

(Continued from first page.)

been itself a sand bank washed by the waters of a river or sea. He examined the cliffs along the shore formed of thin layers of different kinds of stone, and in each layer teeming with fossils, as in the leaves of a printed book, he could read the history of its own formation.

Another remarkable trait in the character of this man was his steady refusal to touch anything that would intoxicate. Bad as are the drinking customs of to-day they were infinitely worse then. A total abstainer was something extremely rare among the masons, says Mr. Miller, "when a foundation was laid the workmen were treated to drink; they were treated to drink when the walls were levelled for laying the joists; they were treated to drink when the building was finished; they were treated to drink when an apprentice joined the squad; treated to drink when his apron was washed; treated to drink when his time was out; and occasionally they learned to treat one another to drink." But one day when he had been thus treated he came home and took up his books as usual; but something was wrong. "As I opened the pages of a favorite author," he says, "the letters danced before my eyes, and I could no longer master the sense. The condition to which I had brought myself was one of degradation. I had sunk by my own act for the time to a lower level of intelligence than that on which it was my privilege to be placed, and though the state could have been no very favorable one for forming a resolution, I, in that hour, determined that I should never again sacrifice my capacity of intellectual employment to a drinking usage; and with God's help, I was enabled to hold my determination."

For seventeen years he worked as a stone mason doing faithfully whatever he undertook, and in his leisure hours gathering facts and making discoveries which he afterwards gave to the world in "The Old Red Sandstone." His first published work was "Poems Written in the Leisure Hours of a Journeyman Mason," issued in 1829. This procured him considerable notice, but in spite of this he believed he saw that he could never be a poet, and so turned his attention resolutely to prose. His first prose volume was "Scenes and Legends in Cromarty," published in 1835. Some time before this he married Miss Lydia Fraser, "a young lady of great personal attraction, and rare intellectual gifts."

But Mr. Miller was not to remain a stone mason all his life. A branch of the Commercial Bank was established in Cromarty, and the manager knowing his sterling integrity of character offered him the position of accountant. He knew nothing of the work but, yielding to strong urging, he went to the head bank at Edinburgh to learn it, and then took the position. Shortly after this some letters of his on the Scotch Church Controversy brought him into still further prominence and he was invited to Edinburgh to edit the *Witness* newspaper, the organ of the Free Church party, and in this work he continued until the day of his death in 1856.

During the following seventeen years of his life in Edinburgh his principal literary work was done. Here along with his work of editing he produced "First Impressions of England and its people," "My schools and schoolmasters," "The Footprints of the Creator," "The Testimony of the rocks," and "The Old Red Sandstone." He possessed the warm friendship of many of the leading geologists of the day. Murchison, Agassiz, Lyell, all bore testimony to the value of his researches in the world of geology, and at the meeting of the British Association in 1840 it was resolved that one of the most remarkable of the fossils which he had discovered should be named for him.

But these years of unremitting toil and exhausting brain labor began to tell upon his health, and his mind began to give way. He became unable to sleep, strange, horrid fancies filled his brain, fits of delirium came upon him, and in one of these, with a pistol shot, he took his own life; a sad warning to all who may be tempted to put too great a strain upon the powers of either mind or body.

Great as Hugh Miller was in science he was still greater as a man. Honest, earnest, industrious, high-minded, God-fearing, he, by his own unaided efforts, raised himself from humble station to a position of trust and high influence among his fellow men, and Scotland has few sons of whom she has better reason to be proud than "the stone mason of Cromarty."

SCHOLARS' NOTES

(From International Question Book.)

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

LESSON XIII.—MARCH 29

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.—Acts 20:24.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Acts 20:1-38. T. Acts 21:1-40. W. Acts 22:1-30. Th. Acts 23:1-35. F. Acts 24:1-27. Sa. Acts 25:1-27. Su. Acts 26:1-32.

QUESTIONS.

