

The words of sharp reproof uttered by Peter evidently made a deep impression on Simon's mind; when he humbly asked Peter to pray for him, and that none of these things spoken might come upon him. But here he disappears from Sacred Scripture.

(16.) SAUL'S CONVERSION; Acts 9: 1-8,

Marks an epoch in the history of the Infant Church. Saul, from a bitter foe, becomes the most powerful defender of the Christian faith, and its most successful Missionary. Not one of all the Apostles made such a deep and lasting impression as he.

The first mention made of him was in connection with the death of Stephen (ch. 7: 58.) He was of Jewish parentage, but born in a Gentile city called Tarsus, in the province of Cilicia, in Asia Minor. He was therefore a Roman citizen, and thus "free-born." (See in Acts 16: 37, 38; and 22: 25-28.) Saul was educated at Jerusalem, was a pupil of Gamaliel's, (22: 3), was highly educated in the learning of that day, and had very extensive knowledge in Hebrew, Greek and Latin.

With such talents, natural and acquired, he was a leading persecutor of the early Christians, (8: 1, 3). He obtained from the High Priest, about a year after Stephen's death, letters to go to Damascus to extend persecutions against Christians in that city, which was one of the most ancient in the world. See Genesis 14: 15. It was once the metropolis of all Syria, and was about fifty miles east of the Mediterranean Sea, with lofty mountains intervening. It contains even now 100,000 inhabitants, and is famous for its silks and linens, (known first by the name of Damasks), and also for its Damascene swords or blades, so tempered as to be twisted round the hand like a cord.

While Saul journeyed and came near to Damascus, he was most singularly arrested, for suddenly there shone round about him a light from heaven. He fell to the earth, and, hearing an accusing voice, he said, "Who art thou, Lord?" The immediate answer was, "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest." He then, trembling and astonished, cried, "LORD, what wilt thou have me to do?" He was told to proceed to the city and he would be instructed. He was led by the hand (being quite blinded by the vision), with the men that accompanied him, into Damascus.

Saul must have been on foot, although we have seen paintings and engravings of this miraculous event, even in Bibles, representing him and his companions on horseback. Poets, painters and engravers sometimes give wide

scope to their imagination. They are not generally to be relied on as correct theologians.

Saul received this as a heavenly call, and manifested complete submission. His surrender was the turning-point of his life. He, the most unlikely subject of grace, became a truly zealous and earnest Christian. Thus Saul, the chief of sinners, became the chiefest of the Apostles, after he had received his sight, was baptized, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

C. Y.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

(FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES.)

- W were the well-trained men whose business was to fight;  
 'X beheaded John the Baptist, it may be with rude delight;  
 Y was broken from our neck, to make us free and yet upright;  
 Z had sons that followed Jesus, serving Him with all their might;  
 A was Ancestor of Saul, and was a mighty man of power;  
 B was built of brick and slime into a very lofty tower.

ANSWERS FOR AUGUST.—K, Kirjath-Sepher; L, Lapidoth; M, Mary Magdalah; N, Naaman; O, Obil; P, Paul.

*Blessed are they that endure faithfully to the end!*

REMINISCENCES OF A LONG LIFE.

BY JOHN MCKAY, ESQ., NEW GLASGOW.

(Continued.)

**S**IXTY years have effected marvellous changes! The whole face of the country is changed. In place of the four log Churches, there are now over forty! each of which will accommodate from 500 to 900 sitters, on an average. I can count nine Churches from the window of my room; none of them more than two miles distant. The old canoes are replaced by a steamer which runs twice a day between New Glasgow and Pictou. In place of the mails coming monthly in a bag on a man's back, we have our mails delivered twice a day from Halifax. The travelling, which then took three days between the two places, is now performed in four or five hours; and the one saddle of Donald McLennan is succeeded by hundreds of four-wheeled carriages, each of which may