

letter bearing his name, but it is not believed that he wrote it.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) SAUL'S WORK IN DAMASCUS (II.) SAUL IN JERUSALEM.

I. SAUL'S WORK IN DAMASCUS. (19.) **meat**, food, he had tasted three days; **certain days**, how long is not said, some think three years, but this is hardly probable. See v. 20. (20.) **straightway**, at once; **synagogues**, so Christ preached in Jewish places of worship. (21.) **amazed**, to see the persecutor turned preacher. (22.) **the more**, still more. (23.) **to kill him**, slay their former friend; they cannot answer him, so they will slay him. (24.) **watched the gates**, the city was surrounded by a wall; all went in and out at the gates. (25.) **by the wall** (see picture), or "through the wall"—that is, out of a window of a house on the wall.—*Alexander.*

I. Questions.—With whom did Saul now remain at Damascus? What did he at once do? What did he say of Christ? What effect did his preaching produce? Why were they amazed? With whom did Saul hold his discussion? What did he prove to them? What plan did the Jews form against Saul? How did they try to take him? How did he escape?

II. SAUL AT JERUSALEM. (26.) **assayed**, tried, offered; **afraid**, counting him as a hypocrite, and perhaps a spy. (27.) **Barnabas**. (see Notes); **declared**, told the story of his conversion and work in Damascus. (29.) **spoke boldly**, freely; **Grecians**, Jews who were also Greeks (Acts vi. 1); **they**, the unbelieving Jews. (30.) **knew**, when they discovered this (*Alexander*); **Caesarea**, not Caesarea Philippi, at the head of the Jordan, but a seaport-town; **to Tarsus**—that is, sent him there by ship from Caesarea.

II. Questions.—Whither did Saul go from Damascus? How was he received at Jerusalem? Why were the disciples afraid of him? Who received him first? How did he persuade the others to receive Saul? To whom did Saul preach at Jerusalem? What plot was formed against him there? Who found it out? Whither did they send him? How did he reach his native place?

Which verses in this lesson teach us—
(1.) That we should use our knowledge in the service of others of Jesus?
(2.) That it is right to escape secretly from wicked men?
(3.) That we should accept all whom Christ has accepted as disciples?

Illustrations.—*Change in conversion.* "If God should speak to Niagara and bid its floods in their tremendous leap suddenly stand still, that were a trifling demonstration of power compared with the staying a desperate human will. If he should suddenly speak to the broad Atlantic and bid it be wrapped in flames, we should not be surprised when he commands the human heart and makes it submissive to his will."—*Spurgeon.*

A persecutor converted. A Mr. Bradbury possessed an ardent zeal in the cause of civil and religious liberty, and had many admirers. This exposed him to the hatred of the popish faction. They are said to have employed a person to take away his life. To make himself fully acquainted with Mr. Bradbury's person, this man frequently attended at places of worship where Mr. B. preached, and placed himself in front of the gallery with his eyes steadfastly fixed on the preacher. It was scarcely possible to avoid listening to what the preacher said. Mr. Bradbury's forcible way of presenting truth awakened the man's attention; the truth entered his understanding, and became the means of changing his heart. With trembling and confusion he came to the preacher, told his history, gave evidence of conversion, became a member of Mr. Bradbury's church, and was to his death faithful to the gospel he professed.—*Biblical Museum.*



WALL AT DAMASCUS.

The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

PROSPECTUS FOR 1877.

WITNESS.

Journalism has, since the WITNESS commenced its existence in 1846, remarkably advanced in volume, in power and in character. Even the London Times, not much more than thirty years ago, was more scurrilous in its editorials than would suit to-day the lowest class of country papers. A newspaper should therefore not only increase rapidly in circulation year by year, but must set before it higher and broader aims than its influence may keep pace with its prominence.

As in all other businesses, the year 1876 has been one of unusual difficulty for newspaper enterprise. The advertising columns have seriously contracted in such papers as do not pad them out with what is called "dead" matter. From this cause the DAILY WITNESS has at times been able, on a smaller sheet to give as much reading matter as in the best years. It has been our custom in years past to vary the size of the paper with the pressure of the business, although there are of course limits beyond which, at our present price, enlargement would be unwise, after which greater condensation is the only way open for increasing the capacity of the paper. Smaller type also comes into play. We have, under pressure, used as small type as the most successful American journals. But to this there is also a limit. When it is possible we give a larger paper on Saturdays than on other days of the week, as in Montreal as in most cities, that day's paper is proportionally so full of advertisements that, to have the same share of reading, it is necessary to have much more space.

