

Notes on the Lessons.

LESSON I—April 4th, 1897.

Peter Working Miracles. ACTS 9: 32-43.

(Commit to memory verses 32-35).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Jesus Christ maketh thee whole." Acts 9: 34.

PROVE THAT—We should assist the poor. Ps. 41: 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 95. *To whom is baptism to be administered?* A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 45, 81, 91, 59.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Peter working miracles. Acts 9: 32-43. *Tuesday.* Christ healing a palsied man. Mark 2: 1-12. *Wednesday.* Care for the poor. Deut. 15: 7-11. *Thursday.* A helper of the needy. Job 29: 1-13. *Friday.* Rich in good works. 1 Tim. 6: 12-19. *Saturday.* Life in Christ. 1 John 5: 9-15. *Sabbath.* The King's reward. Matt. 25: 31-40. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. The preceding verse tells us that the church had rest from persecution, and increased in numbers and spiritual graces. History tells us the reason of this quiet. The Jews had other matters to engage their attention. The Emperor Caligula proposed to set up a statue of himself in the temple. The excitement which followed and the efforts to dissuade him from doing so turned aside their rage for a time from the disciples of Jesus. In our lesson we have a glimpse of the every-day christ-like labors of the apostles. Time, A. D. 40.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Helpless Healed. vs. 32-35. II. The Sorrowing Comforted. vs. 36-39. III. The Useful Restored. vs. 40-43.

32. And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda—Peter's journey was not an escape from persecution, but an evangelistic tour, with a view to confirm and strengthen the churches which had suffered during the persecutions. In verse 13 we have the first instance of the application of the term "saints" to christians. It was derived from Hebrew usage and was doubtless suggested by the marvellous outpourings of the Holy Spirit. Holiness is the aim of, and it should characterize, the christian's life. The church at Lydda may have been founded by Philip the evangelist.

33. And there he found a certain man named Æne'as, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy—From his name we would judge that he was a Hellenist (see Bible Dict.) and it is not said that he was a christian. The length and severity of his sickness shew the miraculous nature of the cure. Palsy, or paralysis,

presented several varieties of the disease. Sometimes it caused intense suffering.

34. And Peter said unto him, Æneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole; arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately—Peter is careful to give the glory to Christ. As in the case of the cripple at the Beautiful gate (3: 6) he points the healed one to the Healer. The word for "bed" denotes the sleeping mat of the poor. By rolling it up and carrying it away he would shew how completely he was cured (Jas. 2: 17; Matt. 9: 6).

35. And all that dwelt at Lyd'da and Sa'ron saw him, and turned to the Lord—Saron was the Sharon of the Old Testament, a beautiful and fertile district extending from Joppa to Caesarea a distance of about 30 miles (1 Chr. 27: 29; S. S. 2: 1; Isa. 33: 9; 35: 2; 65: 10). We need not believe that every one became a christian, but there was a very general acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah.