

The Sunday School.

BIBLE LESSON.

Adapted from Hurlbut's Notes.

Second Quarter.

Lesson III.—April 18. Acts 11:19-26.

Read Chapter 11.

GENTILES CONVERTED AT ANTIOCH GOLDEN TEXT.

Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life, Acts 11, 18.

1. THE CHURCH GROWING. VERSES 19-21.

19. THEY WHICH WERE SCATTERED ABROAD—See Acts 8, 1-4. The result of THE PERSECUTION THAT AROSE ABOUT STEPHEN was the same as that of all other persecutions—to more widely disseminate the truth. The disciples scattered in every direction, carrying the gospel wherever they went. God makes every injustice to work out a surer triumph for his cause and his loved ones. Individual Christians should be able at least to match David's faith, and say, "I will not fear what man can do unto me." PHENICE—Phoenicia, a country extending along the Mediterranean coast, north of Palestine, for about one hundred and twenty miles. Its breadth varied at different times, but averaged perhaps fifteen or twenty miles. Tyre and Sidon were its most famous cities. In the days of Rome's supremacy their marvellous mercantile enterprise had declined, and Phoenicia had been made part of the province of Syria. CYPRUS—A large island in the northeast part of the Mediterranean, sixty miles west of Syria; one hundred and forty miles long, and from five to fifty wide. It was widely celebrated for its fertility. The birthplace of Barnabas. ANTIOCH stood on the banks of the river Orontes, three hundred miles north of Jerusalem, and thirty from the Mediterranean. It was one of the greatest and one of the most licentious cities of the Roman empire.

20. SOME OF THEM—Of these preaching disciples. MEN OF CYPRUS AND CYRENE—Hebrews by race, but born abroad, and, because of constant contact with Gentiles, affected by broader religious views than prevailed in Palestine. "Cyrene" lay west of Egypt in northern Africa. SPARK UNTO THE GREEKS—Better, "preached unto the Greeks also." Grecian Jews are not here meant, but heathens.

Most of the primitive preachers were private Christians who scattered the seed which produced such fruit. Every believer was a propagandist of the faith. Let us go and do likewise. Comparatively few are called to be ministers; all must be witnesses telling the glad story and striving to win souls to Jesus.

21. THE HAND OF THE LORD—As "name" stands for character, so "hand" stands for power, of which the hand is the symbol. WAS WITH THEM—Those who labor for God may be sure of his presence and aid. A GREAT NUMBER BELIEVED—The meaning of the Greek is rather that a great number of those who believed turned unto the Lord. Then, as now, many were intellectually convinced who had not the moral courage to cut out their convictions and devote their lives to Christ's service.

II. THE CHURCH ORGANIZED. VERSES 22-26.

22. TIDINGS OF THESE THINGS—This was a terrible thing in the eyes of many Christian Jews, that heathen Gentiles should enlist in the service of the Hebrew Messiah without first becoming circumcised; and doubtless they straightway sent word to the Christian authorities at Jerusalem. If the mighty barrier which separated Jews from Gentiles was to melt away under the gospel, what was the use of being a Jew? This question Paul afterward discussed at length in his epistles. THE CHURCH WHICH WAS IN JERUSALEM was, singularly enough, more intensely Jewish and more intensely Christian than the church in other places. THEY SENT FORTH BARNABAS—"Two remarkable points of difference are observable between this mission of Barnabas to Antioch and the mission of Peter and John to Samaria: 1. The apostles sent Peter and John, whereas the church in Jerusalem, as a body, sent Barnabas. 2. Those who were sent to Samaria were original apostles, whereas it was Barnabas, a man of note indeed among the brethren, but not one of the original apostles, who was sent to Antioch. Perhaps by this time most of the apostles had left Jerusalem. By sending Barnabas the church in Jerusalem showed the apostolic conception of the Christian church. They wished to preserve unity among the disciples, and thus to draw against Christianity being split into a number of small sects; the Jewish and Gentile Christians were to be the members of the same community.

23. WHEN HE CAME—"The result is briefly recorded under three heads: (1)

What he saw, the grace of God; (2) What he felt, he was glad; (3) What he did, he exhorted them all." WAS GLAD—There were some Christians, even in those days, mean enough to feel sorry that the gospel showed signs of leaping over the bounds of Judaism; but Barnabas had no such narrow soul. He was glad that so many sinners were converted; he was glad that a new and vast field, bounded only by the human race, was opening before the gospel. EXHORTED THEM ALL—Conservative and aggressive souls alike. WITH PURPOSE OF HEART THEY WOULD CLEAVE UNTO THE LORD—Instead of prescribing ritualistic practices, or checking the zeal of the earnest preachers and zealous converts, he urges them all to fuller consecration.

24. FOR—Here comes the reason why Barnabas so sincerely rejoiced in the work at Antioch. A GOOD MAN—Generous, broad-minded, FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST, and, therefore, gifted with divine insight and foresight. FAITH—Not only trust in God, but lofty loyalty; not only faith, but faithfulness. He understood the breath of the gospel plans, and he proposed to stand for them, regardless of the consequences. MUCH PEOPLE WAS ADDED—Barnabas's noble qualities of soul were like a whole army of reinforcement.

25. DEPARTED BARNABAS TO TARSUS—Across a narrow arm of the Mediterranean, to Saul's native city in Cilicia. TO SEEK SAUL—Generous souls recognize each other at the first glance, and Barnabas knew that Saul's sympathies and his own were alike; he also knew Saul's thorough consecration to Christ's cause, and may have known something of his extraordinary intellectual power. The two had last met at Jerusalem. How long Saul had been at Tarsus we do not know. It was now about four or five years after his conversion.

