EQUITY SALE.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

Bible Lessons.

Studies in the New Testament.

SECOND QUARTER.

Lesson XII. June 17.   Matt. 28: 16-20.

THE GREAT COMMISSION.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The Lord gave the word: great was the
company of those that published it."—Ps.
68: 11.

I. THE GREAT MEETING OF FIVE HUNDRED.
16. Then; or, as in Rev. Ver., but, in
contradistinction from the action of the
enemies of Jesus described in the previous
verse. The eleven disciples; Judas hav-
ing perished by suicide. Went away into
Galilee; as commanded by the angels
(Matt. 28 : 7), and by Jesus himself before
his death (26: 32) and after his resurrec-
tion (28 : 10). Into a mountain; Rev. Ver.,
the mountain, the designated place. Had
appointed them; probably when he bade
them go to Galilee he named the place.

It is probable that the "five hundred at
once" mentioned by St. Paul in 1 Cor. 15 :
6 met at this time. "This supposition
(1) accounts for the retired place and for-
mal appointment (the disciples alone he
had met several times without any such
announcement). (2) It also helps to explain
why this meeting was to be in Galilee, both
because Galilee contained a larger number
of pronounced and trustworthy disciples of
Jesus than Judea or Perea, and because it
was farther from the watchful jealousy of
the rulers at Jerusalem. (3) This accounts
also for the stress laid at the outset on
going to Galilee and there seeing him ;
there was to be the great meeting, and the
giving of the Great Commission."

THE EIGHTH APPEARANCE. 17. And
when they saw him. He appeared to them
after they were assembled. They wor-
shipped him. All prostrate at his feet in
reverence and awe. But some doubted;
probably not of the eleven, but of the five
hundred. The eleven had before this been
cured of their doubts.

II. THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF THE
RISEN SAVIOUR. 18. And Jesus came; up
to them, near to them. They had hesitated
to approach him. And spake unto them,
saying. It is utterly arbitrary and un-
natural to suppose that these words, to-
gether with the words of the two following
verses, were all the words which the
Saviour spoke, while talking to his disci-
ples. All power is given unto me. The
English language contains no adequate
equivalent for the word rendered power.
It embraces the ideas of both power and
authority—power coupled with right.

His POWER IN HEAVEN. 1. All the
power of God himself is pledged,—the
power of love, the power of life, the power
of control, the power to pardon, the power
to plant new graces in the heart, the power
of comfort, and aid in every need, in every
place, the power of omnipresence and
of omniscience. 2. For another thing, the
services of subordinate intelligences in
heaven are guaranteed. 3. The power of
the Holy Spirit, to convince the world of
sin, to convert the soul, to guide into all
truth, to fill with heavenly influences, to
direct the church.

His POWER ON EARTH. 1. Over his
disciples, to be their Teacher and their
Master, the one Head of the church. 2.
Over the world, to guide all nations, to
direct the course of history, to make even
the enemies of his religion aid in its exten-
sion. 3. He has the power on earth over
all the motives that can move men toward
Go',—love, duty, fear, hope. 4. He has
authority over property. The silver and
the gold are his. 5. He has power over
nature and its laws, so that he can defend
and aid his children.

III. THE GREAT COMMISSION, (1) To DIS-
CIPLE ALL NATIONS. MISSIONARY. 19. Go
ye therefore; be aggressive, go forth from
place to place, and nation to nation, because
Jesus has power to protect you and to make
your work a success. How about this
word to you—"Go"? Go and preach to
those who will not come to hear. Go out
after the little ones who never come to
Sunday school. Go and compel, by loving
entreaties, those who would be welcome if
they came unasked, but who will not come
unless you go and bring them, And teach ;
Rev. Ver., make disciples of. Teach here
is a different word from the teach in the
next verse. We greatly need an English
word disciple (all nations) for this passage.
To disciple a person to Christ is to bring
him into the relation of pupil to teacher,
taking his yoke of authoritative instruction,
accepting what is true because he says it,
and submitting to his requirements because
he makes them. All nations; not the
Jews only, as in their commission when
Jesus was on earth (Matt. 10: 5), but all
nations and kindreds and tongues, and
every person in them.

THE MISSIONARY DUTY OF THE CHURCH.
Observe that this command implies (1)
that Christianity is a universal religion,
not m rely one of the religions of the world;
(2) that it is adapted to all nations and all
classes (Rom. 1: 16), a claim which history
has abundantly justified; (3) that not a
na ural development, but obedience to the
principles inculcated by Jesus Christ, con-
stitutes the secret of true civiliza ion
among all nations, and thus that Christian
missions are the mot her of civilization ; (4)
that from all nations the members of
Christ's church triumphant are to be ga
thered to God by obedience to this com-
mission (Rev. 18: 11-13).

(1) This is the command of Christ.
The church cannot be obedient, and let
one nation be without the Gospel.

(2) This command includes home mis-
sions as well as foreign ; our own neighbor-
hood as well as more distant places.

(3) It is the nature of a living Christianity
to be missionary. Max Muller says that
"of all religions, only the missionary re-
ligions are living."

(4) This is the only way the church will
keep pure.

The true Broad Church cares for
the salvation of the world ; the Narrow
Church is the one that cares chiefly for
itself and for temporal things.

(5) The church at home is built up
fastest by working for the heathen.

(6) The grandeur of this work exalts the
individual Christians who give and labor.

Baptizing them ; causing them to make
a public profession of their discipleship
through baptism. This is the duty of
every Christian. It is both commanded
and necessary ; commanded because neces-
sary. It confirms their faith, it separates
them from the world, it binds them to-
gether in a church, it keeps them from
falling away. There are Chris'ians who
never publicly profess ed Christ by joining

any church, but I never saw such a Chris-
tian who a'so enjoyed the fulness of the
Christian life, nor entered upon a high
degree of usefulness.

IV. THE GREAT COMMISSION, (2) TO TEACH
AND TRAIN. PASTORAL. 20. Teaching
them. Conversion is only the beg nning
of the Christian life and the Christian
work. Then begins the great work of
teaching and training in all the doctrines
of Christ, and the varied duties of life.
To observe; not merely to do Christ's
commandments, but to keep watch over
them, as a guard over his prisoner. All
things whatsoever I have commanded you.
The doctrines and precepts of Christ, noth-
ing less and nothing more, are the proper
subjects of Christian faith and practice.

THE CHURCH AS A SCHOOL. (1) The first
business of the church is to disciple, i. e.,
to bring men to Christ. (2) The great
teacher is Jesus Christ himself. (3) The
lessons to be taught are the doctrines and
precepts and promises of Christ, the high-
est themes possible. (4) The lesson books
are, first of all, the Bible ; then the work
of Christ, the experiences of life, the daily
duties and business. (5) The term time is
the whole of life.

THE TEACHER'S WORK. (1) His theme is
whatsoever Christ has commanded. (2)
His preparation is in studying and prac-
tising those truths and duties. (3) His
authority is Christ himself. (4) His object
is to lead his scholars to Christ, and to
train them into true, large-hearted, intelli-
gent, devoted servants of Christ, useful for
earth and fitted for heaven. (5) His interest
is to be in the souls of his scholars.

THE ENCOURAGEMENTS. Lo, I am with
you alway. Note, it is I am, not I will
be. Jesus, with his love, with his power,
with his wisdom, with his willingness to
help ; Jesus the Saviour, the Guide, the
Inspirer, the King, the Teacher ; Jesus the
Omniscient, the Omnipresent, the Omnipo-
tent, is with us everywhere, all the days.
Alway; literally, all the days. But ob-
serve that it is both a promise and a warn-
ing. He is present to rebuke and chasten,
as well as to guide and guard and inspire
(Rev. 3 : 19).

Mr. Norris's Lesson.

One cold Saturday afternoon Mr. Norris,
a thrifty merchant of Kingston, appeared
in his family with an unusually radiant
face, kindness and contentment reigning
there. The week's business was over
and the latest speculation proved a far great-
er success than he had expected in his
most sanguine moments, and he was at
liberty to enjoy the rest of home.

His lovable family gathered round the
cheerful sitting-room fire, the younger
children hanging on to papa's chair or sit-
ting on his knee, all talking at once of the
day's exploits, of skating, making snow
men, or, best of all, of the long rides they
had down the hill on their new sled, the
"Reindeer." Teddie believed it to be the
prettiest and fleetest to be found in that
town, even though Eddie Monroe did say
his was the biggest, and of course could
pass the "Reindeer" every time.

