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BEREAN NOTES. A. D. 38. LESSON VIII. DORCAS RES-TORED TO LIFE. Nov. 19.

NOVEMBER 4, 1876,

Home READINGS. MONDAY-The Lesson. Acts 9. 31-43. TUESDAY - The Lame Man Healed. Acts 3 1.16.

WEDNESDAY-The Excellent Woman. Prov. 31. 10.31. THURSDAY-Believing and doing. Jas.

FRIDAY-Blessing on the Benevolent. Psa. 112. 1-10. SATURDAY-The Brevity of Life. Psa-

SUNDAY-Praise for Restoration. Psa. TOPIC :- New Proofs of Gospel Power.

GOLDEN TEXT:-The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. Psa.

Acts 2, 22.

BEREAN NOTES.

31. THEN-Therefore; because of the conversion of Saul the persecution ceased, having lost its chief, and the Church was left free to pursue its work. Caligula's attempt to set up his image in the temple gave the Jews enough to attend to. CHURCHES-Rather, church. Each separate body of believers had its own organization, but it was not an independent republic. The several churches were united in one organic body, the church. REST-Peace, freedom from disturbance and trouble. EDIFIED - Built up, like a house, growing in grace and strength. WALKING-Conduct was governed by the fear of the Lord Jesus, a reverence for him and his will, as its rule. COMFORT-The Holy Spirit is the promised Comforter. His power was with the church, and it grew. There is no true growth without

32. Peter Passed - Probably after Saul's departure for Tarsus. The apostles still resided at Jerusalem, but went out from time to time visiting and superintending the churches. Peter on one of these tours came to Lydda, a large village nine miles south-east from Joppa, and thirty-one from Jerusalem, now called Lydd. SAINTS-A church then was there.

33. ENEAS-A bed-ridden paralytic of eight years' standing, with no use of his dimbs. He is not called a disciple, and

brobably was not. 34. MALETH..... WHOLE - Jesus, Mesiah, healeth thee, are his words: Not ha healed but is healing. This is a declaration that Jesus is the true Messiah, the proof of which is in the palsied man's new vigor. ARISE-To show the cure. MAKE THY BED-Spread (thy bed) for thyself, that is, without help. The bed was simply a mat or blanket. Comp. Matt. 9. 28. And be AROSE IMMEDIATELY : the cure was perfect. Peter could not do this work : Jesus did. No more could Peter forgive sins and heal a sinful soul : Jesus can. And they whom he heals must arise and use their strength in doing his will.

35. SARON—Sharon, the plain near by Lydda. The news of the miracle spread. Eneas seems to have been well known in the locality. After the healing, all the inhabitants saw him, and knew its completeness. They reasoned that the Jesus who could do such a work must be the Messiah. and, acting promptly on their belief, as honest men should do, they turned to him as their Lord. Seldom, indeed, does so sweeping a work of grace

36. JOPPA-The next scene is at Joppa, an ancient Philistine city (Josh. 19, 49,) on the Mediterranean, the sea-port town of Jerusalem. Thither came from Lebanon materials for the temple, 2 Chron. 2. 16; and from it Jonah sailed, Jonah 1, 3. It is new called Yafa, or Jaffa. Here also were disciples, among whom was a woman named TABITHA, in Hebrew, which is DORCAS in Greek. The word means a gazelle. Because of the animal's beauty, parents sometimes gave its name to their daughters. This woman may not have been beautiful in form or feature, but she certainly was in character. Good WORKS-Some of them are specified in verse 39. ALMSDEEDS-Gifts of money to the poor. Of these she was full ; heart and hand were both employed in them. Splendid fruits of true discipleship and of the love that Jesus inspires. Matt. 7, 16.20.

37. DIED-It is easy for such disciples to die, and blessed is their reward; but

the church can illy spare them. 35. DISCIPLES SENT—They were all mourners. There is no evidence that they dreamed of Peter's restoring her life; but he was their apostle, and not far away, and they wanted in their grief such words of consolation as he could speak. The simple presence and prayers of a devoted, loving minister are often very precious to those in affliction. These people did not wait for Peter to find out their trouble in the best way he could, and then complain because he did not come; but they sent

should and will go. WIDOWS-Who had been relieved and clothed by her. There were doubtless many of this class, male such by the wars of the times. They wept in their sorrow as they talked of her and showed Peter the clothing which she in her love had made for them. COATS-The inner garment, worn next to the body. GARMENTS-The mantle, or outer

40. ALL FORTH-Peter was greatly moved by what he saw and heard. He felt that she was needed still, and resolved to ask the Lord's will. He sent them all from the room, as Jesus had done in the case of Jairus.s daughter, Matt. 9, 25, and perhaps also he would be without the presence of the curious, and then, alone, kneeled down, and prayed. We may suppose his prayer to have been, first, to know the Lord's will in the matter, and, DOCTRINE: — Christianity abundantly second, for the power of the Holy Spirit attested. John 3, 2; 9, 16, 33; 20, 30, 31; to enable him to speak with authority And he prayed until the answer came to his soul. He then arose, and looking upon the dead body, in full faith in Jesus, simply said, TABITHA, ARISE. The soul came back from the heavenly world, and she, first, opened her eyes, and then sat up

41. LIFTED-It was not a recovery from a swoon. She had been sick, and grown weaker and weaker until the end. And now she not only sat up, but, taking Peter's hand, was lifted up to her feet. Perfect health was suddenly given as well as life. Great must have been the joy of those sorrowing saints and weeping widows when the door was opened and they saw their dead alive and well.

42. Known-Such a marvel could not be kept still had they tried. The story went like wildfire, and all Joppa knew its truth. What was the effect? Nobody believed in Peter as its source, for he ascribed the power to his Lord; and, as when Jesus raised Lazarus many believed and found salvatiou. Jesus raised to life their dead souls, as he had Tabitha's dead body. John 5. 25. And this he does now.

43. TARRIED-He stayed to watch over and carry forward the gracious work so gloriously begun. So the Gospel spread. SIMON-We shall hear of him again.

LESSONS. 1. Raising the dead was Jesus' most wonderful miracle; and here the ascended Lord does the same works as he did when on earth. They proved him Lord. We do not need their continuance now, for we know him to be Lord. The proofs of Christianity that are always wanted are forgiveness of sins, purified souls, loving hearts, holy lives, helpful hands, happy deaths, a living church, a converted world. Heb. 2, 4; John 11, 47, 48: 17. 21. 23: Isa. 49, 6; Luke 7. 49 Matt. 7, 20; John 7, 17. 2. Paralytic souls and souls dead in sin have a mighty Saviour, who is ready to save them if they will hear the voice of his ministers and his Spirit. John 5, 25; 16, 8, 9: Rom. 1, 16 Cor. 1, 18; Eph. 5, 14.

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When we are young our boys are sweet, Then climb our knees and lie at our feet When we are old they are hard to please, Cold as the rock and wild as the breeze: They kiss us kindly and speak us fair, But we know their hearts are otherwhere Oh. my son's my son till he gets him a

But my daughter's my daughter all

When we are young our day's are bright And full of hope from morn till night; When we are old we sit alone, And think of pleasant days long gone, When the house is full of the children's

The willful girls and the naughty boys. Oh, my son's my son till he gets him a

But my daughter's my daughter all her life.

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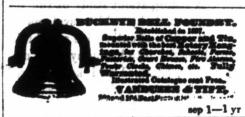
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