

SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1876 by Edw. W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday School Union.)

CONNECTED HISTORY.—The Council, with threats, ordered the apostles to speak no more of Jesus: they returned to the disciples, and antedily present the threats before God and pray for boldness the Church is in created

LESSON VIII. MAY 21. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. (About 30 to 33 A. D.) READ Acts iv. 23-37. RECITE vs. 31, 33

GOLDEN TEXT.—We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members, one of another.—Rom. xii. 5 CENTRAL TRUTH Christ is the centre of union.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts iv. 23-33. 7.—Isa. xxxvii. 14-18. W.—Ps. li. 1-12. TA.—Isa. li. 4-10. R.—Rom. xv. 1-21. Sa.—Gal. vi. 2-18. N.—1 Thes. ii. 2-10.

To THE SCHOLAR.—Notice that the apostles, under the severe threats of the Jews, seek God in united prayer and receive an immediate answer. What a wise example for us when tempted or in perplexity!

NOTES.—Herod. Six Herods are alluded to in the New Testament; probably it here refers to "Herod the Great," who ordered the slaughter of the young children (Matt. ii. 16), or his son, "Herod Antipas," who beheaded John or possibly to both. Gentiles.—All not Jews were called Gentiles. Jesus, or "Joseph" (Jehovah helps), his new name, Parabas, literally means "son of prophecy," of "exhortation," he became a companion of Paul after having introduced him to the apostles. At Antioch he had a dispute with Paul, parted from him, sailing with Mark for Cyprus and is not again noticed in Scripture. Levite, son of Levi. The Levites had no share in the division of Canaan, but aided the priests in the temple services and worship. Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea near the coast of Syria. It was very rich in precious stones, and very fruitful; its length 140 miles, breadth from 5 to 50 miles.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) CHRISTIANS UNITED IN PRAYER. (II.) UNITED IN WORKS.

I. CHRISTIANS UNITED IN PRAYER. (23.) own company, the other disciples; reported all—that is, the threats, the sentence (24.) one accord, all united in the prayer (Acts i. 14): then God, they prayed to God, not to saints nor angels. (25.) David had said, (Ps. li. 1, 2): heathens, or "the nations," the Gentiles, Christ, or "anointed" (same word as in v. 26). Gentiles, or "nations" (same word in Greek as in v. 26). (29.) behold, look so as to deliver us, boldness, courage for God first sought. (30.) by stretching, or "while stretching forth" (31.) place was shaken. Acts ii. 2; iv. 16, 25.

I. Questions.—After the council's sentence whether did the apostles go? How fully did they state the threats? From whom did the disciples seek counsel and help? How? Who had foretold these things? State the four forces which had sought to destroy Jesus. For what did the disciples first ask? v. 29. How did they ask to be sustained? v. 30. How was their prayer answered? v. 31.

II. UNITED IN WORKS. (32.) one heart, were agreed, united; sought, say; said... his own, it was legally theirs, but not so claimed. (33.) great power, through the Spirit; great grace, great favor from God, or great favor with the people, not "Christian graces." (34.) lacked, had no need of food or money. (35.) distribution, the money was given out by the apostles or as they directed. (36.) consecration, or prophecy. (See Notes.)

II. Questions.—What is said of the number of the believers at this time? v. 32. How many were converted by the two sermons of Peter? See Acts ii. 41; iv. 4. How did they hold their property? What power was given to the apostles? What is meant by "great grace"? Why were none of the Christians in want? How were the needy provided for? What Christian is spoken of by name in v. 36? By whom was he called Parabas? What does the name mean? See Notes. Where was he from? Of what tribe was he? What was the work given to the Levites? What act of his is noted? For whom are we to hold our possessions?

What facts in this lesson teach us: (1.) To spread our troubles before the Lord? (2.) The power of united prayer? (3.) The true way to gain boldness in Christian work? (4.) The liberality of early Christians? (5.) The true way for us to use all our property?

Illustration.—Christian Fellowship. Fellowship of souls does not come of nearness of persons alone. There are millions who live in close contact—dwell under the same roof, eat at the same table, work in the same shop—whose souls are as far asunder as the poles. And there are those separated by oceans and continents, even by the mysterious gulf that divides time from eternity, between whom there is constant intercourse and delightful fellowship.—Dr. Thomas.

Prayer. Prayer pulls the rope below, and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly, others give but an occasional pluck at the rope; but he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly, and pulls continuously with all his might.—Spurgeon's Parables for Arrows.

Private, Hate, owners of earth, rince of evil. AGAINST Persecuted Christians rayling together, owor of the Holy Ghost, roperly in common, rivilion for every want.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—In the time of peace and power which followed the first arrest and discharge of the apostles, Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for lying.

LESSON IX. MAY 28. LYING UNTO GOD. (About 30 to 33 A. D.) READ Acts v. 1-11.—RECITE vs. 3, 10

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.—Acts v. 4.

