

(Acts 24: 26.) How did he rescue Paul? How was Paul bound? What questions did Lysias ask? What answer did he get? Where did he take Paul? What did the mob now do? Up what stairs was Paul carried?

II. PERSECUTION SPREADING THE GOSPEL (vs. 27: 40).—What favor did Paul ask of Lysias? In what language? Whom had the chief captain supposed Paul to be? What can you tell about this Egyptian? What was Paul's description of himself? Was permission granted Paul to speak? What language did he use? Why? Who were Paul's audience? Could he, except thus guarded by the Romans, have preached the Gospel to these Jews? What promise was here fulfilled? (Rom. 8: 24.) Which of the Beatitudes did he now enjoy? Did this suffering make him love Jesus more? Do we ever suffer for Jesus' sake.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- I. Many good persons are slandered by imputing to them our own impressions and inferences from what they do.
II. The world notices the company we keep.
III. The Lord enables his people to be calm even in a stormy mob.
IV. Envy, hatred, persecution, call the attention of the world to the truth.
V. Blessed are they that are persecuted for Christ's sake.

LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 15.

PAUL'S DEFENCE.—ACTS 22: 1-21.

COMMIT VERSES 12-16.

GOLDEN TEXT

And I said, What shall I do, Lord?—Acts 22: 10.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Conversion to Christ is the great need of all men.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Acts 22: 1-21.
T. Acts 9: 1-18.
W. Gal. 1: 1-24.
Th. John 1: 1-18.
F. Rom. 9: 1-8.
Sa. Rom. 10: 1-21.
Su. 1 Tim. 1: 1-17.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

1. BRETHREN, FATHERS—these, and many others expressions, would tend to conciliate the Jews. 3. GAMALIEL—a most famous and strict Jewish teacher. 4. THIS WAY—the Gospel, the way of life. 5. THE HIGH PRIEST—Theophilus, still living when Paul spoke. 6. STATE OF THE ELDERS—the Sanhedrim, of which Paul was once a member. 6. A GREAT LIGHT—in which he saw Jesus himself (ch. 9: 7; 22: 14). 8. HEARD NOT THE VOICE—i.e., did not understand it as language, though they heard a sound (9: 7). 11. COULD NOT SEE—he was blind three days (9: 9). 14. THAT JUST ONE—Jesus. 16. WASH AWAY THY SINS—baptism was a sign of this cleansing. 18. AND I SAID—Paul here gives the reason why he wanted to remain here and preach to the Jews.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY—Where did we leave Paul in our last lesson? Give a brief account of the mob and its causes? What led him to make the address in this lesson? In what language did he speak? Why? What was its effect on the mob?

SUBJECT: PAUL'S CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE.

I. HIS LIFE PREVIOUS TO CONVERSION (vs. 1-6).—Where was Paul born? What do we know of his parents? (Acts 22: 28; Phil. 3: 5.) Where was Paul educated? What trade did he learn? What was Paul's character before conversion? Did it need changing? What was his great lack? (1 Cor. 13: 1-3.) How did he show his zeal? Who could bear witness to what he said?

II. HIS CONVERSION (vs. 6-16).—Where was Paul converted? How old was he at this time? How was he first convicted of sin? Whom did he see in this great light? (v. 14; ch. 9: 17.) How does seeing Jesus as he is, convict men of sin? What did Jesus ask Paul? What was his next step in his conversion? (v. 10.) Where was he sent for help? Why? How long was he blind? (9: 9.) What struggle probably took place at that time? What did Ananias do for him? What blessing came with this? (9: 17.) What motive was presented to Paul? (v. 15.) How did he confess Christ? What did his baptism signify? What more did Paul do? Note the various steps in Paul's conversion! What change did his conversion work in his life and character?

