SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From International Question Book.)

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

LESSON I.—APRIL 5.

PAUL'S VOYAGE.—ACTS 27: 1, 2, 14-26.

COMMIT VERSES 23-25.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.—Acts 27: 25

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God able to support in time of trouble.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Acts 27: 1-26.
T. Gen. 7: 11-24; 8: 1-11.
W. Ex. 14: 13-31.
Th. Isa 25: 1-4.
F. Jonah, chapters 1 and 2.
Sa. 2 Cor 1: 21-33.
Su. Luke 8: 22-40.

INTRODUCTION.—We left Paul, at the end of Lesson XII, first quarter, pronounced by Agrippa II, after a prolonged hearing, to be innocent, so that he might properly be discharged had he not appealed to Cæsar. In view of the appeal, however, he must be sent to Rome. After a short interval (supposed to have been about three weeks) spent in preparing for the journey and in waiting for the ship, Paul, with other prisoners, began the voyage to Italy, under military guard. This lesson takes the matter up at this point.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

1. JULIUS—nothing is certainly known of him except from chaps. 27, 28. CENTURION—commander of a hundred. AUGUSTUS' BAND—rather, "Augustian band"; of Roman soldiers. 2. ADRAMYTTIUM—a port of Asia Minor near the head of the Ægean Sea. They took this ship expecting that at some port it touched they would find a vessel going to Italy. ARISTARCHUS—see chap 19: 29; 20: 4. He and Luke (we) voluntarily accompanied Paul. 14. THERE AROSE AGAINST IT—rather, "there beat down from it," i.e., from (over) the island (Crete). EUROCLYDON — rather, "Euraquilo," which means an east north-east wind. 15. BEAR UP INTO—rather, "face." WE LET HER DRIVE—rather, "we gave way to it (the wind), and were driven." 16. CLAUDA—a small island a little south of Crete. TO COME BY THE BOAT—i.e., to get on board the ship the boat towed astern (Luke 8: 23). 17. USED HELPS, ETC.—cables bound around the middle of the ship to strengthen it from going to pieces. THE QUICKSANDS—"the Syrtis"—sandy shoals called by that name south-west of them on the north coast of Africa, and much dreaded by mariners; the wind was blowing them directly toward it. STRAKE SAIL—take her, "lowered the gear"; i.e., the greater yard and larger rigging. They probably also set a storm sail by the help of which they could steer the vessel as nearly toward the wind as possible. SO WERE DRIVEN—they would drift under the circumstances a little north of west, at the rate of about one and one-half miles an hour; just about such speed as to reach the island of Malta (comp. 28: 4) in fourteen days (v. 27). 18. LIGHTENED THE SHIP—of the cargo they could reach, the deck load. 19. TACKLING OF THE SHIP—i.e., its apparatus of furniture—probably such things as chests, utensils, etc. 20. WHEN NEITHER SUN NOR STARS, ETC., the compass was not then in use; so that in stormy weather they could not tell direction, or know where they were. 21. LONG ABSTINENCE—they were too anxious and continuously occupied to eat regular meals (v. 33). AND NOT HAVE LOOSED, ETC.—see vs (9-13). 22. THERE SHALL BE NO LOSS, ETC.—this and the following information the angel (v. 23) had imparted. 23. FOR THERE STOOD, ETC.—a real occurrence, not a vision. 24. BROUGHT BEFORE CESAR—it was God's purpose that Paul should testify at Rome (chap. 23: 11; Rom. 1: 15). GOD HATH GIVEN THEE, ETC.—in answer to Paul's prayers, all were to escape the storm.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How did Paul come to be a prisoner at Cesarea? Why was he to be sent to Rome? Was this what he desired? (Acts 25: 11; Rom. 1: 15.) What circumstances would tend to make them treat Paul kindly? (Acts 25: 19-22.)

SUBJECT: GOD OUR HELP IN TROUBLE.

I. THE VOYAGE (vs. 1, 2).—In what way was Paul to be sent to Rome? Who went with him? How do we know that Luke was one of his companions? In whose charge were the prisoners placed? In what ship did they begin their voyage? How near Italy would this take them? In which direction did they go? With the sight of what countries familiar to Paul? Trace out the voyage on the map. Give some incidents in it.