CENTRAL TRUTH. The heart is deceitful

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Acts v. 1-11. T.—Ps. i. 1-20. W.—Lev. x. 1-11. TA.—Matt. xxv. 14-50. F.—Job. ix. 8-28. Sa.—Acts viii. 9-28. N.—Acts xix. 1-20.

To THE SCHOLAR.—A lesson of warning against the common sin of lying. Remember that all lying is a sin against God.

NOTES.—Ananias, Greek for "Hananah" ("mercy of God.") Nothing is known of him except from this account. Sapphira ("beautiful"), from the precious stone sapphire. The disciples were not compelled to sell their land or possessions; this was a voluntary act of love. Ananias, by giving a part, pretended to give all, and wished to get the credit of holy love and zeal, and of giving the whole, while selfishly keeping one portion for himself. It was deceiving the apostles and a lie to God. Satan—that is, "enemy," the great tempter and enemy of man. the devil. Job i. 6; Matt. iv. 1.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) THE LIE. (II.) THE PUNISHMENT.

I. THE LIE. (1.) sold, of their own will, possession, field, estate. (2.) kept back, they might have kept all, but they pretended to give all; privy, abet; knew of and agreed to the deception; certain part, how large a portion they gave is not stated. (3.) He... Holy Ghost, to deceive the Holy Ghost. (4.) not thine... thine own power—that is, you were not compelled to sell it, nor to give it; conceived... in thine heart, in v. 3, it is said, "Satan filled thine heart," here "thou," etc. In all sin, Satan and the stinger agree.

I. Questions.—Give the title of this lesson. The names of those who told the lie. What did they sell? How much did they bring of the price? How much did they profess to bring? Who brought the money to Peter? Who knew that he was to bring only part of the price? Why was the price of the land in their own power? Who is said to have prompted the sin? Who was the sin? v. 4. How did Sapphira repeat the lie? v. 8.

II. THE PUNISHMENT. (5.) fell down, a judgment from God; gave up the ghost, or "spirit"—that is, died; great fear, Ps. iv. 4. (6.) wound... as usual for burial, buried him, in hot countries cast they usually bury on the day of the death, often within three or four hours after death. (7.) not knowing the wife knew not of Ananias's death and burial. (8.) so much, the sum Ananias paid in; yes, for so much, a plain, bold lie. (9.) how is it? why is it? to tempt, to try to deceive. (10.) straightway instantly; at his feet, where the money they had lied about lay by her husband, united in sin and in death.

II. Questions.—What followed Peter's reproof of Ananias? What effect did his sudden death have on all? By whom was he buried? How soon after death? How long after this did his wife come in? What did Peter ask her? State how he rebuked her. What followed his rebuke? How was she buried? What effect did this event have on the Church? What upon all who heard of it? What does this teach us as to God's hatred of lying? What does it teach us as to the danger of this sin?

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee. Psal. 55, 22.

TEMPERANCE TEXTS.—The silence of our Sabbath-school officers and our Sabbath-school instruction upon this subject at a time when it is so much agitated, has seemed most surprising. Some among the young, while still under its blessed teachings, are learning to know the taste of wine and listen to the siren song of the tempter, and are graduating from the Sabbath-school to the saloon and the dram-shop. It is true they have Sunday-school books that show in pathetic story the dreadful evils that follow drinking, but these they laugh at and say: "They are only made-up stories." But such texts as these: "Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath

redness of the eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright; at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." These texts, and similar ones, could not fail to harmonize with any series of prepared lessons. Learned and recited in concert, they might in some future hour of temptation come with their voice of warning and steal o'er the senses, like the far-off booming of the minute-gun at sea, and save from a fate more appalling than that of the ship-wrecked mariner.—Crusader.

"JANET MASON'S TROUBLES."—Our readers who have taken an interest in Janet Mason's troubles will find that they are continued in small type on the sixth page. This change has been made to bring them to an end more quickly than otherwise would be the case. We hope that "Miss Green's Present" may be enjoyed by all our readers, old and young.

—It may not be considered presumptuous to quote the following from a letter by Rev. John McKillican, to Mr. William J. Patterson, Secretary to the "Witness Testimonial Fund." Since the origination of that movement there have been received many expressions of sympathy and assurances, which show that the MESSENGER and its companion papers have not been published in vain, but Mr. McKillican, who has spent several years traveling in the newer sections of the country, opens a field of usefulness so extensive as to require every exertion to fill it, and so varied that it would seem next to impossible to fulfil all the conditions necessary to do it justice. Mr. McKillican's letter informs us that something has been done to accomplish what is our greatest desire. In our efforts to advance the cause of religion, temperance and morality we have been greatly aided and encouraged by many kind friends, who also have these objects at heart, and for their assistance we return them thanks, and hope that it may be continued in future, for at no time was it more needed than now. The extract referred to is as follows:—

