

## The Sunday School

### BIBLE LESSON.

Adapted from Hurlbut's Notes.

Fourth Quarter.

PAUL'S MINISTRY IN ROME.

Lesson VII. November 14.—Acts 28, 17-31.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, Rom. 1:16.

I. PROMPTLY AT WORK. VERSES 17-22.

17. AFTER THREE DAYS.—In which to "get settled." PAUL CALLED—Sent for THE CHIEF OF THE JEWS.—The ruler of the synagogue and social leaders among the Jewish population at Rome. Here, as everywhere, Paul began his evangelistic work among his "kinsmen." MEN AND BRETHREN.—He uses the form of address he had used to the Jews at Jerusalem, (Acts 23:1). I HAVE COMMITTED NOTHING.—It was hard for him to explain how he came there as a prisoner, yet innocent, without reflecting upon the authorities at Jerusalem. AGAINST THE PEOPLE.—He addressed the Jews by the name which they loved, "the people"; that is, the people under God's peculiar care. OR CUSTOMS.—The Gospel was not in conflict with the Mosaic law, but its glorious consummation. YET WAS I DELIVERED.—It is to be presumed that the apostle gave to the Jewish leaders a more detailed account of his trials.

18. WOULD HAVE LET ME GO.—It is evident from the entire story that the Roman authorities were throughout friendly to Paul.

19. CONSTRAINED TO APPEAL.—He did this unwillingly, for the Jews were always strongly opposed to turning aside from their own ecclesiastical tribunal to those of their Roman masters. NOT THAT I HAD AUGHT TO ACCUSE MY NATION OF.—He adds this in view of his coming trial before the emperor.

20. FOR THE HOPE OF ISRAEL.—The hope of Israel is the general expectation of the Messiah. In Jesus Paul believed that the expected Saviour had appeared, and for preaching this he had been attacked and made a prisoner. He held the same faith as all the Jews, only going in this matter farther than they, in that he believed the ancient promise was now fulfilled. We can see from the reply of the Jews that they understood his position exactly. "I AM BOUND WITH THIS CHAIN.—To a soldier; a degradation he keenly felt. See Eph. 3:1; 4:1; Phil. 1:13, 16; Col. 4:18; Philem. 1:9, 10. Roman chains, like our handcuffs, usually indicated crime; Paul's chains stand for the sincerest patriotism and the loftiest religious conception.

21. WE NEITHER RECEIVED LETTERS.—Paul's appeal had not been expected by the authorities at Jerusalem; and the storm which delayed his coming would also delay accusations and adverse letters. THE BRETHREN was a term used by Jews of Jews. SPARK ANY HARM.—Rome was remote from all the fields of Paul's active labor, and for two years he had been in prison; so that the Roman Jews had heard but little about him; but they evidently knew about the little body of Christians in their own city.

22. WE DESIRE TO HEAR OF THEE.—That he was a scholarly man, by Jewish measurements, was evident; and they had probably never yet heard the Christian doctrines advocated by men whom they did not hold in contempt. SECRET means merely party; a school of religious thought. EVERYWHERE IT IS SPOKEN AGAINST.—Already the hierarchy at Jerusalem had sent letters into all the lands denouncing the followers of Jesus; already the hatred felt for them by the Roman's was clearly shown; and only three years after this, by Nero's authority, they were persecuted with a refinement of cruelty that has never been surpassed. Why were good people thus disliked? First, "because they were misunderstood." Their revolt against the practices of paganism was supposed to be rebellion against civil authority. Their meetings, held in secret at midnight, were very naturally supposed by their grossly sensual neighbors to be licentious in character. Their talk about eating the body and drinking the blood of Jesus was believed to point toward cannibalism. Second, they were hated "because they were understood." The purity of their lives was the uncompromising accuser of the vice about them. Their worship of the true God was an arraignment of all the gods of paganism. Their refusal to offer sacrifices to the image of the emperor was clear defiance of his

authority. Their declaration that the idolized worship of the Jews was outworn could never be forgiven by the bigots who loved it.

II. PROCLAIMING JESUS. VERSES 23-29.

23. APPOINTED HIM A DAY.—For a formal discussion of the Gospel and its claims. THERE CAME MANY.—In addition to the first deputation came numbers of Jews, doubtless the little company of Roman Christians also, and perhaps some Gentile seekers after God. "The word 'many' implies a larger attendance than might have been looked for." EXPOUNDED AND TESTIFIED.—Reasoned from the Scriptures, and gave account of his convincing personal experience. THE KINGDOM OF GOD.—That is, the Messianic kingdom; the Gospel of Christ as the true fulfillment of the mistaken Jewish expectation of a kingdom to be ruled by the Messiah. PERSUADING.—Reasoning. THE LAW OF MOSES, AND . . . THE PROPHETS.—The two great divisions of the Old Testament Scripture, in both of which Paul could point to abundant foreshadowings of Christ. His hearers profoundly believed these prophets and this law. FROM MORNING TILL EVENING.—It was not a continuous discourse, but was broken up by discussions and arguments on both sides. The Bible, from beginning to end, is full of Christ.

