

this voyage? (ch. 23: 11) Why were the lives of the others spared? How many persons were in the ship? (verse 37) Some "fear not." (Isa. 41: 10, 14; 43: 1, 2) Is faith in God's willingness to answer prayer necessary to receiving what we ask? (Matt. 21: 22; Mark 9: 23; 11: 24) Instances of faith in promises. (Luke 1: 45; Rom. 4: 20, 21; 2 Tim. 1: 12)

TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

(Senior.)

- 1.—What purpose is referred to in (5)
- 2.—What dangers threatened the vessel? (5)

- 3.—How did their being unable to see the sun and stars increase their danger?
- 4.—What did Paul say to cheer them? (5)
- 5.—What did the angel say to Paul? (5)

(Intermediate.)

- 1.—What was the name of the wind that drove the ship out to sea? (5)
- 2.—How did the sailors try to strengthen the ship? (5)
3. How did they lighten the ship? (5)
- 4.—Who brought Paul a message in the night? (5)
- 5.—What did he say that God had given Paul? (5)

## PRACTICAL LESSONS.

This voyage of the Apostle Paul is the most eventful journey on record. Millions who have never heard of the great navigators and explorers who have opened up the world to commerce, have, map in hand, sailed, in imagination, with the storm-tossed vessel which bore the "prisoner of Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3: 1). The lessons suggested are numerous, but space compels us to be brief.

*The south wind blew softly*—Lightning sometimes falls out of a clear sky. When we think ourselves safest the danger may be nearest. Times of ease and comfort are apt to be unguarded seasons. We need most vigilance in spiritual matters when there is nothing trying our steadfastness.

*They lightened the ship*—When life is in danger men are willing to sacrifice everything to preserve it. Yet how many are willing to risk the soul's life in order to gain or keep what becomes worthless in the presence of death. To an angel, the absorbing interests of men must seem the uttermost folly. A child pursuing the rainbow in order to find the fabled pot of gold, is not more deluded than those who forget the interests of eternity in their attachment to things seen and temporal.

*I exhort you to be of good cheer*—Trouble tests one's religion. A man may pass for a good sailor while the south wind blows softly, but when Euroclydon comes down, and the undergirders have to be thrown around the vessel, his seamanship is put to the test. The

way in which christians bear disappointment, pecuniary loss, misrepresentation, bereavement, etc., reveals the depth and power of the divine life in them. He who takes these things patiently does well (1 Pet. 2: 20). In this way the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, and the storm brings inward peace and sunshine. When patience has had its perfect work the christian sings:

Smite on! It doth not hurt me now;  
The spear hath lost its edge of pain;  
And piercing thorns that bound my brow,  
No longer leave their bleeding stain.

What once was woe is changed to bliss;  
What once was loss is now my gain;  
My sorrow is my happiness;  
My life doth live by being slain.

The birth-pangs of those dreadful years  
Are like the midnight changed to morn;  
And daylight shines upon my tears,  
Because the soul's great life is born.

The piercing thorns have changed to flowers;  
And spears have grown to sceptres bright,  
And sorrow's dark and sunless hours  
Become eternal days of light.

*I believe God*.—One whose heart is stayed upon God is sure to be a great stay to others. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isa. 26: 3). One who has God's promise need not worry as to how that promise will be carried out. He who has given it is abundantly able to make it good, and will do so in the best way. Paul reached Rome in