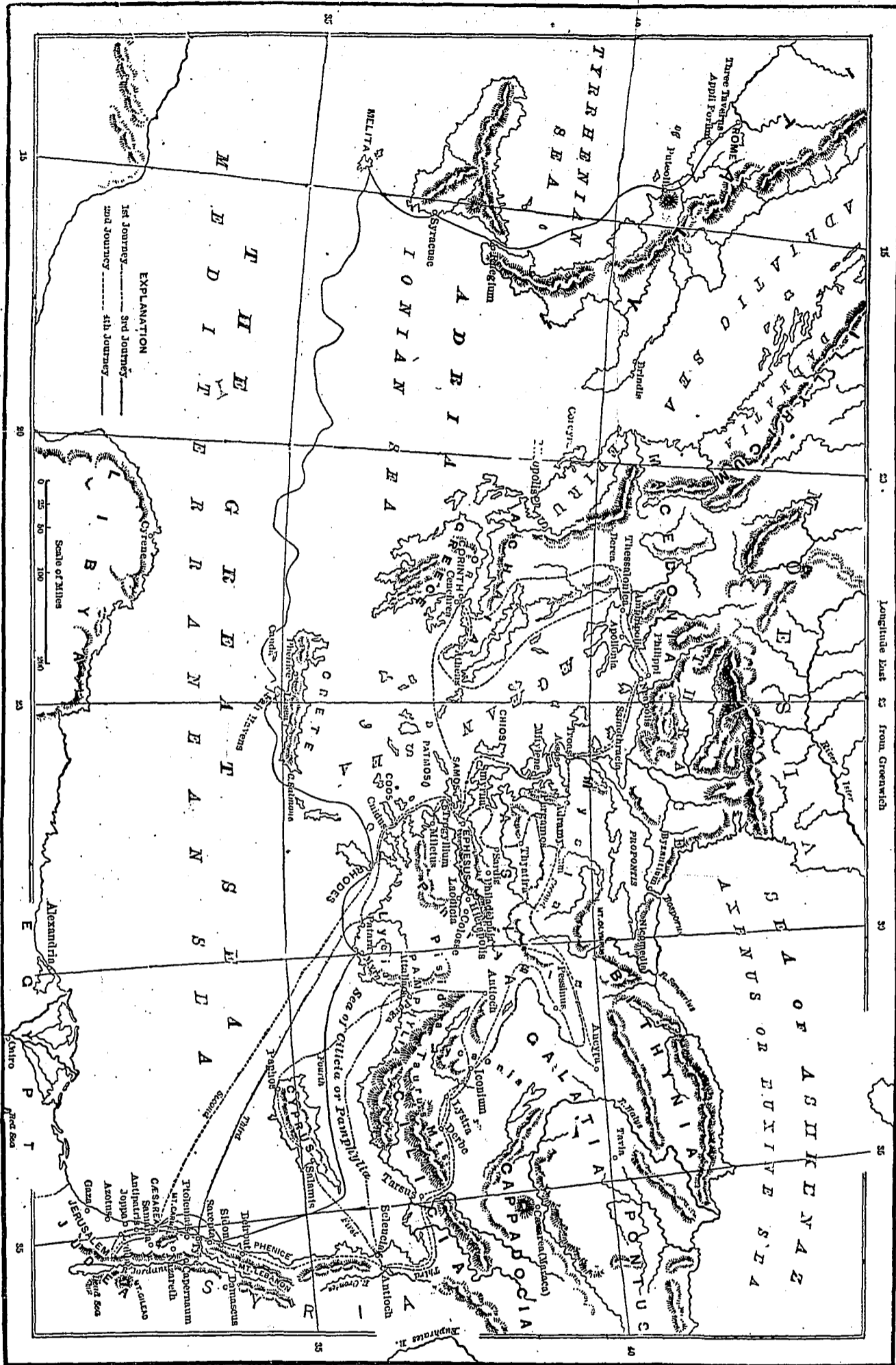
III. HIS LIFE WORK (vs. 17-21).—How long after his conversion did Paul go up to Jerusalem? (Gal. 1: 18.) Why? (Rom. 9: 1-3.) Who appeared to him then? In what place? What was to be Paul's life work? Was it a worthy and blessed work? What is your life work? How did Paul plead to remain and preach to his brethren?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- I. A Christian experience is the best argument against opposers.
II. If Paul needed conversion, we all need this change.
III. The greatest power for convicting men of sin is seeing Jesus as he is.
IV. God has some special work for each converted person to do.

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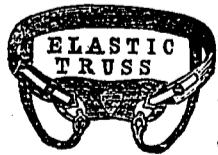
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