II. THE STORM (vs. 14-20).—What harbor had the ship now reached? (v. 8.) What harbor was it trying to make? (v. 12.) What wind overtook it? When obliged to give way to the wind, under the shelter of what island did the ship run? (v. 16.) What three precautions were then taken? (v. 17.) Reasons for each of these? In what direction did they drift? What was done next? (v. 18.) What does this show about the condition of the ship? What was done next? (v. 19.) How long was the sky overcloaded? (v. 20.) What difficulty did that occasion? What were the anticipations of those on board? How is God's power shown in the sea?

III. GOD IN THE STORM (vs. 21-26).—How long did the storm continue? (v. 27; 28: 2.) Who now comforted the people on the ship? To what former advice did he refer? Why? Who had appeared to Paul? Was it in answer to prayer? How did Paul confess his religion? Did not Paul know before this that his own life would be saved? (Acts 23: 11.) In what ways was Paul a blessing to those on the ship? What gave him this power for good? How would faith in God make them to be of good cheer?

IV. APPLICATIONS.—In what respects is trouble like a storm? Are we, like mariners, unable to save ourselves? What promises does God give us in the storm? What verse in the lesson tells us who has a right to plead these promises? How will true faith in God give us good cheer?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. God's plans may be carried out in long and strange ways.

II. Discomforts and trials bring out the value of religion.

III. One good man is a blessing to many people.

IV. In every life there are storms.

V. But God has help and good cheer for those in the storm.

VI. Faith in God, as a wise, powerful, loving father, is the source of comfort.

OSTRICHES IN AMERICA.—The San Francisco *Call* says that the enterprise of ostrich farming, promoted by a company of San Francisco capitalists, promises to be rewarded by complete success. The ten young birds that were hatched last year are all showing good stamina. The old birds began laying hatchable eggs about a month ago and are expected to produce about eighty eggs each. The eggs of ostriches under four years of age are called pullets' eggs, and are worthless for breeding. The California Ostrich Company has eleven old birds laying, so that with each ostrich producing some eighty eggs the prospect of a large number of chicks is excellent. At least 350 young birds are expected from this year's hatching. By-and-bye, those who adorn themselves with ostrich feathers will not have to go to Africa for their supply.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, March. 24, 1885.

The English grain markets are very quiet but steady. Red winter wheat is quoted at 6s 9d to 7s 2d; Canadian peas, 5s 11d.

The local grain market is very dull and prices are without change. We quote: Canada Red Winter, 92c to 93c; White, Winter, 90c to 91c; Canada Spring, No. 2, 90c to 91c. Peas, 72c to 73c; Oats 32c; Rye, 60c to 62c; Barley, 50c to 60c. Corn 53c to 56c per bushel.

FLOUR.—This market is very quiet, and values are about steady. We quote:—Superior Extra, $4.05; Extra Superfine, $3.90; Fancy $3.75; Spring Extra $3.65 to $3.70; Superfine, $3.40 to $3 45; Strong Bakers, (Canadian,) $4.00 to $4.90; Strong Bakers' (American,) $4.50 to $5.00; Fine, $3.25; Middlings, $3.00 to $3.05; Ontario bags, (bags included) Medium, $1.90 to $2.00; do., Spring Extra, $1.80 to $1.85; Superfine, $1.60 to $1.70; Patent, $4.10 to $4.15; City Bags, (delivered,) $2.30 to $2.35.

MEALS unchanged.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Both the butter and cheese markets continue very dull. We quote:—Butter — Creamery, 18c to 21c; Eastern Townships, 12c to 17c Morrisburg and Brockville, 11c to 15c; Western, 8c to 14c, as to quality. Cheese,—Fine to fancy fall makes, 10c to 11½c, as to quality and size of lots. The public cable is a shilling higher at 58s..

EGGS are quoted at 20c to 21c for fresh stock, and 14c to 15c for limed.

