



SCENE IN INDIA.

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OUR picture shows you one of the two-wheel carts of India. Not a very easy one to ride in nor very handsome. But still people ride in or on them. The sleepy-looking bullocks are probably as lazy as they look to be, for the repeated blows which they receive on their sides from their driver have become so frequent that they no longer care for them. No one walks in India if he can get a couple of wheels and a bullock to draw him. I presume that most of my readers would prefer walking to riding, if the vehicle in which they were to ride resembled this one; but in India, where the weather is so warm, any means by which exertion is lessened is considered not only right and proper but very acceptable.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

A. D. 30-37.] LESSON XII [Sept. 18.

REVIEW.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: The Golden Texts of the Quarter; or Acts 2, 1-4, 41-47.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone.—Eph. 2, 20.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The Church is founded on Jesus Christ, and refreshed by the Holy Spirit for every good word and work.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Who wrote the Book of the Acts? Why is it called Acts? Who wrote it?

SUBJECT. THE BIRTH OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

I. Preparations.—(Lesson 1.)

How did Christ die?  
How long did he remain buried?  
When did he rise again?  
To whom did he appear?  
For how long a time?  
From what place did he ascend?  
What did the disciples do after he had ascended?

II. The Beginning of the Church.—(Lesson 2.)

How many days did the disciples wait?  
What then took place?  
How many were converted at this time?

III. The Character of the Christians.—(Lessons 3, 6.)

What was required in order to be a Christian?  
How does repenting and believing make us better?  
What is said of the Christians as to benevo-

lence? Brotherly kindness? Prayer? Joy? Courage? their daily lives?

IV. The Works of the Christians.—(Lessons 3, 4, 5, 6, 10.)

What did they preach?  
What good deeds did they do?  
What meetings did they attend?  
Give an instance of their doing good.  
What did they do with their property?  
What did they suffer for Christ's sake?  
Which one prayed for his enemies?

V. Dangers from Within.—(Lessons 7, 10.)

What two persons pretended to be Christians and were not?  
What wrong did they do?  
How were they punished?  
What case of partiality in the Church?  
How was the dispute settled?  
Did they show a Christian spirit?

VI. Dangers from Without.—(Lessons 5, 6, 8, 9.)

Who were imprisoned?  
What for?  
Did it stop their preaching?  
How were they released at one time?  
Who was stoned because he preached the Gospel?  
What were his last words?  
What famous man was among his persecutors?

VII. Results.

How long had the Church been in existence?  
Ans. Six or seven years.  
Were there many converted?  
In what city were the most of them?  
Did their trials prevent the Church from growing?

IN CHINA.

It is said to be the custom in China to pay off all debts at the close of each year, so that every new year may be begun clear of debt. This is certainly a most excellent custom if one must be in debt. A better custom, where it is possible, is not to get into debt.

"Pay as you go" is a very good motto. Some one once suggested this to a young spendthrift, who thereupon asked, "But suppose a fellow can't pay?" "Then don't go," was the prompt and appropriate reply.

The Chinese seem to be more careful about money-matters than we are in this country. It is said that there has not been a bank failure in China for nine hundred years. During the reign of the Emperor Hi Flung an edict was issued that upon the failure of a bank the heads of the president, cashier, and directors should be struck off and piled up in a corner with the assets. The edict has never been repealed, and Chinese bank stock has continued to be above par and above reproach.

That is a very severe law. If it existed in this land and were enforced, there would be a good many large piles of heads lying around in some of our cities. But perhaps the existence of the law would save the banks and the heads of the bankers, and that would be the best for all concerned.

God's Way.

BY ARTHUR E. JOHNSON.

To us God's way seems strange;  
We can but see the step before,  
We stand upon the sea-girt shore;  
Our eyes have narrow range.

We cannot see the end,  
To God there is no dark or light,  
All things are open to his sight;  
No chords his arcs subtend.

For us there is a bound;  
To God there is no great or small;  
His power and knowledge compass all—  
A mighty deep profound.

We speak of place and time;  
God knows no time, nor there nor here,  
The boundless realms but ensphere  
One of his thoughts sublime.

We do not understand,  
With storms he clears the air below,  
He warms the earth with chilly snow,  
And walls the sea with sand.

So in the world of grave  
Comes greatest gain from direct loss;  
The crown comes only by the cross,  
The loser wins the race.

"The just by faith shall live,"  
Thus God would save the sinful soul,  
Thus God would make the wounded whole,  
And endless life would give.

Help thou mine unbelief!  
Although I may not understand,  
Yet I may grasp thy proffered hand,  
And walk in trusting faith.

HEARTBEATS.

DR. B. W. RICHARDSON, of London, the noted physician, says he was recently able to convey a considerable amount of conviction to an intelligent scholar by a simple experiment. The scholar was singing the praises of the "ruddy bumper," and saying he could not get through the day without it, when Dr. Richardson said to him, "Will you be good enough to feel my pulse as I stand here?" He did so. I said, "Count it carefully. What does it say?" "Your pulse says seventy-four." I then sat down in a chair, and asked him to count it again. He did so, and said, "Your pulse has gone down to seventy." I then lay down on a lounge, and said, "Will you take it again?" He replied, "It is only sixty-four! What an extraordinary thing!" I then said, "When you lie down at night, that is the way nature gives your heart rest. You know nothing about it, but that beating organ is resting to that extent; and if you reckon it up it is a great deal of rest, because in lying down the heart is doing ten strokes less a minute. Multiply that by sixty and it is 600; multiply it by eight hours, and within a fraction it is 5,000 strokes different; and as the heart is throwing six ounces of blood at every stroke, it makes a difference of 30,000 ounces of life during the night. When I lie down at night without any alcohol, that is the rest my heart gets. But when you take your wine or grog you do not allow that rest, for the influence of alcohol is to increase the number of strokes, and instead of getting this rest you put on something like 15,000 extra strokes. The result is, you rise up very sooty and unfit for the next day's work till you have taken a little more of the 'ruddy bumper,' which you say is the soul of man below."—*The Scientific American*.

STILL A CHRISTIAN.

It is said that at an evening party some fifty years ago, after the ladies had withdrawn, according to English custom, the conversation among the gentlemen became very dishonouring to Christ. One guest alone remained silent. Jest and witticism continued. Presently he ordered his carriage, and rising to go, apologized to the company for his early withdrawal by remarking that he was "still a Christian"

The gentleman who thus rebuked the profane levity of the company was no other than the famous Sir Robert Peel, at that time prime minister of England.

There are places and associations where a Christian cannot afford to stay. No place where the name of Jesus is spoken in irreverence or profanity should be able to hold the presence of any one professing love for Christ. No true-hearted lad or young miss would remain for a moment where their father or mother was disrespectfully spoken of. So they should withdraw themselves from every company where the name of Jesus is irreverently spoken.

The mention of Sir Robert Peel recalls an interesting feature of his home training. His father took him regularly to service at church, and from the time he was five years old he required him, in his own private room, to repeat to him as much as he could remember of the sermon the minister preached. At first he had him stand on a chair, and would say to him, "Robin, I will give you a cherry if you will tell me what the minister said." As the years grew, the lad became able to repeat almost the entire sermon. And in this way he acquired his power of retaining the arguments of an adversary in the order in which they were given, and repeating them for ans or almost in the very language in which they were stated, thereby gaining that wonderful ascendancy in parliament which made him at the same time the most honoured and the most dreaded of its members.

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