

**OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS
AND TEACHERS.**

NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM THE S. S. LESSONS.

By REV. JOHN McEWEN, Secretary S.S. Association
of Canada.

[April 19] Paul going to Rome. (Acts xxviii. 1-15.)

According to the promise of the angel to Paul, the lives of all in the ship are given to him. All safe to shore,—none are lost. The central truth of this lesson should be clearly presented. "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord." Psalm xxxvii. 5, 23.

1. THE HOSPITALITY OF THE MALTESE. They were barbarian, in the sense that they did not speak Greek or Latin. The kindness of the human heart unites the race into one family. The presence of the exposed, drenched, cold, helpless travellers appealed to the islanders. They shared what they had, without thought of return. The father of Publius, the Governor, is ill, without hope of recovery. Paul, like Peter, went unto him. "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee." Acts iii. 6. Christ's parting promise is fulfilled to Paul. Mark xvi. 17. The kindness of the islanders is richly rewarded, so that to save the voyageurs is to save themselves.

2. GOD'S PROVIDENCE OPENING UP FOR THE JOURNEY TO ROME. The Alexandrian corn-ship takes them on their way. God keeps them and helps them under Pagan auspices, and the favouring breezes bring them safely on. He measures the waters in the hollow of His hand.

3. THE GRAVEFUL AND COURAGEOUS HERO. He thanked God for the way by which he had been led. He thanked God for the hopeful greeting of the Christians at Rome. He thanked God, that a long desired event had been now brought about. He thanked God for the privileges that lay before him.

[April 26.] Paul at Rome. [Acts xxviii. 16-31.]

As Athens was the centre of learning and human culture, so Rome was the seat of law and authority. It is twenty years since Paul went from Antioch on his first missionary journey, and about three years since he wrote his famous letter to Rome. All through these years Paul has had a desire to see Rome; and this wish is realized as a prisoner. "For the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain." While Paul had liberty to receive callers, the chain to the accompanying soldier prevented his doing work in the city.

Recount the prison at Philippi, at Jerusalem, at Caesarea, at Rome. In all these prisons he proclaims the Gospel.

1. PAUL'S POSITION EXPLAINED. vs. 17-20. Take the scholar over the stages of his arrest—and various defences—and notice Paul's clear rehearsal of the matter, and that his appeal to a heathen tribunal was wholly in defence of his rights, The preliminary meeting. v. 21. The special meeting. v. 23.

2. PAUL'S METHOD OF PRESENTING THE GOSPEL. It divided the people into believers and disbelievers. v. 24. The Old Testament Scriptures appealed to as the testimony of the Spirit. The strong assurance that the Gospel is to the Gentiles. v. 28. Two years of faithful work—In calling and speaking. v. 20. In expounding and testifying. v. 23. In persuading and preaching. v. 31. In writing. What? Epistles of Ephesians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Timothy.

[ORIGINAL.]

Daily Communion with Christ.

"KISS THE SON."—Psalm ii. 12.

HAVE your lips pressed the Saviour's to-day,
In a tender and loving embrace?
Have you felt the soft clasp of his hand,
And gazed in His glorious face?
Have you knelt at His crucified feet,
There His pardoning love to receive?
Have you asked Him for strength to o'ercome,
All the sins that His gentle heart grieve?

If to trial, temptation and care,
From your closet you trustingly go,
With lips warmed by communion with Christ,
And heart with His love all aglow,
Your words will be loving and kind,
Though tempted and tried you may be,
For Jesus will whisper to you,
"My grace is sufficient for thee."

Oh! then, *never* neglect the dear Lord,
Who alone can the victory give,
For you *surely* will fall into sin,
If a *moment* your side he should leave.
But if you are found at His feet
Daily, seeking his guidance and care,
Then "He *never* will leave nor forsake,"
Till in heaven His glory you share.

—VIVIAN VALE.

"HE has a respect for religion." Is it possible? How vastly condescending! How deeply humble! The creature has a respect for the service of the Creator! A grasshopper deigns to acknowledge that it has a respect for the King of kings and Lord of lords. Verily a subject of congratulation to the universe! A worm crawling in the dust confesses to its fellow-worms that it has some respect for the government of the "High and Mighty One that inhabiteth eternity."
—Dr. Muhlenberg.

Ye are My Witnesses.

Isaiah xliiii. 10.

We should be witnesses according to the following rules:—

WISELY.

INSTANTLY.

THOUGHTFULLY.

NATURALLY.

EARNESTLY.

SINCERELY.

SCRIPTURALLY.

ENDURINGLY.

SWEETLY.

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