HOG PRODUCTS.—Outside of a fairly good local trade there is not much doing. We quote:—Western Mess Pork $15.75; do., Short Cut, $16 00; Canada Short Cut, $16,-00 to $16.50; Hams, city cured, 12½c to 13c; do. green, 9c; Lard, in pails, Western, 10c to to 10½c; do., Can. 9¾c; Bacon, 11½c to 12c; Tallow, common refined, 6c to 6½c

ASHES are again firmer at $3.95 to $4.00 for Pots.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Rather unseasonable weather has prevailed here of late and farmers are prevented from coming long distances to market their produce. Oats and hay are rather higher in price; frozen meat continues plentiful and cheap; eggs are getting more plentiful and lower in price, and the same may be said of butter. Apples are in demand at decidedly higher rates. Oats are 80c to 85c per bag; peas, 75c to 80c per bushel; beans $1.25 to $1.50 do; potatoes 30c to 40c per bag; turnips, carrots, and beets, 40c to 70c per bushel; onions 75c to $1.00, do.; cabbages 75c to $1.00 per barrel; butter 14c to 40c per lb; eggs 16c to 35c per dozen; apples $3.00 to $4.00 per barrel; dressed hogs 6½c to 7c per lb.; mutton carcases 4c to 5½c do; young turkeys 9c to 14c per lb.; geese 7c to 10c do; fowls 8c to 12c do; ducks 12c to 15c do; hay $6.00 to $9.50 per 100 bundles.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

The supply of butchers' cattle has improved considerably of late, both in quantity and quality, and prices have a downward tendency. Choice steers and heifers sell at from 4¼c to 5c per lb; bulls, of which there are a good many offering, 3c to 4c do; rough steers and fat cows 3½c to 4¼c do., and leanish stock at from 3c to 3½c per lb. Calves are rather plentiful but few of them are in good condition and these latter bring from $6 to $10 each, while small lean veals sell at from $2 to $4 each. Sheep are rather scarce and slightly higher in price, but spring lambs are getting common and sell at from $3 to $5 each. Live hogs sell in small lots at about 5c per lb. Milch cows are plentiful but very lean in flesh, and good cows still bring pretty high rates. The horse trade has been very active of late and considerable numbers are being shipped to the United States, but the prices paid are not so high as they were a year ago.

NEW YORK, March 23, 1885.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 88⅜c bid April; 90½c May; 92½c bid June; 92⅞c bid July. Corn, 49½c bid March; 49⅞c April; 50c May, and bid June; 51c bid July. Oats, 36⅞c bid March, April and May.

FLOUR.—We quote:—Spring Wheat, Superfine, $2.75 to $2.95; Low Extra, $2.95 to $3.35; Clears, $3.45 to $4.25; Straight $3.00 to $4.90; Patent, $4.70 to $5.65. Winter Wheat—Superfine, $2.95 to $3.20; Low Extra, $3.10 to $3.40; Clears (R. and A.), $4.15 to $4.40; Straight (R. and A.), $4.15 to $5.25; Patent, $4.43 to $5.65; Straight (White Wheat), $4.35 to $5.25; Low Extra (City Mills), $3.10 to $3.25; West India, sacks, $3.25 to $3.60; West India, barrels, $4.60 to $4.75; Patent, $4.50 to $5.40; South America, $4.65 to $5.25; Patent $4.50 to $5.60. Southern Flour—Extra $3.25 to $4.75; Family, $4.65 to $5.40; Patent, $4.50 to $5.60. Rye Flour—Fine to superfine, $2.40 to $3.85.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, $3.00 to $3.25 in brls; oatmeal, $5.00 to $5.90 per brl.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter (new)—Creamery, ordinary to fancy 18c to 28c; State half firkins, ordinary to fancy 18c to 26c; Western dairy, ordinary to choice imitation creamery, 11c to 20c. Cheese—State factory, faulty to selected, 8c to 12¼c; do. light skims, good to choice, 7c to 9c; Ohio flats, ordinary to prime, 3c to 10½c; Skims, 1c to 2½c.

EGGS.—State and Pennsylvania, in brls., 19½c; Western, poor to fancy, 18c to 19½c; Southern, 17½c to 19c.

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