There has been a proposition emanating from subscribers to the WEEKLY WITNESS that that paper should be printed in a sixteen page form instead of one of eight pages as at present. This question was submitted some months ago to the readers of that paper, and a number of opinions were expressed, the vote standing as follows:—For, 10,400; against, seven. The general opinion seems strongly in favor of the change. It should be understood that in the new form there would be somewhat less reading matter, but the pages would be cut and fastened, which would of course involve expense. On this question we are anxious to learn the opinions of all subscribers, who might express them on a separate sheet while sending remittances for the new year.

The following figures show the circulation of the WITNESS, on the first of September, for six years:—

	Daily.	Semi-Weekly or Tri-Weekly.	Weekly.
1871...	10,700	3,000	8,000
1872...	10,700	3,600	9,000
1873...	11,600	3,600	10,750
1874...	12,900	3,300	17,000
1875...	12,400	3,200	19,700
1876...	12,400	3,200	26,600

Repeated attacks and untiring persecution have not failed to tell more or less on the circulation of the DAILY WITNESS, but it still sells largely among Roman Catholics, both French and Irish, and we look for a time when it will be recognized by the masses of every creed as their best friend. Meantime we mean to continue to make it the most interesting and useful paper they can get for the money. In the early part of the present year a very kind movement originated with some of our readers to express in a substantial way the public interest in a journal which events had forced to the front in a contest against ecclesiastical aggression and oppression. A remarkably enthusiastic public meeting was held, at which all classes and parties were largely represented and a committee appointed to gather funds for the erection of a WITNESS BUILDING; to be presented to the proprietors of the paper. Some thousands of dollars were forwarded, but owing, we presume, to the commercial stringency, the fund did not reach the proportions which the projectors expected, and the matter lies at present in abeyance.

It is our desire to maintain the proportion of increase shown in the WEEKLY WITNESS. The average growth during five years has been twenty-eight per cent, and last year's increase was thirty-five per cent. At the lowest of these figures we should have a circulation next year of thirty-four thousand. This, of course, can only be attained by a great and united effort on the part of all friends. We have a very large number of assured friends. If each of these will

set apart as early as possible, sufficient time to visit those in their neighborhood to whose families they think a paper like the WITNESS would prove useful, a very great deal will be accomplished. Many clergymen and other philanthropists make a point of doing this that healthy literature may be enabled to maintain its ground against literary trash and poison. Our friends well know the principles of the paper and its position in the two great conflicts with Rome and Rum, on whose issue the happiness of Canada so largely depends. We therefore ask those who wish to be sharers in either of these great battles to promote its circulation by whatever means may be in their power. Boys and girls may join in this work and do as hitherto most efficient service.

NORTHERN MESSENGER.

The growth of the "Northern Messenger" has been still more remarkable. It is now known from Labrador to Texas. The figures for three years have been:

1874.....	15,000
1875.....	25,000
1876.....	50,000

This shows for the time in question an average of eighty-three per cent. increase. The same rate would give us a circulation of over 90,000 by this time next year, and there is no reason why we should not get it. Let our young friends who know the MESSENGER make up their minds to double its circulation this year as last.

NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.

This Magazine has at last taken a start in the way of increased circulation. Our receipts for it during six months ending first September were seventy-seven per cent. higher than during the same period last year. Considerable improvements have been made which seem to have met with public favor. Besides superior mechanical work as compared with the past, the number of pages has been increased to ninety-six from eighty last year and sixty-four the year before. Much additional attention has been given to matters of household interest, and its pages are more generously illustrated. Improvements of this sort are introduced rather in hope of a large circulation than as warranted by present figures, and should our hopes be realized, still further improvement will be rendered possible. The rate of increase during the month of August would give us eight thousand subscribers by this time next year, and on this we count. Indeed it is requisite in view of the present outlay.

