

A Book-Lover.

BY ANNIE WILLIS McLEOD.

"I do love books!" said Marjorie,
One morning as she played
And so she did, as you can see—
This literary maid!

The dictionary was her chair;
The atlas big her table;
The dolls sat up on other books
As straight as they were able.

And then they all partook of tea,
And did as they were bid.
"I do love books!" said Marjorie,
Now, don't you think she did?

DAMASCUS.

The oldest city in the world, perhaps, is Damascus. We read of it in fifteen different books of the Bible. How many boys and girls can tell the names of those fifteen books? One of them we will mention. It is the first of all the books. It is Genesis. Damascus is mentioned twice there—once in the fourteenth chapter and once in the fifteenth, but we are not told in the Bible who founded or built it. Yet the builder of it seems to have been known. You have heard of Josephus. He was a Jew who wrote a history of his own people, and a good deal of what he wrote is the same as what we read in the Bible. Well, he says that Damascus was founded by a man named Uz, and his name is mentioned in the Book of Genesis. You will find it in the tenth chapter and the 23rd verse. He was the grandson of Shem, and Shem, you know, was one of the sons of Noah. Noah had three sons. Can you tell their names? Every Christian child ought to know the names of the sons of Noah, for "of them was the whole earth overspread." They were called Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and one

by the Turks, and is now a Mohammedan city. Let us hope some day a holy missionary like St. Paul will yet be able to make this ancient city what it once was—a city of God and a city of Christ.

LESSON NOTES.**FIRST QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON XI.—MARCH 14.**SAUL, THE PERSECUTOR, CONVERTED.**

Acts 9. 1-12, 17-20. Memory verses, 17-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim. 1. 15

OUTLINE.

1. The Old Life, v. 1, 2.
 2. The Overwhelming Vision, v. 3-16.
 3. The New Life, v. 17-20.
- Time.—Probably midsummer, A.D. 37
Place.—Damascus, in Syria.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Saul, the persecutor, converted.—Acts 9. 1-12.
Tu. Saul, the persecutor, converted.—Acts 9. 13-22.
W. Return to Jerusalem.—Acts 9. 23-31
Th. Paul's own statement.—Acts 22. 1-13.
F. Taught of God.—Gal. 1. 11-24.
S. Saved by grace.—Eph. 2. 1-13.
Su. The faithful saying.—1 Tim. 1. 12-17.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Old Life, v. 1, 2.
Who was the "chief of sinners"? See 1 Tim. 1. 15.
What name is he called in the lesson?

THE GOLD-BEATERS.

Not long ago I was talking to a gold-beater, and I said: "Tell me what you can do with a bit of gold as large as a sovereign; how far can you make it spread out under your hammer?" He replied: "Well, suppose you had an image of a man on horseback—life size—I could take the sovereign and beat it out until there would be enough to cover the image and then have gold to spare."

Is not this wonderful, little readers? An English sovereign can be so beaten out that it can be made to cover the space of a man on horseback! But I will tell you of something more wonderful still. The gold coin, the five-dollar piece, earned by little fingers for the spread of God's precious Gospel, if placed in his hands with love and with trust, may be so beaten out by the hammer of his almighty power as to cover the most precious thing on earth, an immortal soul, and save that soul from darkness and despair. It can be done. It has been done. Rev. Dr. Paton, when he was in this country, stated several times that for every five dollars spent in mission work in the South Sea Islands, a soul had been saved. How it ought to encourage us!

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.

A father picked up a horseshoe in the road which his son refused to touch, and sold it for three farthings, with which he bought some cherries. They journeyed on, and the boy became thirsty and tired. The father dropped now and