I am unable fully to express my conviction of the incalculable good being effected by the Montreal WITNESS and through Sabbath-schools by the MESSENGER. These papers have brought light and blessing to many a humble home in the woods, far beyond the stated labors of any pastor or missionary. Mothers and young scholars most capable of so doing have frequently been known to prove instructors of the entire family by reading aloud from the pages of the WITNESS, thus improving Sabbath hours when there was no preaching service near. It has proved, in the circumstances indicated, a comforter to many an aged Christian, and by the Divine blessing has awakened many thoughtless youth to the higher aims and motives of Christian life. It has elevated the moral tone of whole settlements where it was generally read, bringing its readers into more beneficial and intelligent acquaintance with each other and sympathy with the great moral and religious enterprises of the day.

Let me say also that the WITNESS has served another noble purpose in rendering the homes of many of its rural readers more comfortable. It has brought moral and natural sunlight into many a dingy, unhealthy dwelling and chamber. It has tended to render not a few sleeping apartments places of refreshing rest for a night, instead of scenes of discomfort. That view of the matter aside, the WITNESS has stirred up many a Christian to work who had been long idle. It has awakened an interest in the welfare of the children. It has cheered the Sabbath-school teacher, amid his difficulties and discouragements. I may safely say of some places that a generation is rising up who will, through their whole lives and beyond time, bless God for the varied and profitable instruction derived from the "Montreal WITNESS."

EPPE'S COCOA—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Eppe has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—(Food-Servitor Gazette. Sold only in packets labelled "JAMES EPPE'S COCOA," Homeopathic Chemists, 45 Thread-needle street, and 170 Piccadilly, London."

COMBINATION PRIZE COMPETITION.

I. We offer the following prizes to the persons who mail us the largest amounts for all the publications on or before AUGUST 15th, 1876:

Table with 2 columns: Prize amount and corresponding number of subscribers. 1st prize, \$20 for second largest amount, 2nd do 15, 3rd do 12, 4th do 10, 5th do 8, 6th do 7, 7th do 6, 8th do 5, 9th do 4, 10th do 4.

II. We want this year to introduce the New Dominion Monthly everywhere, and will give an additional prize of \$15 to the person who sends us the largest amount in subscriptions to this magazine during the time above stated, whether they compete for the other prizes or not. All the subscriptions for this prize count in the other as well.

III. To the one who sends in the largest number of subscriptions to the New Dominion Monthly, either for three, six or twelve months, we will give a prize of \$10. This prize is not open to the winner of No. 2. Three or six months will count as much as a whole year.

IV. To the person who sends us during this competition the largest amount in subscriptions to the Northern Messenger we will give a prize of \$10. This is open to any competitor for the other prizes, and the amount sent will count in for the first competition.

V. To the person who sends in the second largest amount in subscriptions to the Northern Messenger we will give a prize of \$5. This is also open to all competitors, and the amount will count in the first competition.

VI. A prize of \$5 will be given to the person sending us the largest amount for subscriptions from Newfoundland.

VII. A prize of \$5 will be given to the person sending us the largest amount for subscriptions from Manitoba.

VIII. A prize of \$5 will be given to the person sending us the largest amount for subscriptions from British Columbia.

The following are the prizes for the publications included in the competition and the commissions allowed to competitors:

Table with 3 columns: Publication name, Subscription post paid, and Reduction or Remittance for subs. DAILY WITNESS \$3 00, TRI-WEEKLY 2 00, WEEKLY 1 10, NEW DOMINION MONTHLY 1 50, NORTHERN MESSENGER 30, NORTHERN MESSENGER Club of 10 2 50, WEEKLY WITNESS 2 25, NEW DOMINION MONTHLY 2 25.

It will be seen by the above table that every one who sends us a prize is sure of a full commission on new subscribers under any circumstances, and may obtain a prize as well. It should not be forgotten that no subscriber is allowed a commission on his own subscription. It is only given to canvassers who obtain subscriptions. All competitors should invariably collect the full subscription price. Let the contest be a sharp one—worth winning. All competition lists must be marked "In competition." Without this or similar notice the amount sent cannot be recognized when our prize list is made up.

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MAY.

The New Dominion Monthly for May contains a contribution entitled, "A Glance at the Geological History of the Island of Montreal." This is written in a popular style, and will be read by every one having any interest in the composition of the earth's crust, whether acquainted with the science of Geology or not, while they will be enabled the more readily to understand the writer's descriptions from a series of illustrative pictures. There is an article on "How You Grow," which teaches boys and girls how they must act to grow up strong and healthy. There is an article about "Coming to Tea," some "Selected Recipes" for the manager of the household, "Hints for Emigrants," which everybody ought to know, besides stories for general reading. Price, 15c. for single copies; \$1 50 per year.

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