



LESSON II.—APRIL 13, 1902.

**Peter, Aeneas and Dorcas.**

Acts ix., 32-43.

**Golden Text.**

'Jesus Christ maketh thee whole.'—Acts ix., 34.

**Home Readings.**

Monday, April 7.—Acts ix., 32-43.  
 Tuesday, April 8.—Job xxix., 1-13.  
 Wednesday, April 9.—Deut. xv., 7-11.  
 Thursday, April 10.—Matt. xxv., 31-40.  
 Friday, April 11.—Gal. vi., 1-10.  
 Saturday, April 12.—I. Tim. vi., 9-19.  
 Sunday, April 13.—Mark ii., 1-12.

**Lesson Text.**

(32) And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. (33) And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. (34) And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole; arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. (35) And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord. (36) Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple called Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas; this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. (37) And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. (38) And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. (39) Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. (40) But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. (41) And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up: and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. (42) And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord. (43) And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

**Notes from Peloubet.**

Healing the sick.—As Peter passed throughout all quarters. He went everywhere visiting and encouraging and teaching the new churches formed by the persecuted Christians, and keeping them in touch with the apostolic church in Jerusalem. Peter did more for the church at Jerusalem by going on these evangelizing tours than by concentrating all energies on Jerusalem alone. Work beyond its borders always aids the home church. 'It is like the dew of heaven. It is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.' The saints which dwelt at Lydda. All Lydda, in the rich plain of Sharon in north-west Judea, was a city of considerable size, about a day's journey from Jerusalem. Here, according to tradition, was born St. George, 'the patron saint of England,' the hero of the mythical story of St. George and the Dragon, immortalized in poetry and painting.

He found. As he went about doing good. It was not chance, but providence, in connection with his own seeking for ways to help others. Named Aeneas. Very nearly the same as Aeneas (with 'ei' instead of 'e' in middle syllable), the hero of Troy in Virgil's poem. Kept his bed eight years. So that the cure must have been miraculous. And was sick of the palsy. Palsy is a con-

traction of the word 'paralysis.' The term is used by the ancient physicians in a much wider sense than by our modern men of science. It included not only what we call paralysis, which is rarely very painful, but also catalepsy and tetanus, i.e., cramps and lockjaw. Both were very painful and dangerous.

Goods works, for the poor are characteristic of the Christian religion. They are proofs of discipleship (Matt. xxv., 34-46; Jas. i., 27). Not much flows from the stagnant pool of formal religion, but much from a fountain of living water in the soul. Good trees must bring forth good fruits in their season. We are God's children when we do God's works.

Saron (Sharon) was the district of which Lydda was the chief city. And turned to the Lord. Had their attention turned to the Lord, and recognized him as the Messiah.

Lydda was nigh to Joppa. Ten miles.—Hastings. Heard that Peter was there. 'It was too late to send for a physician, but not too late to send for Peter. A physician after death is an absurdity, but not an apostle after death.'—M. Henry. The burial preparations, and the delay in order to reach Peter, showed that death had actually taken place. Delay to come to them. They knew that Peter had wrought some great miracles in Jesus' name, though he had not restored the dead. But they hoped that he might help them in some way. He must hasten, as every hour's delay tended to decay the body, and lessened the hope of restoration.

When he was come . . . the widows stood by him weeping. The poor widows for whom Dorcas had made the coats and garments which (Greek, what a quantity, how many). Dorcas made. Was accustomed to make. Shewing. By pointing to the garments they had on (so the Greek).

Peter put them all forth, as Christ did from the room of Jairus's daughter, and as Elijah, in restoring the Shunammite's son. This would keep him from interruption; he could concentrate his mind on the Lord's will as to Tabitha; it would avoid all appearance of display. Probably Peter did not know at first what the result would be. Kneeled down, and prayed, to learn the Lord's will, and to receive his power. Tabitha, arise. If he used the Aramaic, the common language, the expression would be 'Tabitha cumi,' differing but one letter from the 'Talitha cumi' of Mark v., 41, which he heard the Master speak in the sick chamber at Capernaum. And she opened her eyes, as one awaking from sleep. She sat up, showing that she was really alive again.

