

declared that Jesus had already brought in.

Vs. 9, 10. *Some were hardened* (Rev. Ver.); like ground dry and baked by long drought. *Disobedient* (Rev. Ver.); refusing to accept the truth and yield their lives to it. *Spoke evil*. Unwilling to accept the teaching, they tried to make it appear bad, that it might not disturb their consciences. *Of the Way* (Rev. Ver.); a common name for the Christian religion (ch. 9 : 2, Rev. Ver.). *Departed from them*; gave up his synagogue preaching. *Separated the disciples*; formed a Christian congregation apart from the synagogue. *Disputing daily*; after the day's toil was over. Working hours began with sunrise and continued till one hour before noon. What others gave to leisure, Paul devoted to preaching the gospel, 1 Thess. 2 : 9. *School of one Tyrannus*; whether the lecture hall of a Greek philosopher (see *Light from the East*), or a Jewish school, we cannot tell. *Two years*; reckoned, with the three months of v. 8 and the time in v. 21, as three years, ch. 20 : 31. *All in Asia heard*. The entire province was evangelized. The seven churches of Rev. 1 : 11 were now founded.

Vs. 11, 12. *God wrought special miracles*; literally, "powers"; confirmations of Paul's message. It is God who works, Paul is the instrument. *Aprons*; "wrappers of colored cotton . . . in shape and size resembling a bath towel . . . worn . . . by grocers, bakers, carpenters, and craftsmen generally, as a protection to their clothes from dust and stains." *Diseases departed . . . evil spirits went out*. The people showed their faith in God, by thus bringing "handkerchiefs" and "aprons" to be touched by His servant's body, and God honored their faith by healing them. (Compare Matt. 9 : 20, 21.)

## II. Pretenders Exposed, 13-16.

V. 13. *Strolling Jews* (Rev. Ver.); wanderers from place to place. *Exorcists*; men who claimed to be able to expel evil spirits by the use of some potent charm or spell. *I adjure you by Jesus* (Rev. Ver.). It was a common thing with these Jewish exorcists to use the name Jehovah as a charm, and seeing Paul's miracles, they used the name of Jesus instead. Ephesus was a centre of magical arts.

Vs. 14-16. *Seven sons of one Sceva . . . chief of the priests*; possibly the head of one of the

twenty-four courses of the Levitical priesthood, 1 Chron., ch. 24. *The evil spirit*; the one which they were trying to drive out. *Jesus I know*; recognize Him as having power over evil spirits. *Paul I know*; as a servant of Jesus, through whom He manifests His power. *Who are ye?* No followers of Jesus, but mere pretenders, using His name. Then *the man*, impelled by *the evil spirit*, fiercely set upon them and drove them out of the house with torn garments and wounded bodies.

## III. Magic Given Up, 17-20.

Vs. 17-20. *Fear*; reverence for the name of the Lord Jesus, which the sons of Sceva had treated so irreverently, and for doing so had suffered so severely. *Magnified*; honored as having real power. *Many that had believed* (Rev. Ver.) . . . *confessed*; made a clean breast of their practices connected with witchcraft and sorcery, convinced now that these were sinful. *Shewed their deeds*; explained the tricks of their evil arts, that no one henceforth might be deceived by these. *Books . . . burned*; which contained their spells and charms. *Price . . . fifty thousand pieces of silver*; equal in purchasing power to \$50,000 of our money.

Paul now planned to visit the churches in Macedonia, namely Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea, and of Achaia, the Roman province of which Corinth was the capital. He purposed afterwards to go to Jerusalem and then to Rome. Timothy and Erastus were sent in advance to Macedonia, while Paul remained some time longer in Ephesus, vs. 21, 22.

## Light from the East

SCHOOL.—In Greek cities all schools were private enterprises, and the government supervised the moral character of the teacher, but not his scientific qualifications. Grammar, which included reading, writing and arithmetic, was the first stage. The pupils formed letters on wax tablets with a metal or ivory pencil, which was pointed at one end and flattened at the other for smoothing down the surface of the tablet to erase the writing. Paper made from papyrus was also used, and for important documents prepared parchment, on which the writing was with