24. SOME BELIEVED.—Thus, as one result of Jewish enmity at Jerusalem, Jews at Rome became believers in Jesus. The word "believed," however, is not the usual one implying real faith. It rather means, "were convinced." SOME BELIEVED NOT.—There was good ground and rocky soil in that assemblage, and some seed fell upon each.

25. THEY AGREED NOT.—Disputes arose among the hearers. SPOKE ONE WORD.—Called forth by rejection of the Gospel by many. ESAIAS.—The Greek form of Isaiah. 26. SAYING.—Here follows a quotation used seven times in the New Testament; more frequently than any other. HEARING YE SHALL HEAR.—You shall hear with the ear, but shall not receive the truth into willing hearts.

27. WAKED CROSS.—Dull and heavy by their own rejection of the truth. THEIR EYES HAVE THEY CLOSED.—The dullness of spiritual perceptions comes, not by God's will, but as the result of their own conduct. LEST THEY SHOULD SEE.—They did not wish to see. If they had seen they would have had to give up their bad habits, their sinful pleasures, their unjust riches, their selfish living; and they would have been compelled to separate from friends, to join a despised sect, to live to do good, to suffer, and perhaps to die for Christ's sake. "SHOULD BE CONVERTED.—Better, 'should turn again.' The word 'conversion' in the New Testament means the human act of the will in turning to God, rather than any divine work.

28. THEREFORE.—Because you are hardened. UNTO THE GENTILES.—This is the last message of the New Testament to the Jews. THEY WILL HEAR IT.—A prediction, speedily fulfilled, of the rapid progress of the word among the Gentiles. Within three centuries it had conquered Rome itself and become the universal religion of the empire.

29. WHEN HE HAD SAID.—Verse 29 is omitted in the Revised Version, not being in the best manuscripts.

III. PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM. VERSES 30, 31.

30. TWO WHOLE YEARS.—There were long delays before his trial, and it is believed that after it he was released and spent several years in vigorous apostolic labors. HIRSD HOUSE.—His home was a centre of influence, and from it were written the epistles to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, and perhaps others not now extant.

### Cheerfulness.

"Be cheerful," says the man who is easy in his circumstances, missing no loved face at the table, nor by the hearth. But does he ever consider how hard it may be to be "cheerful" when the heart aches, and the cupboard is empty, and there are little fresh graves in the churchyard, and friends are few or indifferent, and even heaven, for the time being, seems to have forgotten us, so desolate is our lot? How difficult for one man to understand another, in such different circumstances! How easy to say, "Be cheerful!" How hard he would find it to practice it were he stripped of all life's brightness!—Great Thought.

Anæmia means "want of blood," a deficiency in the red corpuscles of the blood. Its cause is found in want of sufficient food, dyspepsia, lack of exercise or breathing impure air. With it is a natural repugnance to all fat foods. Scott's Emulsion is an easy food to get fat from and the easiest way of taking fat. It makes the blood rich in just those elements necessary to robust health, by supplying it with red corpuscles.

For sale at 50 cents and \$1.00 by all druggists.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Belleville, Ont.

## EQUITY SALE.

There will be sold at Public Auction on Saturday, the Eleventh Day of December next, at 12 o'clock (noon), at Chubb's Corner (so called), in the City of Saint John, pursuant to the directions of a certain decretal order of the Supreme Court in Equity, made on the 17th day of August, A. D. 1897, in a certain cause therein pending wherein St. Augusta McLeod is Plaintiff and Florence M. Wright, Aetasia Roy Wright, Ida Irene Wright, Bessie Bell Wright, Clara Gladys Wright, Gur Carleton Wright, Loui Lavonia Wright and Howard D. McLeod are Defendants. With the approbation of the undersigned Referee in Equity the land and premises mentioned in the said Plaintiff's Bill and in the said decretal order and therein described as follows: "All those certain lots, pieces or parcels of land situated, lying and being in Carleton, in the City and County of Saint John, known and numbered on the plan of this part of the City as lots number (383) three hundred and thirty-five and (386) three hundred and thirty-six, fronting on Charlotte Street, and numbers (351) three hundred and fifty-one and (352) three hundred and fifty-two, fronting on . . . street, being each fifty feet by one hundred feet more or less, the same having been deeded to the President, Directors and Company of the Commercial Bank of New Brunswick by R. D. Wilnot by deed bearing date the thirteenth day of October, A. D. 1847, and duly registered and by several means transfers conveyed to J. Hebert Wright."

