

church, you must give them authority in its government." The Calvinistic Methodists of 100 years ago were a sect differing in every way from others, even speaking a different language. For a long time they were scattered and worthless for want of organization. Then evangelical ministers preached to them, and finally they came together and organized after the Presbyterian manner. There is no body of Christians more earnest, loving, and useful in their place than this small English sect, who are known as West Presbyterians. I have no doubt that England, Ireland and Scotland will long have cause to remember the benefits of the Council of 1877, and when in 1880 it re-assembles in Philadelphia—the city of brotherly love—I feel sure all doubts of its great influence and efficacy will be removed.—S. A. J.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS.

Select Notes on the International Sabbath School Lessons for 1877. By Rev. F. N. and M. A. Peloubet.

LESSON III. OCTOBER 21, 1877.

PAUL AND THE BIGOTED JEWS. ACTS 22 17 30

17. When I was come again to Jerusalem. Now the apostle ventures to speak of his special commission to the Gentiles; that it was not at Damascus, a foreign city, but at Jerusalem, the Holy City, and while he prayed in the temple, that such a revelation came to him from God, clearly defining his commission as an apostle to the Gentiles.

18. Saw him. The Lord Jesus. Get these quickly. "Quickly" accords with Gal. 1: 18. On this first visit Paul remained at Jerusalem but fifteen days, and received this command, probably, on one of the last of them.

19. And I said, Lord, they know, etc. He now shows by his reply that it was his own cherished plan to labor in Jerusalem that he might prove there the reality of his conversion and preach the faith which he once destroyed, so that they should glory God in him (Gal. 1. 23, 24), and so that he should as far as he could, the mischief of his persecuting career.

20. Paul further refers to that particular instance of his persecuting zeal which also is recorded of him by the Holy Ghost.

21. He said unto me, Depart, etc. He proceeded to Syria and Cilicia (9: 30 and Gal. 1: 21), and remained there three or four years before his arrival at Antioch.

22. They gave him audience unto his word. When his mission to the Gentiles was announced, though the words quoted were the words of Jehovah spoken in the temple itself, even as the Lord had once spoken to Samuel, one outburst of frantic indignation rose from the temple area and silenced the speaker on the stairs.

23. Cast off their clothes. The men did not lay off their clothes, as in the case of Stephen, to stone Paul, for he was in the custody of the soldiers, and the force was too great to be despised; nor was this a formal religious act, the mere shaking off the dust as a testimony against Paul, according to the religious usages of the East (see Ch. 18: 6, note), but an act of vehement and uncontrollable rage, increased by their very sense of impotence.

24. Commanded him to be brought into the castle. This commotion threw Lysias into new perplexity.

25. With thongs. With leather straps.

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