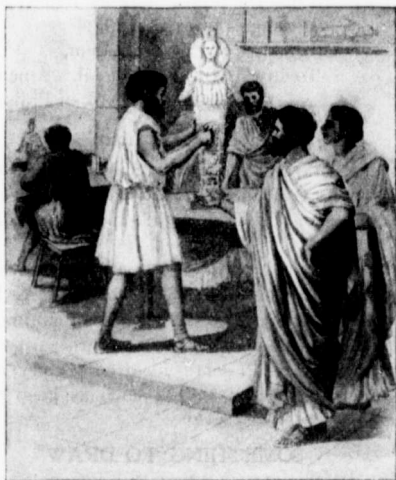


Lesson XI.

THE RIOT AT EPHESUS

March 15, 1903

Acts 19: 29-40. Study Acts 19: 21-41—Memory Verses, 29-31.

Golden Text—The Lord preserveth the faithful.—Ps. 31: 23.

29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gai'us and Aristarch'us, men of Mac'edo'nia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

30 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not.

31 And certain of the chief of A'sia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.

32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

33 And they drew Al'exan'der out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Al'exan'der beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people.

34 But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Dian'a of the Ephe'sians.

35 And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said Ye men of Eph'esus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephe'sians is a worshipper of the great goddess, Dian'a, and of the *image* which fell down from Ju'piter?

36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

38 Wherefore if Deme'trius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another.

39 But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly.

40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One of the things for which the city of Ephesus was famous was its great heathen temple, in which was the well-known image of the goddess Diana, which all the Ephe'sians believed had fallen down to them out of heaven.

Now, because the believers would no longer join in the great heathen festival which was held every year in the month of May in honor of this famous goddess, many of their heathen neighbors were displeased.

One man in particular who set himself to stir up trouble against the Christians was a silversmith called Demetrius, who made his living by selling small silver images of the goddess to travellers and visitors as they

passed through the city.

Seeing that his business was likely to be injured by the preaching of Paul, Demetrius called his fellow-workmen together, saying, "If this teaching is allowed to go on, we shall lose a great deal of money, for if people come to believe as Paul says, that there are no gods made with hands, then nobody will buy our images. Not only will we lose our business, but think of the dishonor there will be to the great goddess Diana, and of how the world will laugh."

At these words, the crowd set up a tremendous shout, "There is no god but Diana! Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" And in their fury against Paul the angry mob