

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1877, by Edwin F. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON XXVI.

PAUL'S LAST WORDS. (About A.D. 68.) READ 2 Tim. iv. 1-8. RECIPE vs. 68. DAILY READINGS.—M.—Rev. xx. 1-15. 7.—2 Cor. v. 1-10. 1 Tim. i. 4-20. 7A.—2 Pet. i. 4-10. P.—1ba. xxv. 1-9. Sa.—Rev. ii. 10-20. N.—2 Tim. iv. 1-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.—I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.—2 Tim. iv. 7.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—Christ's servants are faithful unto death.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—After two years' imprisonment at Rome (Acts xxviii. 30), Paul is supposed to have been released; perhaps visited Spain; wrote the Epistle to Titus, the first to Timothy, and perhaps that to the Hebrews, made a circuit among the churches, was again arrested, sent to Rome; tried and beheaded. Only a little time before his martyrdom he wrote his Second Epistle to Timothy, which contains his last recorded words.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Having learned so much about the apostle Paul during the lessons of the last six months, make up your mind to study his writings as opportunity offers, to imitate his example and to strive for the crown.

NOTE.—2nd-3rd. It is supposed that he was at Ephesus when Paul wrote his Second Epistle to him, from Rome, in the summer of A. D. 68. Tradition says that he was the first bishop of Ephesus, and suffered martyrdom for his faith under Domitian.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(1) PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY. (2) PAUL'S WORK AND REWARD.

I. PAUL'S CHARGE TO TIMOTHY. (1) SHALL JUDGE. Acts x. 42; 1 Pet. iv. 5; THE QUICK, the living, his speaking, his second advent, Matt. xxiv. 30, Acts i. 11, Rev. i. 7. (2) PREACH, proclaim as a herald. THE WORD, God's word of salvation, not human speculations, 1 Cor. ix. 16, BE INSTANT, URGENT; IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON, at all times, whether convenient or inconvenient, whether favorable or not, DOCTRINE, teaching of the gospel. (3) WILL COME, hence be diligent now. THY, professed Christians; THEIR OWN INTERESTS, their own desires instead of God's teachings, compare 1 Kings xii. 30, 31; HEAR, multiplying one upon another, ITCHING EARS, longing to be tickled by new sensations. (4) WATCH THEM, in view of the apostasy; AN EVANGELIST, missionary preacher and teacher, MAKE FULL PROOF, till all its duties, Rom. xv. 19; Col. iv. 17.

II. QUESTIONS.—Give an outline of Paul's life between his first and second imprisonment. When and where did he write his Second Epistle to Timothy? Before whom did he give Timothy this solemn charge? Who shall be the final Judge? What was Timothy to preach? On what occasions? How to apply it? What apostasy did Paul predict? What kind of teachers would be chosen? What would they refuse to hear? To what turn? State the four things Timothy is charged to do, v. 7.

III. PAUL'S WORK AND REWARD. (6.) READY TO BE OFFERED, an already being poured out as a libation. DEPARTURE, from this world, death, Phil. i. 23. (7.) FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, striven a good strife. FINISHED MY COURSE, reached the goal; the figures are taken from the Grecian games. KEPT THE FAITH, committed to me as an apostle, chap. i. 14; Rev. ii. 10, iii. 10. A CROWN, 1 Pet. v. 4; Matt. xxi. 27; GIVE ME, award to me; THAT LOVE, have loved and longed for his second coming, Col. iii. 4; Titus ii. 13.

IV. QUESTIONS.—What did Paul say of his death? In regard to his past life, how did he assert his Christian courage? His perseverance? His faithfulness? For what reward was he hoping? By whom given? At what time? Was that "crown" for Paul alone? What others will receive one? Are you hoping for the crown? Are you striving for it in the right way?

What does this lesson teach us as to— (1.) The need of special watchfulness against apostasy? (2.) The way we must live in order to meet death willingly? (3.) The reward which will be given to the faithful Christian?

LESSON XXVII.

REVIEW.

TIME.—58 to 68 A.D. PLACES.—Caesarea, Jerusalem, Melita, Rome. DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts xxi. 8-40. 7.—Acts xxii. 1-29. 7A.—Acts xxv. 1-23. P.—Acts xxvii. 1-44. N.—Acts xxviii. 16-31.

GOLDEN TEXT.—I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.—Phil. iii. 8.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—He that loses all for Christ gains all.

(It is, of course, desirable that every scholar should acquire some knowledge of the persons and places mentioned; but for the quickness and profit of the Review Recapitulation, it may be well to assign beforehand to some of the most apt pupils the more important persons and places,

and let them rise and give an account of them when the name first recurs in the exercise.)

PLAN FOR REVIEW.—The last twelve lessons have all centred about the apostle Paul. Indeed, his name appears in the title of every lesson, with two exceptions. It will be found helpful to group the lessons about the several places in which the incidents occurred, and to put them clearly before the eyes of all upon the blackboard, thus:

- I. PAUL AT CAESAREA (on the way to Jerusalem), Lesson XV. II. PAUL AT JERUSALEM, Lessons XVI, XVII, XVIII. III. PAUL AT CAESAREA (as a prisoner), Lesson XIX, XX, XXI. IV. PAUL ON THE WAY TO ROME, Lessons XXII, XXIII, XXIV. V. PAUL AT ROME, Lessons XXV, XXVI.

