. (vs. 19).—What was the effect of Paul's apple of discord in the Council? Why were they so bitter? How was Paul rescued? Where did he spend the night?

THE SEEMING FAILURE OF HIS HOPES.—How would the reaction after the last two days' excitement affect him? What was the result of his efforts to convert his countrymen? What other great hope seemed likely to fail? (Acts 19:21; Rom. 1:10, 11.)

THE COMFORT IN IT.—How did Jesus comfort Paul? How would the mere fact of his presence comfort him? What was there in his vision to meet each of the troubles noted above? What similar good cheer may we have in trouble?

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, Feb. 10, 1885.

There has been but little change in the situation during the week. Prices for the volume of business is small and there are no exciting symptoms to disturb the quiet. The splendid winter roads all over Canada have induced a good many farmers to move produce of various kinds, and the country retail men are doing a brisk business. Dairy produce is very quiet and it is worth a shilling a hundred weight less in England this week than last.

Chicago is about steady. We quote:—Wheat at 77½c Feb, 77½c March, 83½c May. Corn is quoted at 37c Feb, and 40½c May.

The local wheat market is steady and stagnant. We quote Canada Red Winter, 86c to 88c; White, 84c to 86c; Spring 84c to 85c; Peas, 70c to 71c; Oats, 31c. Barley, 50c to 60c. Corn 56c.

FLOUR.—There is very little doing on change. The quotations are:—Superior Extra, \$4.15 to \$4.20; Extra Superior, \$4.70 to \$4.05; Fancy \$3.85; Spring Extra \$3.75; Superior, \$3.50 to \$3.55; Strong Bakers' (Canadian), \$4.00 to \$4.25; Strong Bakers' (American), \$4.50 to \$5.00; Fine, \$3.25 to \$3.30; Middlings, \$3.75; Pollards, \$2.80 to \$2.90; Ontario bags (bags included) Medium, \$1.90 to \$2.00; Spring Extra, \$1.90 to \$2.00; Superior, \$1.60 to \$1.70; City Bags, (delivered), \$2.25.

MEALS unchanged.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Both butter and cheese are quiet and unchanged. We quote as follows:—Creamery, 21c to 23c; Eastern Townships, 19c to 20c; Western, 13c to 16½c. Cheese is unchanged at 12c to 12½c for September and October, and 8c to 11½c for other makes.

Eggs, fresh are selling at 19c to 21c, as to quality.

HOG PRODUCTS are very quiet. We quote:—Western Mess Pork \$15.50 to \$15.75; Hams, city cured, 12½c to 13½c; Bacon, 12½c to 13c; Lard, western, in pails, 10½c to 10½c; do., Canadian, 10½c; Tallow, common refined, 7c to 8c.

ASHES are very weak, Pots selling at \$3.55 to \$3.60 as to rates.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

There has been a falling off in the supplies of butchers' cattle and prices are slightly higher; especially is this the case with leishish stock. Shippers are buying the largest and best steers at from 4½c to 5c per lb, and a carload of fat cattle was brought here this week to ship to Newfoundland. Good butchers' cattle sell at about 4½c, rough steers and fat cows at 4c to 4½c, and leishish heaves at from 3½c to 3¾c per lb. Sheep are still plentiful at about former rates, or from \$4 to \$5 per head in small lots. Good veal calves are scarce and pretty high priced. Live cows are sold in small lots at about 5c per lb, and dressed hogs at from 6½c to 6½c, do., but car-lots would bring less. There has been a considerable increase in the supply of milk cows, but very few of them are really good milkers, and these continue to bring pretty high prices, but common and inferior cows are rather difficult to sell, except at reduced rates.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The frequent recurrence of boisterous weather hinders many of the farmers living at a distance from bringing their produce to the markets here, and prices vary a good deal according to the abundance or scarcity of the supplies offered. Grain and potatoes are rather lower in price and eggs are coming down rapidly. Dressed hogs, beef quarters, tub butter and mutton carcasses continue in abundant supply at pretty low figures. Frozen poultry are plentiful at former rates, but fresh killed birds bring higher rates. There has been an advance in the prices of flour, grain and bran, but meals and feed continue low priced. Oats are 75c to 85c per bag; peas, 75c to 85c per bushel; beans \$1.50 to \$1.80 do.; potatoes 35c to 45c per bag; turnips, carrots, beets and onions 30c to 50c per bushel; cabbages 40c to 60c 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 7½c per lb.; mutton carcasses 5½c to 7c do.; young turkeys 9c to 14c per lb.; geese 7c to 9c do.; fowls 6c to 12c do.; ducks 12c to 15c do.; hay \$6.00 to \$9.00 per 100 bundles.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9, 1885.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 89½c Feb, 90½c Mar.; 92½c April; 94½c May; 95c June. Corn, 50½c Feb; 49½c March; 49c April; 49c May; 48½c June. Rye, quiet, 63½c. Oats, dull; 36½c Feb, 35½c March, 36½c May. Peas nominal.

FLOUR.—We quote:—Spring Wheat—Superfine, \$2.75 to \$2.90; Low Extra, \$3.05 to \$3.25; Clears, \$3.80 to \$4.75; Straight \$4.00 to \$5.00; Patent, \$4.65 to \$5.75. Winter Wheat—Superfine, \$2.75 to \$2.90; Low Extra, \$3.00 to \$3.20; Clears (R. and A.), \$4.25 to \$4.50; Straight (R. and A.), \$4.25 to \$5.30; Patent, \$4.70 to \$5.70; Straight (White Wheat), \$4.30 to \$5.20; Low Extra (City Mills), \$3.25 to \$3.35; West India, sacks, \$3.50 to \$3.75; barrels, West India, \$4.75; Patent, \$4.70 to \$5.65; South America, \$4.55 to \$5.00; Patent \$4.75 to \$5.40. 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, \$2.40 to \$3.90.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, \$3.10 to \$3.30 in bbls; oatmeal, \$5.00 to \$5.90 per bbl.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter unchanged. Creamery, ordinary to select 18c to 30c. Half hickins, ordinary to best 16c to 27c; Welsh tubs 19c to 26c; Western ordinary factory, to choice imitation creamery, 1c to 26c. Cheese, state factory, ordinary to fall cream, 3½c to 13½c. Ohio flats, fair to choice 6c to 11½c; Skims 1c to 3c.

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