26. HE BROUGHT HIM UNTO ANTIOCH—The city was thenceforth to possess its greatest fame from the presence of this man, whose greatness was then unrecognized. ASSEMBLED THEMSELVES WITH THE CHURCH—Ancient tradition states that the meetings were held in Sion Street, near the Pantheon temple. CALLED CHRISTIANS FIRST—The name was not assumed by the disciples nor given by the Jews, but by the Gentiles; and thus shows that the gospel was attracting notice in the city. The New Testament names are "Disciples," "Brethren," "Believers," "Saints," "The Faithful," and "The Way." The Jews called them Nazarenes. Julian the Apostate decreed that they should be called Galileans. The word Christ, (not the name, but the title, of Jesus) was constantly on the lips of the disciples, and some profane wit one day invented the epithet Christian in derision of them. It is now everywhere a word of honor. "Puritan" and "Methodist" were in like fashion originally nicknames; and, indeed, nearly all great movements have received their names from their enemies. The word Christian occurs elsewhere in the New Testament only in Acts 26, 28; 1 Peter 4, 16.

Table Decorations.

At least once a year the decoration of the table becomes a matter of interest even in the humblest homes. Great baskets of fruit relieved by fronds of evergreen ferns are always beautiful and suitable to the season, but they are somewhat monotonous year after year. Some other ornamentation is a relief. A very pretty centerpiece may be made of the evergreen fern, the common poly-podium, which may be found still green and beautiful in the depths of our forests, where it remains long after the snows cover the ground. Here also will be

found a variety of red fruits and berries, which make the most effective and beautiful decoration among the dark leaves of the ferns. None of these berries are more effective than the flaming cone of crimson that the dragon arum rears in memory of the blossom which the children hailed in the spring as "Jack-in-the-Pulpit." Then, among the dead leaves, are found the effective white and red berries of the baneberry and the dark fruit sprays of the wild sarsaparilla. The withered brown foliage beneath the forest trees contains many other examples of wild fruits which, though not edible, are most effective gathered for bouquets for decorations. It should be remembered that no border to a centerpiece is more effective than a small spray of common pine, arranged in a simple wreath.

Rollo Simpson, confidential man for J. A. Cantile & Co., Montreal, has defaulted to the extent of \$70,000.

The Federal government having decided to give \$300,000 towards rebuilding the Victoria bridge, Montreal, and the Quebec government half that amount, the work will be begun May first.

Mgr. Merry Del Val, the papal ablegate, arrived in Montreal on Tuesday and on one proceeded to Quebec. Archbishop Begin, of Quebec, had an audience with the Pope on Monday.

CATARRH CONQUERED.

IT IS A BLOOD DISEASE.
PROOF POSITIVE THAT RYCKMAN'S
KOOTENAY CURE THOROUGHLY
ERADICATES THIS WIDE-
SPREAD DISEASE.

Of all the diseases that have been exploited by charlatans and quacks Catarrh is one that has received more than its share of attention.

Snufts, sprays, douches, inhalations, etc., have all had their day, and after their use the Catarrh has remained as bad as before, so that now many sufferers have become convinced that they are possessed of an incurable affection that must remain with them to their dying day, sapping their strength and rendering their miserable and disgusting to their friends.

Let's tell you that Ryckman's Kootenay Cure gets at Catarrh through the blood. It destroys the germ that is the immediate cause of the trouble and sends rich pure blood to the part, so that all offensive discharges cease and a rapid cure is effected. Here's a case in point, Mr. W. G. Cox, who conducts a flour and feed store at 374 King Street West, Hamilton, was troubled with Catarrh for ten years, tried nearly all the catarrh remedies advertised without success till he began taking Ryckman's Kootenay Cure. He says the results have exceeded his most sanguine expectations.

Mrs. Margaret Sovereign, living at 376 King Street, in the same city, under oath makes a declaration to the effect that her daughter Lulu, aged 14, was troubled with Catarrh for two years and had poor health. The doctor said she had inflammation of the lungs and Catarrh. She became so run down that until she commenced taking Kootenay her mother was alarmed about her. After she had taken a bottle and a half of this wonderful remedy and the "new ingredient" had a chance to get in its work, the Catarrh disappeared, her cheeks became rosy and she gained eleven pounds. These cases ought to be enough to convince the most sceptical, but if you are desirous of more proof, send to the Ryckman Medicine Co., Hamilton, Ont., and sworn statements of cures will be sent you free.

One bottle lasts over a month.

Rich Red

Blood is absolutely essential to health. It is secured easily and naturally by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, but is impossible to get it from so-called "nerve tonics," and opiate compounds, absurdly advertised as "blood purifiers." They have temporary, sleeping effect, but do not CURE. To have pure

Blood

And good health, take Hood's Sarsaparilla, which has first, last, and all the time, been advertised as just what it is—the best medicine for the blood ever produced. Its success in curing Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Rheumatism, Catarrh, Dyspepsia, Nervous Prostration and That Tired Feeling, have made

Hood's Sarsaparilla

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The United States Senate remained in secret session Wednesday afternoon for three hours and a half, during which time it disposed of all important amendments to the general treaty of arbitration and failed utterly to agree as to a time when the final vote shall be taken. Mr. Perkins re-introduced his old bill to amend the naturalization laws. It provides for the usual five years' period and requires that each alien seeking to be naturalized must speak the English language, the provision that he must be able to read and write having been stricken out. The applicant must show himself acquainted with the principles of the constitution and to have an understanding of the system of government of the United States and of the states thereof.