

# Notes on the Lessons.

## LESSON I—July 4th, 1897.

### First Converts in Europe. Acts 16: 6-15.

(Commit to memory verses 13-15. Read chapter 16: 35 to 16: 5).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The entrance of thy words giveth light." Ps. 119: 130.

PROVE THAT—God's Spirit directs his servants. Acts 16: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 82. *Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?* A. No mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word and deed.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 177, 172, 163, 165.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* First converts in Europe. Acts 16: 6-15. *Tuesday.* The journey referred to. 2 Cor. 2: 12-17. *Wednesday.* Letter to Philippi. Phil. 1: 1-11. *Thursday.* Fellow laborers. Phil. 4: 1-9. *Friday.* Desire for worship. Ps. 84. *Saturday.* Jesus at the well. John 4: 5-15. *Sabbath.* A heart opened. Luke 19: 1-10. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

### EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. Our last lesson in the Acts brought us to the close of an important epoch in the history of the church. Its first general council had been held and rules were framed for the guidance of gentile converts. A new era was beginning to dawn, one of development and growth. All that christian Europe has been to the world is a result of Paul's obedience to the heavenly vision at Troas. Read carefully chapter 15: 35-16: 15, and trace on the map this Second Journey as far as Troas. Time A. D. 52.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Divine Guidance. vs. 6-8. II. The Macedonian Call. vs. 9-12. III. The Opened Heart. vs. 13-15.

6. Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia. In the Apostles' time Phrygia was a general name for the whole of central Asia Minor. Galatia lay to the north-east of Phrygia, and to the churches founded at this time the *Epistle to the Galatians* was written (18. 23). Asia was a Roman province along the the western coast, and embraced Mysia, Lydia and Ca'ria. Almost every road that Paul crossed led to Ephesus, and he wished very much to go there, but in some way, we do not know how, the Holy Spirit intimated that the time for this had not yet come. As a faithful messenger he would go only where he was sent.

7. After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit (R. V. Spirit of Jesus), suffered them not. They "assayed," or proposed, and tried to turn back along the coast of the Black Sea, then a very rich and populous region. The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of Jesus," because sent forth by Him (Matt. 28: 19, 20).

8. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. It was necessary to pass through part of Mysia in order to reach Troas, but they did not stop to preach in it. Troas was about four miles from the site of the ancient Troy (II. Cor. 2: 12; II. Tim. 4: 13).

9. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia and help us. This was not a dream, but an apparition. Paul recognized the nationality by the speech or dress.

10. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go (R. V. sought to go forth) into Macedonia. Assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel to them. The use of "we" for the first time shows that the writer, Luke, now joins the company with Paul. God's way of leading us may perplex us, but if we will only wait patiently he will guide us whither he wishes us to go. They were eager to advance to the conquest of Europe for Christ, for, taking everything into consideration, they con-