I. TIME.—At what date do the lessons of this quarter begin? Over how many years do they extend? How old was Paul at this time? How many years had the Gospel now been preached?

II. TERRITORY.—In what countries had the Gospel gained a foothold? Name some of the principal cities where there were churches?

III. PERSONS.—Name the leading Christians who are connected with Paul during this quarter? With what other persons did he come in contact?

IV. MISSIONARY JOURNEYS.—How many great missionary journeys had Paul made? How long was he gone on each of them? Trace them out on the map.

V. THE RETURN OF THE MISSIONARY.—On which of the three journeys do we find Paul at the beginning of this quarter? How long had he been on it? Where had he spent most of his time? Where do we find him in our first lesson? Trace on the map his journey from Corinth, and give the leading dates? At what time did he arrive at Jerusalem?

VI. EVENTS.—What took place at Troas? What did Paul do at Miletus? What warning did he receive at Tyre? What at Caesarea? What occurred at Jerusalem? What plot was laid against Paul? How did he escape? Where? How long and in what circumstances was he at Caesarea?

VII. PAUL'S REVIEW OF HIS CONVERSION.—How many times does Paul relate the story of his conversion? Give a brief account of his life. What lessons can you learn from this story?

VIII. PAUL'S REVIEW OF HIS MINISTRY.—At what place did Paul give an account of his way of preaching the Gospel? Before whom? What do you learn from this of Paul's spirit? Of his earnestness? His faithfulness? His hopes? His unselfishness? What were the chief subjects on which he preached? Why did the Jews persecute Paul so fiercely?

IX. LESSONS.—What are some of the chief practical lessons you learn from Paul's life and work? From Felix? From Festus? From Agrippa?

LESSON I.—APRIL 5.

PAUL'S VOYAGE.—ACTS 27:1, 2, 14-26.

COMMIT VERSES 22-25.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.—Acts 27:25.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God able to support in time of trouble.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Acts 27:1-26. T. Gen. 7:11-24; E:1-11. W. Ex. 14:13-31. Th. Isa. 23:1-14. F. Jonah, chapters 1 and 2. Sa. 2 Cor 11:21-33. Su. Luke 8:22-40.

INTRODUCTION.—We left Paul, at the end of Lesson XII, first quarter, pronounced by Agrippa II, after a prolonged hearing, to be innocent, so that he might properly be discharged had he not appealed to Caesar. In view of the appeal, however, he must be sent to Rome. After a short interval (supposed to have been about three weeks) spent in preparing for the journey and in waiting for the ship, Paul, with other prisoners, began the voyage to Italy, under military guard. This lesson takes the matter up at this point.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

1. JULIUS—nothing is certainly known of him except from chaps. 27, 28. CENTURION—commander of a hundred. AUGUSTUS' BAND—rather, "Augustian band"; of Roman soldiers. 2. ADRAMYTINUM—a port of Asia Minor near the head of the Egean Sea. They took this ship expecting that at some port it touched they would find a vessel going to Italy. ARISTARCHUS—see chap. 19:29; 20:4. He and Luke (we) voluntarily accompanied Paul. 3. THERE AROSE AGAINST IT—rather, "there beat down from it," i.e., from (over) the island (Crete). EUROCLYDON—rather, "Euraquillo," which means an east-north-east wind. 4. BEAR UP INTO—rather, "face." WE LET HER DRIVE—rather, "we gave way to it (the wind), and were driven." 5. CLAUDA—a small island a little south of Crete. TO COME BY THE BOAT—i.e., to get on board the ship the boat towed astern (Luke 8:23). 17. USED HELPS, ETC.—cables bound around the middle of the ship to strengthen it from going to pieces. THE QUICKSANDS—"the Syrtis"—sandy shoals called by that name south-west of them on the north coast of Africa, and much dreaded by mariners; the wind was blowing them directly toward it. STRAKE SAIL—rather, "lowered the gear"; i.e., the greater yard and larger rigging. They probably also set a storm sail, by the help of which they could steer the vessel as nearly toward the

