

SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1870 by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday School Union.)

CONNECTED HISTORY.—The success of the apostles and the rapid growth of the early Christian Church aroused the envy of the Jews, and they arrested and cast the apostles into prison.

LESSON X.

THE APOSTLES IN PRISON. (30 to 33A, D) READ ACTS V, 12-26. REV. VER. 19, 20.

GOLDEN TEXT.—If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf. 1 Peter iv, 16.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The world hates Christ's disciples.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts v, 12-26. 7.—Rom. xv 17-18. W.—John xiv, 12-29. 7A.—Luke xxi, 5-24. F.—Acts xiii 1-19. Sa.—Matt. x 16-30. S.—Ps. lxxxviii 1-8.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Notice that the apostles were commanded to go into the temple and speak, though that seemed to be running into danger. It is wise to brave danger when God directs us, but not otherwise.

NOTES.—Solomon's Porch (see Lesson V) Sadducees, one of the leading religious sects or parties among the Jews, when or how formed is not certainly known. They denied the existence of angels and spirits, and there was no resurrection, did not regard tradition nor unwritten laws as any guide in religion; held to the absolute or complete freedom of man's will; were not as numerous as the opposite party of Pharisees, but were found in the highest councils of the Jews in the time of Christ. After the first century they disappear from history. Scarcely.—Probably the elders, including, perhaps, some who were not members of the Sanhedrim. (Aford.)

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I) APOSTLES WORKING MIRACLES. (II) APOSTLES IN PRISON. (III) APOSTLES DELIVERED.

I. APOSTLES WORKING MIRACLES. (12.) signs... wonders. (see Acts iv, 30); all—that is, "all the apostles, not all Christians" (Aford). (13.) the rest, all besides the apostles, or all besides true believers. John them, make himself equal to the apostles (Aford), or more probably, no one pretended disciples, hypocrites like Ananias and Sapphira, dare join them; mutilated, praised, honored them. (15.) inasmuch, the power and popularity of the apostles was so great that (see v, 12), overshadow, people thought Peter's shadow would cure the sick (16.) vexed, tormented, afflicted (Mark xvi, 17). healed every one, wonderful power!

I. Questions.—What were wrought by the apostles? Where were they? Describe Solomon's Porch. Who dared not join them? Who praised them? What is said of the increase of the Church? v 14. How did the people show their anxiety to have the sick healed? How did they show their confidence in the apostles' power? What classes of sick people were brought for healing? With what success?

II. APOSTLES IN PRISON. (17.) high priest, Annas (chap. iv, G), sect, the party; Sadducees, (see Notes), indignation, or "envy," "jealousy," (18.) laid hands, arrested them: common prison, public prison, prison for common criminals.

II. Questions.—Who were stirred up against the apostles? Why? What did they do with them? Why did they put them in prison? When had they threatened some of the apostles?

III. APOSTLES DELIVERED. (19.) brought them, deliverance from God (Acts xli 7; xvi 26); in the temple, the angel calls on them to act fearfully. (21.) early, literally, "at break of day," council, Sanhedrim—that is, the highest Jewish court; senate, some say the "Sanhedrim" of seventy, and two other courts of twenty-three each, making one hundred and sixteen in all. (25.) doubted, were troubled to know the result of this. (34.) then, or "And one came;" without violence, mildly by an invitation, or a request, perhaps, stoned, either condemned and stoned to death, or stoned as by a mob.

III. Questions.—Who delivered the apostles from prison? When? With what command? How was it obeyed? At what time of the day? Who were sent to find the apostles? By whom? Where? What did they find secure? Who were standing on guard? What did they find in the prison? What effect had this news on the council? How did they bear where the apostles were? How were they brought? Why so carefully? What does this lesson teach us in regard to boldness in Christian work?

Illustration.—Angel's help. Theodosius, an early Christian martyr, when put to extreme torment, saw a young man in white by him, who softly wiped off the sweat and bade him be of good cheer. When his tormentors took him from the rack the angel was gone.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—The apostles, delivered from prison by an angel, preach in the temple, and are brought before the Jewish council, defended by Gamaliel, beaten, and discharged.

