LESSON II—January 10th, 1897.

The Holy Spirit Given. Acts. 2: 1-13.

(Commit to memory verses 1-4.)

Golden Text: "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2: 4.

Prove that—The Holy Spirit brings power for service. Acts 2: 38.

Shorter Catechism. Question 83. *Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?* A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Lesson Hymns. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 73, 77, 81, 83.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Holy Spirit given. Acts 2: 1-13. *Tuesday.* Fulfilment of prophecy. Acts 2: 14-24. *Wednesday.* The Promise. John 14: 15-26. *Thursday.* Spirit of Truth. John 16: 12-16. *Friday.* The Revealer. 1 Cor. 2: 6-14. *Saturday.* Spiritual Gifts. 1 Cor. 12: 1-11. *Sabbath.* Fruits of the Spirit. Gal. 5: 16-26. *(The I. B. R. A. Selections).*

HELPS IN STUDYING.

Introductory. For ten days after the ascension the disciples, one hundred and twenty in number, assembled day by day in the upper room at Jerusalem, waiting for the fulfilment of the promise. Their time was chiefly spent in prayer, but on one occasion they chose a successor to Judas in the apostolate. This was Matthias. The incident shews that the apostles were already recognized as an official body under that title having special duties to perform.

Lesson Plan. I. The Waiting Disciples. vs. 1-4. II. The Wondering People. vs. 5-13.

1. Pentecost—The name is derived from the Greek word for "the fiftieth." It came fifty days after the passover. It was the Jewish harvest festival (Ex. 23: 16; Lev. 23: 15, 16). **Was fully come**—This was God's appointed time and when the hour struck, so to speak, and not till then, the spirit came. Compare Gal. 4: 4. **They were all together** (R. V.)—Probably the whole 120 (ch. 1: 15). It was in the early morning (verse 15). "Sunrise" prayer-meetings are an apostolic institution and have been signally blessed. **2. A sound**—It was like the sound of a gale of wind, but came downwards and was heard by people outside (verse 6). The air was calm. The word "spirit" means "breath" or "wind." **3. Cloven tongues**—R. V. "tongues parting asunder," the flame-like tongues distributed themselves by dividing up. The words do not mean that each flame was forked. **Like as of fire**—They were not fire, but looked like it. A small flame appeared to rest on the brow of each one (Luke 3: 16; Acts 1: 5). Not the apostles only but all present received the outpouring. It was the baptism of the whole church of Christ (1 Pet. 2: 9). **4. Filled with the Holy Ghost**—All their affections and powers of mind and heart and body were under his inspiring influence. **Other tongues**—Foreign languages. **5. Devout men**—Like Simeon (Luke 2: 25; ch. 8: 2), pious Jews born (verse 8) in foreign countries. There were also many visitors from distant parts of the world at the feast. Their character gave their testimony great weight. **6. When this sound was heard** (R. V.)—The noise as of a mighty rushing wind resounded also through the city, and appeared to come from the house where the disciples were assembled. A great crowd immediately gathered and was addressed by the disciples, who spoke under the Spirit's influence. One used one language and another another, so that every stranger in the audience heard their native tongue. **7. Galileans**—The northern accent was as noticeable in Jerusalem as the Scotch would be in London. Most of the disciples came from Galilee (Matt. 26: 69-73; ch. 1: 11). **8-11.** (Point out these countries on the map). "Strangers of Rome" were persons from that city temporarily sojourning in Jerusalem. Doubtless many of these carried home the glad tidings of the gospel and prepared the way for missionaries. **The wonderful works of God**—Their words were utterances of praise for the redemption of sinners. They told of the marvellous love shewn in the cross of Christ (Rom. 11: 33). **13. Mocking**—They only laughed at the earnestness of the disciples. It is very wicked to deride the religious peculiarities of others. They may be more truly filled with the Spirit than we are. **New wine**—Should be "sweet wine." This was artificially strengthened and was much more intoxicating than the ordinary sour wine.

Lessons. 1. If we are not looking for the blessings we ask we may miss them when they come. 2. The Holy Spirit in our hearts will make our speech pure, and wise, and beautiful. 3. As the breath is the life so the Holy Spirit is the source of spiritual life. 4. As fire illuminates so He enlightens. 5. The glad tidings are for all nations.