wind as possible. SO WERE DRIVEN—they would drift under the circumstances a little north of west, at the rate of about one and one-half miles an hour; just about such speed as to reach the island of Malta (chap. 28:1) in fourteen days (v. 27). 18. LIGHTENED THE SHIP—of the cargo they could reach, the deck load. 19. TACKLING OF THE SHIP—i.e., its apparatus or furniture—probably such things as chests, utensils, etc. 20. WHEN NEITHER SUN NOR STARS, ETC., the compass was not then in use; so that in stormy weather they could not tell directions, or know where they were. 21. LONG ABSTINENCE—they were too anxious and continuously occupied to eat regular meals (v. 33). AND NOT HAVE LOOSED, ETC.—see vs. 10-13. 22. THERE SHALL BE NO LOSS, ETC.—this and the following information the angel (v. 23) had imparted. 23. FOR THERE STOOD, ETC.—a real occurrence, not a vision. 24. BROUGHT BEFORE CESAR—it was God's purpose that Paul should testify at Rome (chap. 23:11; Rom. 1:15). GOD HATH GIVEN THEE, ETC.—in answer to Paul's prayers, all were to escape the storm.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How did Paul come to be a prisoner at Caesarea? Why was he to be sent to Rome? Was this what he desired? (Acts 23:11; Rom. 1:15.) What circumstances would tend to make them treat Paul kindly? (Acts 20:30-32.)

SUBJECT: GOD OUR HELP IN TROUBLE.

I. THE VOYAGE (vs. 1, 2).—In what way was Paul to be sent to Rome? Who went with him? How do we know that Luke was one of his companions? In whose charge were the prisoners placed? In what ship did they begin their voyage? How near Italy would this take them? In which direction did they go? Within sight of what countries familiar to Paul? Trace out the voyage on the map. Give some incidents in it.

II. THE STORM (vs. 14-20).—What harbor had the ship now reached? (v. 8.) What harbor was it trying to make? (v. 12.) What wind overtook it? When obliged to give way to the wind, under the shelter of what island did the ship run? (v. 16.) What three precautions were then taken? (v. 17.) Reasons for each of these? In what direction did they drift? What was done next? (v. 18.) What does this show about the condition of the ship? What was done next? (v. 19.) How long was the sky overclouded? (v. 20.) What difficulty did that occasion? What were the anticipations of those on board? How is God's power shown in the sea?

III. GOD IN THE STORM (vs. 21-26).—How long did the storm continue? (v. 27; 28:2.) Who now comforted the people on the ship? To what former advice did he refer? Why? Who had appeared to Paul? Was it in answer to prayer? How did Paul confess his religion? Did not Paul know before this that his own life would be saved? (Acts 23:11.) In what ways was Paul a blessing to those on the ship? What gave him this power for good? How would faith in God make them to be of good cheer?

IV. APPLICATIONS.—In what respects is trouble like a storm? Are we, like mariners, unable to save ourselves? What promises does God give us in the storm? What verse in the lesson tells us who has a right to plead these promises? How will true faith in God give us good cheer?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- I. God's plans may be carried out in long and strange ways. II. Discomforts and trials bring out the value of religion. III. One good man is a blessing to many people. IV. In every life there are storms. V. But God has help and good cheer for those in the storm. VI. Faith in God, as a wise, powerful, loving father, is the source of comfort.

LAYING DOWN OUR LIVES.

BY ELIZABETH P. ALLAN.

"Isn't it sad about poor Mrs. Brook?" said a friend to me the other day; "she is growing weaker and weaker, and the doctors say she cannot live much longer."

"But why should it be sad?" I answered. "She is a Christian, the heir to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, why should she not go joyfully home?"

My friend, though a child of God herself, looked at me in surprise, as though I had spoken in an unknown tongue.

And yet—why indeed is it, that so many of us fail to meet death gladly, as "the line of shadow, across which we are to step into eternal sunshine"?

