

S. S. LESSONS.

Notes on International Sabbath School Lessons, by Rev. F. N. and M. A. Peloubet.

THE SEVEN CHOSEN. Acts 6 : 1-15.

(A.D. 33.)

1. In those days.—This is an indefinite expression, meant here to keep up the historical connection, but implying some considerable interval.

2. Multitude,—the multitude, mass of the disciples. It has been objected that they became too numerous at this time to assemble in one place.

3. Look ye out.—This total abdication, on the part of the apostles, of all interference with pecuniary concerns of the society, and even with the selection of persons appointed to conduct them, was undoubtedly the most effectual measure which prudence could suggest to honesty for totally removing every possibility of obloquy and suspicion.

4. We will give ourselves.—The whole life of a pastor is here described in two words, Praying and Preaching. Through the former he receives from God, through the latter he imparts to others that which he himself has received from above.

5. Stephen, etc.—His name is first given as most conspicuous in the coming history (ch. 7), one who proved himself all that is here narrated.

6. They laid their hands on them.—They, i. e. the apostles. This idea embraced in the laying on of hands was doubtless no other than this,—that by means of it there was effected a communication of the spirit from the individual consecration to the one ordained.

7. The prosperity related here is a proof that harmony had been restored, and that the prayers and labors of the apostles had suffered no interruption.

8. Faith and power.—No pay is indeed receivable by any true man, but power is receivable by him in the love and faith you give him.

9. Not that any separate building was erected for the devotions of the Christians : for they met from house to house for prayer and the breaking of bread. But they were by no means separated from the nation ; they attended the festivals, they worshipped in the temple.

10. So exactly was the promise made by Christ (Matt. 10 : 20.) fulfilled in Stephen.

11. Suborned.—Procured indirectly or unfairly, but specially applied to procuring false testimony.

13. And set up false witnesses.—It has been made a serious question why these persons are called false witnesses, since it is supposed by many that they reported merely the words of Stephen.

14. They accused Stephen of having spoken contemptuously of the law and of having blasphemed Moses and God. Their testimony in that form was grossly false. It was opposed to everything which Stephen said or meant.

15. The face of an angel. This is a Jewish phrase to express something more than ordinary, sweet graceful and majestic.

LESSON VII. August 13, 1876.

THE CALL OF WISDOM. Proverbs 1 : 20-33.

(B. C. 1000.)

20. Wisdom.—Wisdom here is true religion personified after the oriental manner, and represented as a female teacher, who, having opened her school and taken her station at the places of usual concourse, earnestly and affectionately invites all whom she sees to forsake the paths of religion, folly and sin, and to attend upon her instructions.

21. Places of concourse.—Here seems to be an enumeration of all the public places where procations were made,—the highways, the streets, the tops of the houses, the gates where all go in and out.

22. Simple, scorners, fools. This triplet forms a gradational parallelism, in which one term rises above another.

23. Turn you.—He invites them to repent and become wise. And here how plain the precept, how encouraging the promise ! They that love simplicity find themselves under a moral impotency to change their own mind and way.

24. Wisdom, having called sinners to return, pauses awhile to see what effect the call has.

26. Laugh, mock.—Laughing at and deriding are figurative expressions denoting the highest and most contemptuous indignation.

28. Early.—Literally, in the morning ; i. e. with great earnestness and diligence, as those who rise early for any object are in earnest about it.

32. The turning away, i. e. the defection of the obdurate transgressor from proffered instruction will prove his ruin.