

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.—Matt. 16. 17.

And to Thomas he gave it thus:

Jesus saith unto him, Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—John 20. 29.

ENGLISH TEACHER'S NOTES.

BY SARAH GERALDINA STOCK.

MANY people begin life with large expectations. And most know what it is to be disappointed in their expectations. Indeed, so common is this experience that it has given rise to the ironical saying, "Blessed are they that expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed." But to-day we are to read of a man getting very much more than he expected.

Once more we find Paul alone in a strange city. Whether Silas and Timothy had followed him to Athens as he wished (chap. 17. 15), we do not know, but they had certainly left him again (1 Thess. 3. 2) and returned to Macedonia. Ver. 5. The supplies sent him by the Philippians (Phil. 4. 15, 16) had probably by this time become exhausted, and so we find him working with his hands for a living, while on the Sabbath days he preached Christ in the synagogue.

Now, what were his expectations in coming to Corinth? It was a very different place from Athens, the capital of the province of Achaia, populous, busy, wealthy, luxurious; not a place, we should have imagined, where Paul would have found ready listeners. Yet here he expected to win souls, for he knew the power of the Gospel which he preached. 1 Cor. 1. 18, 23, 24. And his daily work, as it seems probable, gave him the first opportunity of winning them, since it brought him to reside with two of his own countrymen, who were among the Jews lately banished from Rome, who became afterwards his companions in the work of the Lord. At first his preaching seems to have gone on quietly. The hardships he had suffered since landing on European soil and his long and hurried journeys (chap. 17. 10, 14) had probably somewhat exhausted his bodily strength, for he says, "I was with you in weakness." 1 Cor. 2. 3. But when his companions arrived from Macedonia he girded himself for more strenuous efforts. He was "pres ed of the spirit" and testified of Christ with such vigor and power that opposition was at once roused among the Jews.

This did not surprise Paul. And, as before at Antioch in Pisidia, he solemnly declared that the privileges the Jewish nation refused would be given to the Gentiles. And now

the expected results followed. First, the chief ruler of the synagogue was won from the ranks of the opposing Jews; then many Corinthians believed and were baptized.

At Philippi, at Thessalonica, and at Berea, after the gathering out of a little company of believers, persecution had followed, and the apostles had been compelled to flee, according to our Lord's direction (Matt. 10. 23) to "another city." This seems to have been what Paul expected in Corinth. He remembered with what hatred his countrymen had rewarded his preaching in other places, and knew that they were greatly enraged against him here. And in speaking of this time he says to the Corinthians, "I was with you," not only "in weakness," but "in fear and in much trembling." 1 Cor. 2. 3. But the time of greatest need is the time when the Lord comes closest to his people. The same voice that had bidden him once depart from Jerusalem when a plot was formed against his life (chap. 22. 17, 18; comp. chap. 9. 29) spoke to him again.

And now he had found he had set his expectation too low. A little company had been gathered out of heathen Corinth, but these were only the first-fruits. "I have much people in this city," was the word of the Lord to him. And though his enemies might rage against him, they should be unsuccessful; "no man shall set on thee to hurt thee." How far above what Paul had expected! And so, instead of suffering, danger, and flight, there were months of steady, undisturbed preaching of the Gospel before him—a gold mine, which he might work without fear and without hindrance.

But when a new deputy came to assume the government of Achaia, the Jews thought their opportunity was come. Their inability to do anything against Paul had probably arisen from the disfavour in which they were held by the government. And Gallio being an easy-tempered, amiable man, they thought they might obtain what they liked from him, and accordingly they dragged Paul before the judgment-seat. But he had not even to open his mouth in self-defence. His enemies were completely discomfited, and he continued his work in Corinth "yet a good while."

When a man who has had many difficulties and trials in his business, and has been getting discouraged, finds the tide turn in his favour, and unlooked-for success attend him, he is apt to think his struggles are all over, and his way will continue smooth and prosperous. But he may be mistaken. All he has won he may lose again; he cannot insure its continuance. Was it so with Paul? Many difficulties, trials, sufferings, were before him in the future, but he could never