

a part in such work, and that there are many things to be given which do not cost money, such as love, kind words, cheerful help, etc. Ask how many would like to be little deacons, and serve God by serving the people whom they meet?

3. Print "Stephen" on the board, and tell that he was a wonderful man. Show two cups, one much larger than the other, and show that both may be full, and yet one holds much more than the other, and is, therefore, worth the most as a cup. So all the deacons were good men, and full of the Holy Ghost, yet Stephen was a larger man in soul, and, therefore, could hold more love and faith. Tell that he worked miracles, and that this made the enemies of Jesus hate him. Tell that they brought him to trial, and found men to tell lies about him, and that when they looked at him they saw his face shining like that of an angel. Teach that a great faith is a great belief in God, and this fills the heart with hope and joy, which shines out in the face.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



The Church is here represented as a collection of separate pieces, bound together by love and labour, that is, a spirit of love for Christ and his people, and a spirit of work that makes all willing to labour for the Master in whatsoever capacity he or she

may be called. There can be no unity in the Church if any wrong spirit is kept therein. It must be cast out and destroyed. Our duty is to work and witness for Christ.

IF I WOULD DO MY MISSION'S WORK
IF I MUST DO MY MASTER'S WILL.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

O solemn hush attending that first ordination to the diaconate of the Church of Christ! There are the seven to be set apart—how many of them to death! They stand before the apostles, Peter, James, John, and the others. We hear the voice of prayer, and then the seven bow as the hands of consecration are laid upon them. As we recall ordination scenes that we have witnessed, the look backward through the glass of memory is extended far away till our vision seems to reach this chapter in Acts, and we stand amid the early Church, see the bending forms, and hear the consecrating prayers at this first ordination. Upon Stephen is set conspicuously the seal of the Holy Ghost, to be seen ere long in his very face. He disputed with "certain of the synagogue" of the Libertines and others. It was a hot dispute. It may have been kindled in the synagogue itself with its two divisions of male and female worshippers, its seats of honour for elders, doctors, and others, its leader at his desk going before the people in their prayers. The flame of controversy may have swept out to the street-corners, the city gates, the temple-courts, burning wherever Stephen and his opponents met. They are embittered by his skill. They make a bloodhound of rulers and people, and set it springing upon him. He is hustled before the Sanhedrin. Around him is a gabbling mob of false witnesses and their adherents, while it is a mob before him though in high judicial positions—two mill-stones waiting to turn and crush him. And yet his face was "as it had been the face of an angel." Upon it was already falling the everlasting light of that Presence before whom he was quickly to be ushered.

A. D. 37.

LESSON XI.—THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR.

Acts 7. 54-60.

March 18.

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, *a* I see the heavens opened, and the *b* Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

a Matt. 3. 16.—*b* Dan. 7. 13; Heb. 9. 24

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice,

and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

e Heb. 13. 12.—*d* Lev. 24. 16.—*e* Deut. 13. 9; 17. 7.

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive *f* my spirit.

f Ps. 31. 5.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a