PRIZES.

With a view to maintaining the interest in the joint effort which we propose to have made to reach the figures we have set before us, we have prepared a list of prizes for the Month of October. It will be remembered that the Prize List offered for the same period last year, involved our paying to the competitors larger sums than they remitted. We hope a sufficient number will engage this time to hinder so unsatisfactory a result. All remittances must be marked "in competition for prize," or no notice can be taken of them in making up the accounts, and no request for the recognition of efforts not so entered can be allowed, as it would displace those who had fulfilled the conditions on which the prizes are offered. As last year all our expectations were realized in the way of increase of circulation, we look with some expectancy to the results of this autumn's campaign. The prizes are as follows:—

- To the person sending the largest amount of money on or before 1st November, as payment in advance for our publications, \$ 50
- To the person sending the second largest amount, 40
- do. do. third do. 30
- do. do. fourth do. 20
- do. do. fifth do. 15
- do. do. sixth do. 10
- do. do. seventh do. 5
- do. do. eighth do. 5
- do. do. ninth do. 5
- do. do. tenth do. 5
- do. do. eleventh do. 5
- do. do. twelfth do. 5

PRICES.

DAILY WITNESS, \$3.00 per annum, postpaid. (To Ministers and Teachers actually in charge, \$2.50.)

TRI-WEEKLY WITNESS, \$2.00 per annum, postpaid. (To Ministers and Teachers actually in charge, \$1.50.)

WEEKLY WITNESS, \$1.10 per annum, postpaid. (To Ministers and Teachers actually in charge, 85c.)

NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, \$1.50 per annum, postpaid. (To Ministers and Teachers actually in charge, \$1.25.)

NORTHERN MESSENGER, 30c. per annum, postpaid.

CLUBS.

The NEW DOMINION MONTHLY will be sent to all subscribers of the WITNESS for \$1.25. The MESSENGER will be sent in clubs to one address at the following rates:

10 copies.....	\$ 2.50
25 copies.....	6.00
50 copies.....	11.50
100 copies.....	22.00
1,000 copies.....	200.00

The PUBLIC HEALTH MAGAZINE is clubbed with any edition of the WITNESS or NEW DOMINION MONTHLY for \$1.50.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,

Publishers,

Montreal.

THE NEW PRIZES.—Our friends in British Columbia and other distant districts will notice that the present prize competition will terminate on November 1st. We would remind them that a vigorous fortnight's work is better than a year's without any interest, and that if the best use is made of their time, they will in all probability meet with success. The fact that in those districts, persons canvassing are in many instances breaking new grounds, may give them an advantage over those in the nearer districts, which have already been pretty well worked. It is now the best time of the year for Sunday-schools and similar organizations to make up clubs for the MESSENGER, to be in time for the winter, and take any benefit which may result from the competition. Although this number of the MESSENGER is dated November 1st, it should be received by subscribers two weeks before that time, the immense number of copies printed requiring that the papers should be issued a considerable time before date.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'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. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, 48 Threadneedle Street, and 170 Piccadilly; Works, Euston Road and Camden Town, London."

A STEP IN ADVANCE.—The wonderful interest now being taken by numerous friends throughout the country in the more solid establishment of the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY shows very clearly that the recent efforts made to increase its value have been fully appreciated. It will be remembered that a few weeks ago the hope was expressed that the increase in receipts for the magazine would soon reach a hundred per cent. The increase for the first twenty-two days of the month of August last was exactly two hundred and fifty per cent. greater than for the corresponding period of 1875. It is possible that this percentage may yet increase, but we will be satisfied if it continues at this point for a year, which would give the magazine a circulation of over nine thousand copies in less than a year from now. Seven thousand was asked for, but ten thousand would be better. It is said that when a young man saves \$1,000 his fortune is as good as made; when the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY is in the position to pay its expenses all profits will be put into improvements, until Canada has as good a magazine as is possible in England or the United States. This may not be considered possible by many, but such is the case nevertheless. Canada's manufactures, scientific specimens, and selection of school requisites, all took prominent if not first places at the world's competitive examination at Philadelphia, and the same quality of brain which gives her rank amongst the foremost there will also, if given opportunity, make her literature as well known.

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