There was one of this family absent, lo-
ing the blessing of such a happy time ; but
perhaps he was doing what will prove of great
er benefit to him and others. This was the
oldest son, the pride of the father's heart
and hope of his mother. Willie, for that
was his name, had been sent out on an
errand for his mo ther with instructions to
return immediately. Half an hour had
passed. The little ones were snugly tuck-
ed in their downy beds and Mr. Norris lost
in an article in the latest magazine, when
suddenly the bell rings.

"That must be Willie," said mamma.
Ai that moment a domestic informed Mr.
Norris that a stranger was at the door.
"Who is he and what does he want?"
questioned Mr. Norris.

"A man that wants to speak with you a
moment, if you please, sir," was the reply.
Mr. Norris's brow darkened. He dis-
liked the thought of business after busi-
ness hours, and especially on Saturday
night, after a week of hard mental strain,
such as he had just passed through. He
arose without a word, and went out to send
the unwelcome visitor away. A rather
delicate, poorly clad young man stood
waiting for him.

"Good evening, sir; beg pardon for
calling at this hour."

"Why, Phelps, what do you want?"

"Some money, if you please, sir ; it is a
matter of necessity. My invalid mother
needs some medicine, and we have nothing
in the house to eat. As for ourselves, we
could get along on a crust, but my poor
mother will die unless something is done
for her, and knowing you to be a kind-
hearted man I appeal to you for aid."

The merchant's brow grew darker as the
story continued.

"You should not have come to me.
Our foreman pays the hands, why didn't
you go to him?"

"I was sent to receive an order for goods
and on returng found the store closed, and
unless I am paid my week's wages Satur-
day night we can have but little comfort
over Sunday."

"That is not my lookout," exclaimed
Mr Norris, with impatience, "I intend
all my men to have their pay every week ;
if they don't get it I am not to blame. I
cannot have my home life disturbed by
such matters ; you must wait until Mon-
day."

Mr. Phelps bowed stiffly and went away
without a wor l, but with such a heavy
heart, a d the idea that his employer was
not as kind hearted as he had always con-
sidered him.

As soon as the door closed Mr. Norris
paced the hall for some moments in deep
thought.

"I might have given him eight or ten
dollars as well as not," thought he, "and
perhaps he really needs it. He looked
earnest and I believe him honest, but no
certainty about it. Perhaps he wants it to
spend in some gambling den down town, so
it's well I didn't, after all. I won't en-
courage such proceedings. I'll look into
the matter on Monday.

Thus, silencing conscience, the cloud
passed from his brow, and the poor labor-
er was soon forgotten as Mr. Norris again
entered the bright warm sitting room.

Willie had not yet arrived and mamma
expressed her concern for his absence.
"He certainly ought to have been back by
this time," observed her husband.

Willie had almost reached home when
he saw Mr. Phelps leave his father's house
and meet a man who appeared to have
been waiting for him, and with whom he
entered into conversation, and on hearing
his father's name mentioned thought it no
harm to listen.

Following them he heard this conver-
sation: "Mr. Norris is a good man for
nothing if I know, and does as he agrees, but
he is hard and unfeeling. Not one cent
would he give me, not even for my sick

mother ; we must go hungry until Monday
and she perhaps die. Well, it will lay at
his door!"

"It's so bad," said his companion, "for
an industrious steady man like you."

This was more than Willie could endure,
and he determined to follow the man
home and see if he was in as destitute a
condition as he said. Such prudence is
rather beyond a child of his years, but his
mother had taught him to inquire into all
cases applying for aid and if found worthy
to help in whatever way he could, and
having a new tea-dollar gold piece, his
uncle Sam had given him for a birthday
present, in his pocket, determined to spend
a portion of it in helping this man. And
as this was the first time the verse in his
last Sunday-school lesson, "As we have
therefore opportunity, let us do good unto
all men," could be acted upon he felt all
the more anxious about it.