Gave her his hand, to help her up after she was alive. Jesus took Jairus's daughter's hand before she was restored.

And it was (became) known . . . and many believed in the Lord. The good works which the disciples did, on the one hand, and the power of the Lord to heal and save, on the other, both commended the gospel to the people, and made it known everywhere.

Tarried many days. Peter struck while the iron was hot. The harvest was ripe, it was great, the laborers were few. Joppa was a large city, a busy seaport, and hence an excellent centre from which to send forth the knowledge of the gospel. With one Simon a tanner whose house was by the seaside (Acts x., 6).

**C. E. Topic.**

Sun., April 13.—Topic—Giving: its laws; its reflex influence. II. Cor. viii., 1-15; ix., 6, 7; I. Cor. xvi., 1, 2.

**Junior C. E. Topic.****VANITY FAIR.**

Mon., April 7.—Vain pleasures, Eccl. ii., 10, 11.

Tues., April 8.—Self-will. Prov. xiv., 12.

Wed., April 9.—Worldly ambitions. John xii., 43.

Thu., April 10.—Worldly wealth. Job xxi., 13.

Fri., April 11.—Passing away. I. Cor. vii., 21.

Sat., April 12.—Abiding forever. I. John ii., 17.

Sun., April 13.—Topic—Pilgrim's Progress. IV. Vanity Fair and its dangers. Matt. iv., 8-10; I. John ii., 15.

**A Temperance Revival.**

All sorts of objections and excuses will be offered when you propose an energetic movement. Besides a dozen other things, you will be told that Canada is the most temperate country in the world. That there is really no need for all this fuss. That all such movements only stir up strife and create ill-will among neighbors. Well, that is exactly what Jesus Christ said fighting battles for him and the conquest of the world to righteousness, would do.

Perhaps a few illustrations of the fruits of the traffic in this most temperate country will enable us to see that there is a necessity for more work being done. These fatalities all occurred in Canada within the past few months. I know of many others, but only these in printed form are now before me, and each reader will know of others in his own neighborhood, many of which never get into the papers:

'Two men, drunk, were drowned in the St. Lawrence River by the upsetting of their boat.'

'A young man, aged twenty-seven, who had been drinking very heavily, was run over by the city street-cars and killed.'

'A young married man, a farmer, was drowned while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.'

'A young man, who had been drinking very heavily, missed his train, and for this reason walked home (nine miles), through a severe rainstorm. After reaching his home he only lived a few hours.'

There is no difficulty in multiplying these items. Cut them out, as they occur, and make a scrap-book of them, and long before the year is ended, you will be amazed.

Drunkenness is on the increase in Canada, as a result of our late drowsiness.

Such is the report from along the St. Lawrence River, especially where the canal works are being carried on.

Such is the report from Hamilton, where one of the papers gave an editorial a column long to point out the danger.

The same from Toronto, where, on a Monday morning a few months ago, a larger number than usual of young men were up before the police court for drunkenness, the majority of whom had never been there before. In exact keeping with all this, our recent liquor statistics show a considerable increase in the consumption of intoxicants.

Brethren, God may ask us in his great day why the liquor traffic was not stopped.—Rev. D. V. Lucas, in 'Christian Guardian.'

**The Prophet Mohammed and Wine.**

'Wine brings a tenfold curse. It brings a curse.'

On him who makes it for another's use,  
 On him who makes it for himself alone,  
 On him who drinketh of the poison draught,  
 On him who carries it from place to place,  
 On him to whom the poisoned grape is brought,

On him who serves it to the eager guest,  
 On him who sells it to another's hurt,  
 On him who profits by the harmful sale,  
 On him who buys it for himself alone,  
 On him who buys it for another's use:—  
 These ten shall be accursed,' Mohammed said.

Since I abandoned alcohol in surgery I have not had a bad, prolonged, or fatal case of shock. In this very condition, a few years ago, it was considered the remedy 'par excellence.' Now, in a death from shock following a surgical operation, where alcohol has been liberally administered, I should consider it well to inquire whether the alcohol had not been instrumental in causing the death. I believe, as a rule, surgery will be more successful, by a large percentage, without the employment of alcohol.—Dr. Chas. D. Davis, Chicago.