I. PAUL AT CAESAREA (on the way to Jerusalem). Describe CAESAREA. By whose family was Paul entertained there? What did Agabus do with Paul's gristle? To signify what? The effect upon the disciples? Paul's resolution?

II. PAUL AT JERUSALEM. For what purpose was Paul in the temple? By whom was he assailed? What reason did they give? How was he saved from being beaten to death? What request did he make of the chief captain? State the result.

PAUL AND THE BIGOTTED JEWS.—Were facing each other where? What commission had he received from the Lord? How? The festing of the Jews when he declared this? How did Paul save himself from being scourged? Before what tribunal was he brought?

PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL.—For what purpose? His robe of Ananias? The two parties in the council? The doctrine of the Pharisees? Of the Sadducees? Paul's rescue? His vision of the Lord?

III. PAUL AT CAESAREA (as a prisoner).

PAUL BEFORE FELIX.—Accused by whom? Upon what three charges? How did he meet the charge of heresy? His account of the assault upon him? The induction of Felix? How was he affected by Paul's preaching?

PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA.—Under what circumstances? His confession of the persecution of Christians? His conversion? Commission to preach? Obedience to the heavenly vision?

ALMOST PERSUADED.—Who was in this condition? How did Paul declare that he had preached? With what did Festus charge him? State Paul's reply. His appeal to King Agrippa. Agrippa's reply. Paul's desire for him, and for all who heard.

IV. PAUL ON THE WAY TO ROME.

PAUL IN THE STORM.—Upon what voyage? By what wind was the ship caught? Where driven? How did they strengthen the ship? How did they lighten it? What made them despair? How did Paul encourage them?

THE DELIVERANCE.—Was for whose sake? How did he persuade them to take food? The number in the ship? Result when the ship grounded? The soldiers' conduct? The escape to land?

PAUL AT MELITA.—Which indicates what island? The reception by the islanders? Paul and the viper? The conclusion of the natives? Paul's works of healing?

V. PAUL AT ROME.

PAUL AT ROME.—In what custody? His interview with the chief Jews? His explanation of his arrest? Their reception of the gospel? Salvation sent to whom? Paul's employment for two years?

COMING IN WITH THE NEW YEAR.

With the Christmas number the term subscribed for by a large portion of the readers of the NORTHERN MESSENGER ends for the present, and the time for renewing begins. We would not like to lose a single one of our readers, but on the contrary would be rejoiced to welcome every one at the beginning of 1878. All will acknowledge, we think, that during the year the MESSENGER has greatly improved in beauty of appearance. This improvement we do not intend to be merely temporary, but are looking forward to the time when the MESSENGER will be much more attractive in appearance and contents than now. This will be more possible with one hundred thousand subscribers than with half that number, which we now have. To ensure this great increase we have determined to give a present of value, to every reader of the MESSENGER. The "Campaign Map of Canada," showing the advance of prohibitory legislation in Canada. The map will be lithographed in two colors, the counties, township and towns which passed the Dunkin or other prohibitory act being colored pink. This map will be a good one, containing the counties and towns, rivers, lakes, &c., of Canada distinctly indicated. Such a map is worth as much as the price of the MESSENGER, and can only be given away

because of the immense number printed. One will be sent with every paper, whether to Sunday-schools or not. Those who have seen the design say that it will be the best argument for prohibition yet issued. In anticipation of it we ask every subscriber to renew their subscriptions for the New Year so that they may have a copy, and once more we would ask our readers to assist us to make the circulation at the beginning of 1878 one hundred thousand. They will remember that twice before the request was asked and granted; we therefore have confidence in asking it again.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

TWELVE SKATES, so far this year, is the largest number that has been sent away in any one day to those who have remitted us the amount required to earn them. That was not a bad day's work, but we certainly expect to have many days when much larger numbers of skates and prizes will be sent to our workers. As soon as the skating begins the boys and girls will work a good deal harder than they did before, and skates from the WITNESS Office will be quite common throughout the country.

THE NEW PRIZES offered in this number will please many of our little folks who did not care about skates. They will find quite a variety, and we would be pleased to send to every reader of the MESSENGER one of these prizes. In working for the prizes they should remember that a copy of the Campaign Map of Canada mentioned above is to be sent free to every subscriber.

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We have received letters from a few workers saying that they were not wise about the Skates, and not anxious for a cash commission and would like some other prize. One little girl tells us that there is not a pond within ten miles of her place, and a gentleman that he has but one leg, and therefore the Skates would not suit. On the presumption that there are others somewhat similarly situated, the following supplementary prize list (which, in every case, gives the worker the advantage of the wholesale price of the goods mentioned) is submitted.

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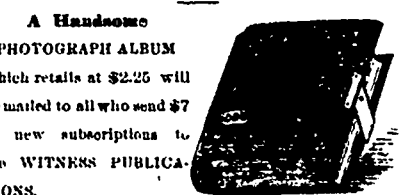
FOR GIRLS ONLY.



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Every letter must be marked "in competition," or otherwise express the intention to compete for one or more of these prizes? Name? Occupations? Author? What Book, not religious, would you part with last? Your Distinguishing Characteristic? What trait do you most detest in Man or Woman? The Sublimest Passion? &c., &c. There is also room for the physical photographs of your friends. This Album affords an endless fund of amusement. It is sold at the Montreal Book Room for \$2.50, and will be mailed to any sending in \$5 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS.

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