LESSON XI

THE APOSTLES BEFORE THE COUNCIL (About 30 to 33A, D.) READ ACTS V, 27-42. REV. VER. 28, 1, 9, 41.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts v, 27-42. 1.—Dan. vi 4-28. W.—Isa. li, 6-21. 7A.—John xiv, 15-26. F.—Isa. xiv, 19-26. Sa.—Rom. v, 1-21. S.—1 Pet. iv, 7-19

GOLDEN TEXT.—If God be for us, who can be against us? (Rom. viii, 31)

CENTRAL TRUTH.—Christ is above all human authority.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Notice that the apostles in disobeying the council expected to suffer and therefore did not complain, but rather rejoiced in their shameful beating because it was for Christ's sake.

NOTES.—Gamaliel, A celebrated Jewish teacher, Paul was one of his pupils (Acts xxii 3), he gave prudent advice to the council in regard to the apostles, he is supposed to be the same as the Great Rabbi Gamaliel, grandson of the famous Hillel, he was president of the council under Tiberius, Claudius, Caligula. Christian tradition says he was baptized by Peter and Paul, but Jewish writers claim, probably correctly, that he died a Pharisee, eighteen years before the destruction of Jerusalem. Pharisee, The Pharisees were a leading Jewish sect or party, their origin is uncertain, they rose to great power, were the popular party in our Lord's day, they held to the traditions of the elders, resurrection, and a future life in opposition to the Sadducees but were very formal in their religion, and were severely reprobated by the Lord. Theudas, A man of this name pretended to be a prophet, caused an outbreak, and was put to death by the Romans, according to Josephus, ten or twelve years after Gamaliel's speech. Some say the noted Inaugural Matthias in the days of Herod the Great, is referred to, he was burnt alive, his Greek name was Theodotus or Theudas. Judas of Galilee, He declared it was unlawful to submit to foreign rulers, from him, it is supposed, came the Zealots of later times.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I) THE APOSTLES' PLEA. (II) GAMALIEL'S PLEA. (III) THE APOSTLES SET FREE.

I. THE APOSTLES' PLEA. (28) bravely, strictly; doctrine, teaching, this man's, they hated to say "Jesus," (30.) our fathers (Acts iii, 13) on a tree, mild word for "cross," (31.) prince (Heb. xii, 2), give repentance, Luke xxiv, 47. (32) and... Holy Ghost, gift of the Spirit was a witness for Christ.

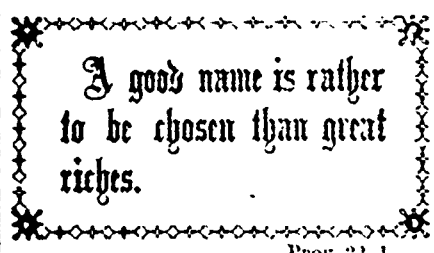
I. Questions.—How were the apostles accused before the council? What was said to be their object? What was the chief point in their plea? v. 29. Of what sin did they charge the council? What had Jesus provided for Israel? What witnesses were there of these things?

II. GAMALIEL'S PLEA. (33) eat or "sawn saunter," (34) Gamaliel (see Notes); had in reputation, highly respected, put... forth, put the apostles out of the council-room. (36.) Theudas (see Notes), (37) dispersed, scattered, (38.) refrain, stop opposing them. (39.) haply, by chance, perhaps.

II. Questions.—What effect had the apostles' plea on the council? Who rose to quiet the council? What order did he give? v. 34. With caution? State the two facts he gave to enforce his counsel. What was his final advice? Why? Why should they have known where her these words were of God or not?

III. THE APOSTLES SET FREE. (40) called the apostles, into the council room again, beaten, by whipping, Matt. x, 17. (41) counted worthy, disapproved by men for the glory of God. (42.) daily, preaching and teaching every day, not on Sabbaths only.

III. Questions.—With what punishment and order were the apostles set free? In what did they rejoice? In what did they engage? Why did they not obey the council? What may we learn from the diligence of the apostles in teaching Christ?



— We desire it to be understood that we cannot accept any contributions sent in to the Messenger as the space is already fully occupied.

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The following are the prices for the publications included in the competition and the commissions allowed to competitors:

Table with columns: Publication Name, Subscription Price, Post Paid, Deduction on Remittances for new subscribers. Includes DAILY WITNESS, TRI-WEEKLY, WEEKLY, NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, NORTHERN MESSENGER, NORTHERN MESSENGER Club of 10, WEEKLY WITNESS, and NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.

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II. We want this year to introduce the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY every where, and will give an additional prize of \$15 to the person who sends us the largest amount in subscriptions to this magazine during the time above stated, whether they compete for the other prizes or not. All the subscriptions for this prize count in the other as well.

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