Passing along narrow, dark streets, he
at last came to the tenement house ; a long,
low, dismal building with several families
living in it, each occupied with his own
interest or pleasure. It was not hard to
find which room this man occupied, for
the first one to the right was immediately
entered and the door being left ajar our
hero had a full view.

There saw a little stove warmed but
by a single piece of wood. The sick
woman lay on a miserably poor bed in the
corner of the room. His wife, who, by
her cleanliness, showed she did her best her
circumstances allowed, met him at the
door. What a sad expression passed over
her face as she saw her husband had none
of the things he promised to bring them if
he was successful in getting his money
from Mr. Norris.

"What will become of mother !" she
exclaimed.

Waiting for no more, our Willie hastened
away, procured a good supply of wood,
substantial articles of food to the tired,
worried man and wife, and not omitting
delicacies that might tempt the appetite of
the most fastidious invalid. On the top of
the basket he placed a note saying the
enclosed bill was for medicine that the
invalid night immediately need and that
he hoped the provisions would prove
sufficient for their Sunday comfort. The
grocer sent them around at once and light
were the hearts of that poor family.

When they laid themselves down for the
night they did not forget to ask God's
blessing on their unkno wn benefactor, who
had, for the first time, truely learned, "It
is more blessed to give than to receive."

At last quiet, light steps were heard in
the street, again the door-bell rang. This
time it was Willie, who immediately
entered the room, his cheeks red from the
keen air and his kind, blue eyes lit up
by the excitement of the past hour.

"O I have had such an experience !" he
exclaimed. "Do you know I have spent
nearly all my birthday money and have
nothing to show you for it !"

"Why, how is that my son ? you gener-
ally spend prudently all that is given you,"
said his father.

"Well, I'll tell you. I saw a poor fellow
in the street and heard him complaining
of the hard luck that met him on all sides,
and having the money in my pocket I
determined to assist him." He then went
on relating in detail everything that had
occurred.

"It was very kind and noble of you, my
son, and we are both glad you showed
such prudence in the matter. Never spoil
the money for something else, for 'God
loveth a cheerful giver.'"

Mr. Norris left his easy chair and
walked to and fro in a thoughtful mood,
his brow darkening the while, until Willie
began to fear his father was displeased
with him, but suddenly stopping in front
of his son he said :

"Willie, you have not only helped this
poor family, but you have taught me a
lesson that I trust I may never forget,
which is this : Always consider a poor
man's claim, and the worthiness of the
individual before turning him coldly away,
and to look into his case at once. If to-
body had helped Mr. Phelps to-night his
mother might have died and I would have
been responsible for that. My motto here-
after shall be : 'As I therefore have oppor-
tunity, let me do good,' now, 'unto all
men,' especially the poor and needy."—A.
C. E. in Presbyterian Observer.

The Class in Scripture.

A lady asked one of the children in her
Sunday-school class, "What was the sin
of the Pharisees?" "Eating camels,
ma'am," was the reply. The little girl
had read that the Pharisees "strained at
gnats and swallowed camels." In what
condition was the patriarch Job at the end
of his life?" questioned a teacher of the
solid-looking boy at the foot of the class.
"Dead," was the quiet response. "What
is the outward and visible sign in
baptism?" asked a lady of her Sunday-
school class. There was silence for some
seconds and then a girl broke in
triumphantly with, "The baby, please,
ma'am." "Do you know, mamma, I don't
believe Solomon was so rich after all?"
observed a sharp boy to his mother who
pride herself on her orthodoxy. "Why
child !" she exclaimed in pious horror,
"what does the Bible say?" "That's just
it," he answered. "It says that 'Solomon
slept with his fathers.' Now, surely, if he
had been rich he'd have had a b d to him-
self." A teacher in trying to explain to
her scholars the meaning of repentance,
used this illustration : "Suppose a bad
boy were to steal an orange, and his good
mother should catch him with it, and take
him by the hand gently and tell him how
wicked it is, and how very, very grieved
she was ; don't you think, now, that the
little boy ought to f-el sorry?" "One of
the scholars eagerly replied : "Yes,
mum." "A why," asked the girl,
"C use." "Because, why, Marmaduke?"
"Because he hadn't eat the orange befo'
his ma cotch him and tuck it away from
him!"—Chambers' Journal.