

large eye was generally painted on each side of an ancient vessel's prow. **We let her drive.** "Giving way, we were driven." They were driven in a south-westerly direction, past the little island of Claudia.

16. Running under. Under the lee of the island, in order to be protected by it from the gale. **Claudia.** A small island, twenty miles from Crete, now called *Gozo*. **We had much work.** Rev. Ver., "we were able, with difficulty, to secure the boat;" which up to this time had been trailing behind the larger vessel. From the storm it was doubtless filled with water, and hard to manage, so that passengers lent their aid to secure it.

17. They used helps. Ancient ships were less firmly built than moderns, and hence more liable to strain and foundry. It was customary to wind cables around them in stormy weather, to keep the planks from starting, and this is the process here mentioned. **Fall into the quicksands.** Rev. Ver., "the Syrtis;" a well-known shoal on the African coast, toward which the wind was now driving them. **Strike sail.** Rather, as in Rev. Ver., "lowered the gear." They did not furl the sail, but lowered it with the cordage, which when raised would make the ship top-heavy. **So were driven.** With lowered topsails, and creaking timbers, and a leaking vessel, the hurricane bore them onward, apparently toward the shoals, where they must inevitably be wrecked. (4) *God sometimes uses strange ways to carry out his purposes.*

18, 19. Exceedingly tossed. One fact, though not named, was undoubtedly the cause of the measures taken; the ship was leaking badly. **Lightened the ship.** By throwing overboard all bulky articles not absolutely necessary. **The third day.** As the ship was letting in more and more water. **With our own hands.** The prisoners, passengers, and Luke himself assisting. **The tacking.** Either the heavy spars and yards, or (as the margin,) "the furniture," would imply the beds, tables, chests, and movable articles generally.

20. Neither sun nor stars. The ancients had no compass, and hence were dependent on the heavenly bodies for guidance in sailing. **In many days.** Perhaps during all the fourteen days between the setting sail from Crete and the stranding at Malta. **All hope taken away.** As they saw the leaks gaining, the vessel more and more unmanageable, and slowly sinking, and the storm still raging around them. (5) *We are brought into helplessness that we may trust God the more fully.* (6) *While all is dark, one star yet shines for the believer.*

HOME READINGS.

- M.* Paul's voyage. Acts 27. 1, 2, 14-26.
Tu. Paul foresees danger. Acts 27. 8-13.
W. The angel's charge. Mark 16. 1-13.
Th. The manner of resurrection. 1 Cor. 15. 39-58.
F. Relief in the resurrection. Job 19. 21-29.
S. The resurrection necessary. Luke 24. 36-53.
S. The resurrection foretold. Psa. 16. 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Acts 27. 25.

LESSON HYMNS.

No. 11, Dominion Hymnal.

Jesus! the Name high over all,
 In hell, or earth, or sky; etc.

No. 256, Dominion Hymnal.

He leadeth me! oh! blessed thought,
 Oh! words with heavenly comfort fraught; etc.

No. 119, Dominion Hymnal.

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
 Pilgrim through this barren land; etc.

TIME.—A. D. 60, beginning near the close of the summer.

PLACES.—Cæsarea, the Roman capital of Palestine; the Mediterranean Sea, near the islands of Crete and Claudia. (See Descriptive Index.)

RULERS.—Nero, Emperor of Rome; Porcius Festus, Procurator of Palestine; Agrippa II., King of

21. Long abstinence. In the crowded vessel no fire could be lit, and no food cooked, and in momentary fear of death no one desired food. **Paul stood forth.** He was calm, for he had received a promise from on high that both himself and all on board would be saved. There is something emphatic in the expression "stood forth," as if to mark that Paul came to the front as the true commander in the crisis. **He should have hearkened.** This was not to boast over his own foresight, but to give weight to his present counsel. **Not have tossed from Crete.** This advice he had proffered in verse 10. (7) *He who lives in fellowship with God learns the will of God.*

22. Be of good cheer. Counsel not easy to follow in a foundering ship and a foaming sea, but the confident tone and peaceful face of the apostle were their own warrant. **No loss of any man's life.** A bold prediction to hazard under such perilous surroundings. **But of the ship.** Paul had not received a complete revelation, but three facts were clear to him: the safety of the voyagers, the loss of the ship, and the casting upon an island.

23. There stood by me. This was a vision, such as had been vouchsafed to Paul several times in his history. **The angel of the Lord.** Rev. Ver., "an angel." The book of Acts is full of angelic ministrations. **God, whose I am, and whom I serve.** A fearless confession, which shows a disciple never ashamed to own his Lord. (8) *There are spiritual beings of whose existence the Scriptures are the only witnesses.* (9) *The children of God have invisible servants and ministers around them.* (10) *We should be ready before all men to proclaim our loyalty to God.*

24. Fear not. It would be instructive to search in the Acts for all the occasions when this heavenly "Fear not" was spoken. **Must be brought before Cæsar.** The appearance before the emperor, which others on board were dreading, this man, conscious of integrity, looked forward to with joyful expectation. **God hath given thee.** In answer to his prayer, for the generous heart of Paul made the troubles of others his own, even though they were cruel soldiers and selfish sailors. (11) *It is the saints in the world which keep it in safety.*

25, 26. I believe God. Just in proportion to faith is the measure of a man's cheer in trying circumstances. Paul could be peaceful in the storm, and rejoicing in the prison. **A certain island.** He knew not what island, nor where located, for the assurance did not give particular revelation, because it was not needful.

Bashan; Corbulo, Prefect of Syria; Ishmael, high-priest of the Jews.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The ministry of angels.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

- 1. A Voyage, v. 1, 2.**
 Where did Festus decide to send Paul?
 To whose care was he intrusted?
 What route did they expect to take?
- 2. A Storm, v. 14-20.**
 What happened to the ship?
 What did the sailors do?
 Near what island did they come?
 What was their condition?
 What was done the next, and third day?
 To what condition were they brought?
- 3. A Vision, v. 21-25.**
 Who now addressed the ship's company?
 For what did he chide them?
 To what did he exhort them?
 What had been granted Paul?
 What promise had the angel made?
 How was Paul's faith?

Practical Teachings.

How does this lesson illustrate—

1. The uncertainty of our way?
2. The deceptiveness of appearances?
3. The advantage of faith in God?