

Thou art the same, and thy YEARS shall not fail.—Heb. i. 12.

## Our Mission Union,

ISSUED ON THE FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

**Subscription Rates, per year, (post paid).**

Single Copy, 50 cts.; Six Copies, \$2.50; Ten Copies, \$3.50; Twenty-five Copies, \$7.50; Fifty Copies, \$13.50; One Hundred Copies, \$22.00; Five Hundred Copies, \$100.00.

Societies ordering 500 Copies, can arrange for the insertion of their local meetings on the last page, and also brief notices of their work.

All communications regarding subscriptions, or for books advertised in the Publisher's Column, to be addressed, S. R. BRIGGS, Toronto Willard Tract Depository, Toronto Canada.

Original articles intended for insertion in the paper, should be addressed to ALF. SANDHAM, Editor, at same place.

## OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

### NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM THE S. S. LESSONS.

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

#### [Jan. 4.] Paul at Troas. [Acts 20: 2-16.]

We are now entered upon the New Year 1885, and in our Bible Study, we turn from the Old Testament to the New, and to the point in the life of the Apostle Paul dropped in June, confessedly the most suggestive and stimulating life before the world—after that ministry of Jesus, who was its subject, inspiration, and model. Let us anew drink of this spirit, and look for a double portion of this power.

#### APPROACH TO SUBJECTS

The general subjects of the next six months' Lessons are:—  
PAUL'S LAST LABOURS AND SUFFERINGS. Acts 20-28.

We commence in the middle of the Third Missionary Journey; and to proceed intelligently, we must in our study, and in our teaching, recall, repeat and review the vital steps in the Apostle's career.

His Conversion, Acts 9; his Retirement, Gal. 1: 17; his visit to the Apostles, Acts 9: 26-30; his Early Labours, Acts 11; 25, 26; his Recorded Sermon, Acts 13: 16; his Success, Acts 14: Persecution, v. 2; Stoned, v. 19; Preaching, v. 21.

#### THE GOSPEL PREACHED IN EUROPE. Acts 16.

Troas, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Acts 17. Corinth, and the eighteen months' labours given to it, Acts 18: 11. These were the populous centres of heathen life; and the consecrated Apostle taught them of JESUS, THE CHRIST of God. Here, we get a glimpse of the power of Christ on Paul.

"That which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." 2 Cor. 11.

#### WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT?

When Paul began his labours, Palestine, Syria, and Cilicia formed the boundaries of the spread of the Gospel: now the cords are lengthened into Asia Minor, Macedonia, Illyricum, and Greece.

#### THE APOSTLE'S RETURN FROM CORINTH TO TROAS.

The closed door at Troas, chap. 16: 8. Now the door is opened into Troas. 2 Cor. 2: 12. Study a parallel full of interest and help.

Jesus, and also Paul, steadfastly set their faces to go to Jerusalem.

Clouds gather around both on their way.

Love and obedience constrain both to press forward—

The one to accomplish Redemption for men.

The other because Redemption is to be proclaimed to men.

#### SUMMARY.

The aim of primitive preaching, was to give counsel, and impart consolation to discouraged disciples. *v. 2.*

The holiest of heroes incurs the murderous enmity of men, but can foil their purposes by fulfilling his mission for the Lord. *v. 3.*

The truest friendships, and the closest bonds, are formed by united labour in the cause of Christ. *vs. 4-6.*

Christian friendships and bonds are hallowed by fellowship in worship on the Lord's Day, gathered together in one place of one accord and breaking of bread. *v. 7.*

Where nature sinks under its exhausted weakness, grace and Divine power are present to deliver and uphold. *vs. 8-10;* chap. 9: 40; 2 Kings 4: 34.

#### [Jan. 11] Paul at Miletus, [Acts 20: 17-27.]

Ephesus and Paul's Ministry come before us, See chapter 19. This was the metropolis of Proconsular Asia—that portion of Asia under Roman jurisdiction—thirty-six miles from Miletus. For some satisfactory reasons, Paul sends for the Presbyters of Ephesus rather than goes to them. Three years of toil and eventful circumstances in this great seat of licentious idolatry had bound his heart to the Ephesian church. His letter reveals the large views of the Grace of God they were able to receive and appreciate. With this address read his prayer for them, Eph: 3: 14-21. Toiling as a tent maker by day, visiting from house to house by night, shewing and teaching Christ, borne up by love to Christ against hardened hearts, plotting enemies, riotous mobs, headed by Demetrius.

#### PAUL'S RETROSPECT.

Intense devotion, tied to the Lord as a slave to his master—*vs. 18-19*—with lowliness of mind, tenderness of heart, and depth of purpose.

#### PAUL'S RECORD.

Faithful to the trust of the Gospei reposed in him, "kept back nothing" (I have not reeved sails), *v. 20.*

Faithful to the necessities of souls whether it was popular or not, distributing to Jews and Gentiles. "Repentance toward God, and faith toward Christ," *v. 21.*

#### PAUL'S RESOLVE.

To go forward in the face of trials.

To go forward in the strength of Christ.

To go forward, even if death be the issue.

And thus go in triumph. Let us read and re-read this Lesson, not merely know the language and thought, but really appropriate its spirit, feeling that if souls perish it is not without warning.

## "Our New Year's Gift."

WITH this issue we present our subscribers with an illustrated 4p. supplement bearing the above title. This "Gift" would prove serviceable for distribution in S. Schools or in Mission Work. With a view to making its usefulness as wide spread as possible, we have fixed the prices at a low figure, viz., per doz. 15 cents; per 100, 50 cents; per 1000 \$3.75. Send orders soon.