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Publisher, Toronto.

C. W. COATES, S. F. HUESTIS,  
2176 St. Catherine St., Meth. Book Room,  
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## Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1897.

## St. Paul and His Kinsmen.

BY THE REV. E. R. YOUNG.

The change of Saul's name to Paul is interesting, and some Roman inscriptions lately discovered help to the solution of the matter.

In Acts 13. 7, we have a reference to Sergius Paulus, who was the Roman proconsul of Cyprus, up to the year 45 A.D. When Saul and Barnabas visited that island, they were sent for by Sergius Paulus, who desired to hear the Word of God.

It was during that visit we read the words: "Then Saul, who also is called Paul."

Paulus Aemilius, in his high position as a Roman proconsul, seems to have had in his service, or employ, Saulus, the father of the great apostle. When the Romans granted to Tarsus the freedom of the city, Saulus, the elder, either by purchase or for some favour, seems to have obtained from the great Roman family permission to take the Roman name, which was ever considered a

great honour. Hence he would be known as Paulus, and his son, born we know not how long after, would be called Saulus Paulus. In those days a man was known by his first name; the result is the apostle is first made known to us by his name which we call Saul. So jealously did those ancient Roman families guard their names, that Saul, without permission, could not use it. But we read that during his visit to Cyprus, he met the great Roman deputy, who was now the head of the family, and who, in spite of the efforts of Elymas, the sorcerer, to turn him from the faith, "desired to hear the Word of the Lord," and "believed." Naturally his sympathies went out to this man who had been made a blessing to him spiritually, and doubtless finding out that to his father had been given the privilege of using the great Roman name, he gladly granted the same honour to the son, and so he who went to Cyprus as Saul, returns with the name by which he is ever after known. And Paul, which literally means the "worker," is much more appropriate to him now than Saul, which means the "destroyer."

Interesting memorials of this same Sergius Paulus, the founder of the family of Paul, have recently been unearthed in Rome. An ancient cippus, or boundary-stone, of the time of Claudius, dug up in 1887, tells us that on his return from his proconsulship in Cyprus, he was appointed one of the conservators of the Tiber, 47 A.D.

Another item of great interest is that Paul's mother was doubtless of this great household, and that after the death of her first husband, the father of Paul, she came to Rome when the proconsul with his semi-regal household returned, at the close of his consulship, which ended 45 A.D.

In Rome she married a citizen by the name of Pudentius. They had a son, whom they called Rufus, who afterwards became a Roman senator. Paul did not forget his mother and his half-brother, and so we hear him in his letter to the church at Rome, chapter 16. 13, saying: "Salute Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine."

The full name of this half brother of Paul was Aulus Rufus Pudens. Paul, in his letter, does not mention the name of Sergius Paulus, and so we can only infer that the head of the great Aemilian family was dead. Rufus is also afterwards called by his family name of Pudens. Paul had other relatives in