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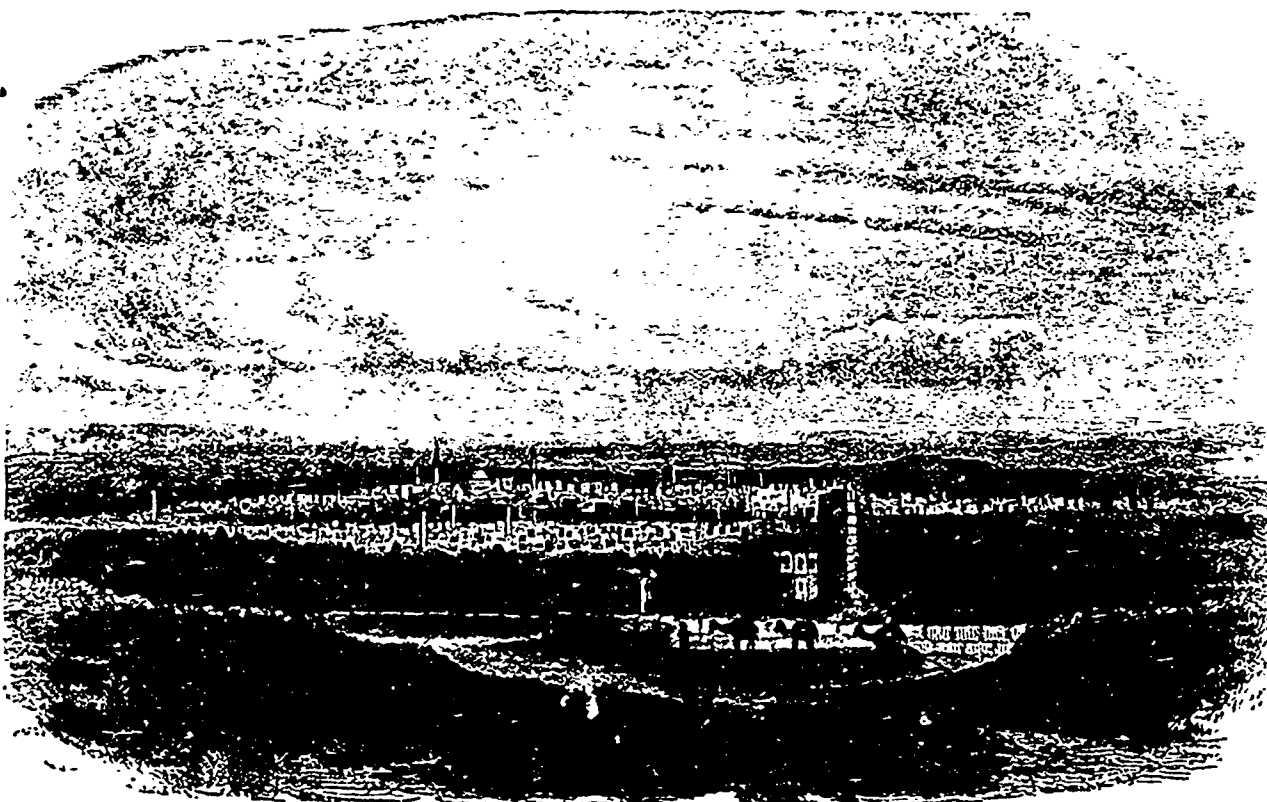
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DAMASCUS.

of the sons of Shem was Aram, and one of his sons was Uz; and Uz, Josephus says, founded the city of Damascus.

Think of all the hundreds and hundreds of years that have gone over Damascus, and yet it is standing now, with its old wall about it as you see in the picture.

It was just as Saul of Tarsus, a bold, strong man, who wanted to kill all the men and women that believed in Jesus—it was just as he came in sight of Damascus that Jesus spoke to him in the midst of a great light that threw him down to the ground. Then he was blind. He could not see to enter the city. Men had to lead him in through the gates into the city. But after that he became a believer in Jesus, although a little while before he was ready to kill all those who did believe in him. God touched his heart and changed his mind. For all the rest of his life he preached for Jesus and worked for him. You know he was always afterwards called Paul, not Saul, and we speak of him as St. Paul, or "the holy Paul."

Once bad men were angry with him for believing in Jesus, and they were going to kill him; but his friends put him in a large basket and let him down outside the wall, and so he got away safely, that he might go to all parts of the world and preach about the Saviour. A short time after this a Christian bishop lived at Damascus, but it was conquered

What was his feeling toward the disciples of Jesus?

What request did he make of the high priest?

What did he afterward say of his conduct? 1 Tim. 1. 13.

2. The Overwhelming Vision, v. 3-12.

What journey did Saul make?

What did he see near Damascus?

How did it affect Saul?

What did he hear?

What question and answer followed?

What did Saul ask about duty?

What direction was given him?

Who else heard the voice?

What did Saul do? How did he get to Damascus?

What was his condition for three days?

What disciple in Damascus had a vision?

What was Ananias bidden to do?

What vision had Saul seen?

3. The New Life, v. 17-20.

What did Ananias do?

What did he say? What followed?

What says the Golden Text about what all need?

With whom did Saul remain?

What did he straightway do?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. A lesson of faith?
2. A lesson of obedience?
3. A lesson of service?

then a cherry, which the son was glad to pick up. When the last was eaten the father said, "Look, my son! If you had chosen to stoop once and pick up a piece of horseshoe, you would not have been obliged at last to stoop so often to pick up the cherries." You see, that father was trying to teach his son not to waste things, but to save and economize. So, my dear children, you may think, perhaps, that a little spent here, and a little there, can be no great matter; but, remember, many a little makes a mickle. Beware of little wastings. Poor Richard had some splendid proverbs. Among them are these: "A small leak will sink a great ship;" and, again, "Who dainties love shall beggars prove;" and, moreover, "Fools make feasts, and wise men eat them." Now, I would not have you to be stingy for anything in the world, I want you to be liberal and benevolent; but I want you, also, to learn to economize and save. Then you will grow up to have plenty to give to God and others.

"Willie Taddies," said the school teacher, firmly, "you have a piece of chewing-gum in your desk. Bring it to me instantly."

"Yes'm," replied Willie, "but it ain't the flavour you use. Yours is orange, an' this is wintergreen."