

which had been brought against them. They had taught in the name of Jesus. He was accused of teaching that Jesus should actually change the customs established by Moses. Stephen's daily routine was over, and he was fast nearing the honour of martyrdom!

Notice two lessons taught by this history. 1. The common work of every-day life is of great importance in the sight of God. To do it "as to the Lord" and for his glory, each one needs to be filled with the Spirit. Some work needs the Spirit and wisdom; some, the Spirit and patience; some, the Spirit and energy; some, the Spirit and prudence; some, the Spirit and kindness. All need the Spirit if they are to be performed so as to please God and to be helpful to the Church. And no work, however mean, that is done in the Spirit, can fail to be thus pleasing and helpful.

2. Where God sees that a servant of his is ready for higher opportunities he will certainly give them. What a work he gave to the boy who had been a slave in Potiphar's house! What a work to the little maid who waited on Naaman's wife! What witness-bearing and what a crown of glory to the man appointed simply to distribute supplies to the needy! There are opportunities springing up about the path of every true follower of Christ, and to him that is faithful in a little more is given.

BEREAN METHODS.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Show the three elements in the Church, of Hebrews, Grecians, Proselytes; their differences; the dangers of division, and how it was avoided. . . . Dissensions in the Church; how promoted, ver. 1: 1. By varied elements; 2. By lack of supervision. 3. By money-matters, etc. . . . Dissensions, how avoided: 1. By conciliation; 2. By system, organization; 3. By having godly men in office, etc.; 4. By recognition of all elements in Church government. . . . Results of healing dissension: 1. Unity; 2. Labour; 3. Progress; 4. Opposition from the world. . . . Stephen, the Christian worker. (See Analytical and Biblical Outline. . . . The requirements for growth and prosperity in the Church. (See Additional Practical Lessons. . . . The Church which is here commended as an example: 1. United, though of varied elements; 2. Organized in all departments; 3. With good, wise, and earnest officers; 4. With a consecrated ministry; 5. With broad views of truth, (Stephen. . . . Warnings of the lesson: 1. Against sectional spirit; 2. Against undue power in the clergy; 3. Against

neglect of the poor, etc.; 4. Against perversion of truth, v. 11, 13. . . . ILLUSTRATIONS. The ancient Romans, while in sectional strife between the orders of their people, were for centuries unable to gain power outside of their own walls, but when all orders were united, and their arms turned against their enemies, Rome soon conquered the world. . . . The strongest iron is made by welding different kinds of iron together; so the Church is all the stronger for its varied elements. . . . A picture on porcelain is made beautiful and brilliant when so hung that the light may shine through it; so Stephen's face shone with the light within.

References. FOSTER'S ILLUSTRATIONS: Ver. 2: Prose, 6266. Ver. 3: Prose, 9587, 9590. Ver. 4: Prose, 5609, 3944. Ver. 5: Prose, 9554. Ver. 7: Prose, 9162. Ver. 8: Prose, 11047. Ver. 10: Prose, 7227, 11044. Ver. 15: Poetical, 4017. . . . FREEMAN: Ver. 12: The council, 718.

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

LESSON THOUGHT. "Love one another." Print in large letters, "A Great Family. A Great Love. A Great Faith."

1. Talk about the great family. There were now thousands of believers in Jesus, and they were all brothers and sisters, because they all had one Father. Tell that God put it into the hearts of the rich ones to give money to help the poor ones, and the apostles spent some of this money in buying food for the poor widows. The family grew so large, and this took so much time, that by-and-by the apostles had little time left in which to teach about Jesus; so they said there must be men to take care of this great family, who had nothing else to do. Tell about the large meeting, and the choosing of men whose business it should be to look after the poor, so that the apostles might give all their time to teaching the truth about Jesus.



2. Read the names of the seven chosen, and tell what their work was. Explain that a deacon is one who serves, or helps. Make an open hand, and get children to tell what it is in the heart that opens the hand. Draw a heart around the hand and print "love" in the palm of the hand. Teach that these deacons were glad to serve their poor brothers and sisters, because God had put love into their hearts. Read, slowly and impressively, Matt. 25: 34-40, and lead children to see that helping God's suffering ones is helping him. Show that children may have