For terms of sale and other particulars apply to the Plaintiff's Solicitor or the undersigned Referee. Dated this 29th day of September, A. D. 1897. R. MCLEOD, E. H. MCALPINE, Plaintiff Solicitor. EDWARD A. EVERETT, Auctioneer.

## The Return Of the Pendulum.

In 1862 the prosperity of the commercial school was at its flood. Desiring to find some expedient that would render them still more prosperous, the proprietors of many of these schools abandoned methods that had produced excellent results and adopted others which were wholly experimental. It may safely be said that in most cases the change was not made with the expectation that the schools would be strengthened educationally, but that the new ideas would have greater advertising value. But a reaction has set in. The conclusion has been forced upon thoughtful teachers that the school that educates its pupils best advertises itself best; that a device which may attract inexperienced boys and unthinking parents, may not commend itself to the class of people whose friendship and patronage must be secured and retained as a basis of permanent prosperity. Those schools which adhered to tried and approved methods, which gave their pupils solid and symmetrical knowledge, which steadily refused to be carried off their feet by patented systems of education, are now reaping the benefit of their wise conservatism. Such schools have not the task before them now of repairing the damage done by experimenting with fads. Those schools which have trifled with their reputation by experimenting with one or another of the new schemes are realizing that their reputation for real efficiency has been injured, and are seeking their more conservative co-workers joining ahead. Only a small proportion of the larger schools swung off in '92 and some of them retreated as soon as the character of the road they were travelling was discovered. When prominence will pass for performance, and when clap-trap will be accepted in lieu of genuine educational advantages, then, perhaps, the public will take kindly to patented systems of education.—Progress, Rochester, N. Y.

Just so! Ours was one of the colleges preferring unimpaired reputation and a clear conscience to temporary gain. Result: our fall opening is the best we ever had. It is most gratifying to find ourselves classed in the right list and our position vindicated from so important an educational centre.



Send for Catalogue of honest course of study; also of the Isaac Pitman Short-hand.

S. KERR & SON.

## To Get the Most

Out of your Farm, Orchard and Dairy produce, it is necessary to consign to a Commission man who is reliable, prompt, and "up-to-date;" one who has good judgment and will use it in the interests of his shippers.

If you can use the Halifax markets to advantage, you will do well to consign to

**D. G. WIDDEN,**

Commission Merchant

Wholesale Dealer in

BUTTER, CHEESE, etc.

HALIFAX, N. S.

aug25 3mo6

# Sea Foam

## Floats

### A Pure White Soap

Made of the Finest Grade of Vegetable Oils.

Best For Toilet and Bath

Saint Croix Soap Company,  
Saint Stephen, N. B.

## PATENTS PROMPTLY SECURED

**GET RICH QUICKLY.** Write to-day for our beautiful illustrated Book on Patents and the fascinating story of a poor inventor who made \$250,000.00. Send us a rough sketch or model of your invention and we will promptly tell you FREE if it is new and probably patentable. We handle, Honest Service, Specialty; Tough cases rejected in other hands and foreign applications. References: Honorable T. Berthiaume, prop. of "La Presse," Honorable D. A. Ross, the leading p.w.s. papers, Banks, Express Companies & Co's in any locality. All Patents secured through our agency are brought before the public by a special notice in over 300 newspapers. **MARTIN & MARTIN, Patent Experts.** Temple Building, 185 St. James St., Montreal. The only firm of Graduate Engineers in the Dominion transacting patent business exclusively. Mention this paper.

## Manchester

Robertson

& Allison

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

DRY GOODS, MILLINERY, CARPETS, CURTAINS, HOUSE FURNISHINGS, READY-TO-WEAR CLOTHING for Men and Boys. HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE of every Description.

MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON and ALLISON.

## Settees for Sale.

About fifty, in Black Walnut and Ash, with Iron Frames. H. of them have reversible backs. They seat six or seven adults and are now in good repair. These Settees are suitable for a Church, Vestry or Public Hall.

Will sell in whole or in part.

ALFRED SEELEY,

St. John, N. B.

General Manager Toucey, of the New York Central, believes that the Garrison disaster on Sunday was caused by a break in the engine's machinery.