Alas, it is easy to see why we fail of this high privilege. If we neglect the laws of health we are sick, if we break the laws of our country we are punished, and can we follow at such a distance the laws of Christ, and yet hope for all the blessings of the gospel?

It is no longer necessary to lay down our lives in the arena, fighting with wild beasts, while a cruel world looks on amused, but none the less are we to lay down our lives, our selfish ease, our stubborn wills, our ambition, our vanities, for the sake of our families, our neighbors, our country, the whole human race.

All of us, thank God, know some Christians, who so live, that like Paul, they are able now to say, "I count not my life dear unto myself," and when they are ready to

be offered, and the time of their triumph exclamation is at hand, "doubtless" they triumphantly exclaim, "S. S. Times."

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS—UNITED STATES.

Our subscribers throughout the United States who cannot procure the international Post Office orders at their Post Office, can get instead a Post office order, payable at Rouse's Point, N. Y., which will prevent much inconvenience both to ourselves and subscribers.

CLUB RATES.

THE CLUB RATES for the "MESSENGER," when sent to one address, are as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Quantity and Price. 1 copy - 30 cents, 10 copies - \$ 2 50, 25 copies - 6 00, 50 copies - 11 50, 100 copies - 22 00, 1,000 copies - 200 00

JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

MONTREAL DAILY WITNESS, \$3.00 a year, post-paid. MONTREAL WEEKLY WITNESS, \$1.00 a year, post-paid. WEEKLY MESSENGER, 50 cents; 5 copies to one address, \$2.00. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal Que.

EPH'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette.—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets labelled—"James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists London, England."

\$5.00 FOR 35c. A VOLUME OF UNIVERSAL REFERENCE.

THE R. M. & CO. STANDARD CYCLOPEDIA. This Cyclopaedia is a new and valuable book for popular use, compiled by competent editors, after consultation of the best authorities, printed from new, large, clear type, and handsomely bound in leatherette in imitation of crocodile skin. It contains information on every conceivable subject, and its reliability has been assured by the most careful preparation. It is of the greatest use in answering the 10,000 questions that constantly arise in regard to dates, places, persons, incidents, statistics, etc., etc. Complete in one volume. Finely illustrated. We want agents and canvassers, and in order that you may have a copy to exhibit and canvass with, we make this SPECIAL OFFER. To anyone who will agree to show this book to their friends and assist us in making sales, we will, upon receipt of 35 one-cent stamps to repay postage expense, packing, etc., forward one copy by return of mail.

CALL PUBLISHING CO., Chicago, Ill.

50 Perfumed, Embossed, Hidden Name, &c. Cards 51, Scrap Pictures and Agent's Sample Book, 10c. 15 packs Curis and Agent's Large Album of Samples, 31c. Best inducements ever offered to agents. Send 5c for pocket sample book and special terms. STEVENS BROS. & CO., Northford, Ct.

CARDS New and Beautiful Styles for 1885. Send 5c for Agent's Sample Book and Special terms. 50 Embossed, Perfumed, Hidden Name, &c. Cards, 8c. 7 packs and Agent's Sample Book 50c. Blank Cards at wholesale prices. NORTHFORD CARD CO., Northford, Conn.

BEST TRUSS EVER USED.

Improved Elastic Truss. Worn night and day. Positively cures Rupture. Sent by mail everywhere. Write for full descriptive circulars to the NEW YORK ELASTIC TRUSS COMPANY, 744 Broadway, New York.

SEND 10c for 30 rich (1885) Chromos with your name on. Newest and prettiest Card issued; liberal cash commissions allowed for selling our cards. Catalogue and full particulars with first order. Address EUREKA CARD CO., Bolton, Que.

THE NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published on the 1st and 15th of every month, at Nos. 321 and 323 St. James street, Montreal, by John Dougall & Son, composed of John Dougall and James D. Dougall, of New York, and John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal.