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So pleased is he at having found in Doan's Kidney Pills a cure for his ailments, which he had begun to think were incurable, that he wrote the following statement of his case so that others similarly afflicted may profit by his experience: "I have been afflicted with kidney trouble for about ten years and have tried several remedies but never received any real benefit until I started taking Doan's Kidney Pills. My back used to constantly ache and my urine was high colored and milky looking at times. Since I have finished the third box of Doan's Kidney Pills I am happy to state that I am not bothered with backache at all and my urine is clear as crystal. I feel confident that these pills are the best kidney specific in the country."

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The Sabbath School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

First Quarter Lesson 5 Feb. 23 1902. THE ARREST OF STEPHEN. Acts 6: 7-15.

Study verses 1-15. GOLDEN TEXT.—Fear not them that kill the body and are not able to kill the soul.—Matt. 10: 28.

HISTORICAL SETTING.

Time.—Probably about A. D. 35. Authorities vary from A. D. 31 to 37.

Place.—Jerusalem. The trial was in the hall of the Sacedrim (Acts 6: 12) near the temple. The execution probably was near the brook Kidron, opposite Gethsemane in the valley between Olivet and the city on the northeast of the city, to which place the Gate of St. Stephen now leads.

1. THE OCCASION OF A NEW DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH.—V. 1. In those days. The period of the great growth of the early church, somewhere between A. D. 33 and 37. The disciples. The word occurs here for the first time in the Acts. Disciples are learners those who go to school to Christ, who accept of him as their teacher. Were multiplied a great number.

The Hebrews and the Grecian Jews. Among the early Christians at Jerusalem were two classes of Jews: (1) The native Jews of Palestine, speaking the Aramic language, and (2) of Hellenists or Grecians who were true Jews from foreign lands, who spoke Greek, and whose modes of life and thinking were modified by the Greek culture and influences around them. These latter complained that in the distribution of the funds contributed for the poor, their widows were neglected.

1. It is difficult to believe that the apostles could have acted in a spirit of partiality. It is probable that the Hebrews, who had charge of the distribution, may have been better acquainted with the needs of their own people, and thus have unintentionally given them more than their share of attention.

2. Perhaps, also, more of the money was given by the Hebrews, and that hence the distributors felt that their poor should have the larger share.

THE NEED LED TO A NEW ORGANIZATION OF CHURCH WORK.—V. 2-5. As soon as this feeling of dissatisfaction was made known, measures were adopted in the most Christian spirit. A meeting of the church was called. The apostles asked that seven laymen be chosen, for it was not fitting that they should leave their work of preaching the word of God, to serve tables, to superintend the distribution of supplies. Called the *multitudo*. The whole church, not merely the one hundred and twenty. *Serve tables*. Both the tables at which money was collected and distributed. *Of honest report*, borne witness to by the church that they had the qualifications, namely, (1) They were men who had proved themselves to be honest and trustworthy. (2) They were filled with the Holy Spirit, earnestly religious, abounding in the fruits of the Spirit. (3) They were men of wisdom and good judgment; common-sense, business-like men.

Note. These are the true qualifications of all men who are to be chosen as deacons, or to any other church office, business or devotional and they exalt the office. *We will give ourselves continually to prayer public and private prayer*; the conduct of the worship of the church. *And to the ministry of the word, preaching and teaching the word of God.* The Seven Deacons. Of these seven we know almost nothing except of Stephen, and of Philip whose work is described in Acts 8. These two did a great deal more than serve tables. From the lower duty they rose up to a higher.

1. We should not be discouraged when we find imperfections in the modern church. Probably the differences between members arise more from misunderstandings than from a desire to do wrong.

2. There are diversities of work in the Church of Christ.

3. We learn how to settle difficulties.

4. We have another example of the way God overrules times of trials and difficulty. The better organization of the church, the office of deacons and adapting methods to circumstances all grew out of this early difficulty.

THE OUTCOME, RAPID GROWTH IN NUMBERS AND POWER.—Vs. 7, 8. The word of God increased. Its power extended to many more people, and to other classes, as the priests; the truths of salvation gained wider credence, and changed many hearts and lives. The beauty and power of religion were shown in a new light. *Multiplied*. See on v. 1. In Jerusalem, where there was the greatest opposition from

the rulers, and where Christ was crucified, and all the facts concerning Him were best known. *A great company of the priests*. Such an accession of such converts was a signal event in the early history of the church. They might continue their temple duties. *Were obedient*. They kept joining the new community. Stephen was a prominent example of the converts; and the wonders and signs wrought by him, as well as by the apostles, proved and illustrated to the people the power that was working so mightily among the people.

STEPHEN, THE MARTYR PREACHER.—Vs. 6, 7. As usual, new work developed new men. One of the most active of the seven deacons was a man named Stephen, probably a Grecian.

1. Notice the development of Stephen. He was first of good report, then a 'server of tables' and distributor of supplies to the poor, then a preacher of great power, a worker of miracles, a martyr, the forerunner of the greatest apostle in Christian history. It was an instance of "To him that hath shall be given."

2. The source of his power was that he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

3. He was full of faith, the faculty through which he received the Holy Spirit.

4. He was a man of power.

5. He was a man of deeds. He did. He was a man of action as well as of preaching. He practised what he preached. *Great wonders*. Proving the power of God that worked in and through him. *And miracles*, signs of God's presence and indorsement.

ATTEMPTS TO PUT A STOP TO STEPHEN'S WORK.—Vs. 9-15. *The synagogue of the Libertines*. The Libertines were probably Roman freedmen who were formerly captive Jews brought to Rome by Pompey (B. C. 63), and afterwards liberated. These men and their descendants would enjoy the rights of Roman citizenship, and some of them appear to have returned to Jerusalem. Tacitus speaks of ten thousand Libertine Jews. *Cyrenians*. Cyrene was a city of the province of Cyrenaica, in North Africa. Josephus relates how one fourth of its inhabitants were Jews. *Alexandrians*. From Alexandria, on the Mediterranean twelve miles from the mouth of the Nile, a famous philosophical and literary center. *Cilicia*. A province of Asia Minor, of which Tarsus was the capital. Paul is supposed to have belonged to this synagogue. *Asia*. Not the grand division, but the Roman province in Asia Minor. It is probable that Paul, then Saul, was among those disputing with Stephen, discussing, arguing.

And they were not able. Had not strength to resist, "to withstand," his Scriptural arguments that Jesus was the Messiah. The argument and the power were all on Stephen's side.

The second attempt was by means of a false charge before the Sanhedrim.

Then they suborned men to say *We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses*. The blasphemy consisted in contempt of Moses and his institutions. It was a capital offense. *And against God* who instituted the sacrifices, and to whom the temple was dedicated. *And they stirred up the people* hitherto the opposition was confined chiefly to the rulers. Now the leaders had got hold of something which touched the religion and the hopes of the people. Thus the elders and the scribes no longer feared the people, who were divided in feeling, and they caught him, handled him roughly. *Brought him to the council*. The Sanhedrim, the most learned and powerful body in the nation. *False witnesses*. False because they perverted and distorted his words. *Against the holy place*. The temple adjoining the hall of the Sanhedrim. Probably he said that God could be worshiped acceptably elsewhere, and that if they rejected the Messiah the temple would be destroyed (v. 14). It was the Jews themselves who blasphemed the temple by desecrating it. *And... changed the customs which Moses delivered us*. Jesus fulfilled these. But he did change the Jews' interpretation of the laws. *His face as... the face of an angel*. With the divine illumination of the Holy Spirit. This was God's answer to the charge against Stephen.

Then it perambulated around the building, coming at last to the gas jet to meet its fate. The cotton fibres, still adhering to its body, caught fire, and the unfortunate insect dropped blazing to the floor, setting the place on fire. Cotton waste was also partly responsible for another curious fire. This time an electric spark did the mischief, passing from a belt to some conducting substance near it, and communicating with the cotton.

The Railway and Engineering Review, borrowing from an English exchange, gives two instances of fire caused by water. In the first place, a flood caused the water to rise inside a factory until it reached a pile of iron filings. When they came in contact with the water, they oxidized so rapidly that they became intensely hot and at last set fire to woodwork near them, and the building was destroyed.

In the other case the water from the engines during a fire found its way into a shed containing quicklime. The heat caused by the slacking of the lime set fire to the shed, and this to other buildings. Glass globes, which act as lenses, often cause fire, and it has recently been said that the convex glasses used in pavement lights are dangerous, and should be abandoned in favor of lights with flat tops.—Youth's Companion.

Mary Murkland Haley contributes to a recent issue of Good Housekeeping an article entitled, Nerves in the Nursery to which it were well if the attention of every nervous mother could be drawn. From it we quote the following: "What does the nervous mother ask herself in moments when nerves are strained by pain or over-excitement of any kind? Rest! she chiefly demands. Leave me! Let me have quiet, darkness, freedom from effort."

We accord the nervous baby exactly opposite treatment. We answer as if it entreated, Rock me! Toss me! Shake rattles at me! Sing to me, shout, jump at me! Show me a light, anything to keep me awake and excited! Tradition takes a strong hold in the nursery. It is voted cruel and fierce to let a baby cry. The very mother who best recognizes the value of a good cry in calming her own overwrought feelings, can least make up her mind to allow the same relaxation to the baby, for whose nervous condition she is probably entirely to blame. The tiny baby's fretfulness is, as a rule, purely physical, and especially dependent on over-excited nerves. Any mother who will allow her baby to grow for at least six months of its life in a restful atmosphere, absolutely unstimulated beyond its natural pace of development, will have food for thought in comparing her results with those of the more common training.

Don't Watch the Clock. Thomas A. Edison's recent advice to a young man who queried of him advice as to success, Don't watch the clock, deserves a place in the rules of any young man who is ambitious and striving for success in any line. Don't be a time-server. Remember that you are working for something more than a stipulated sum for a certain number of hours. Keep your employer in your debt by doing a little more or a little better work than is actually required of you, and sooner or later there will come a day of reckoning when you will get your pay.—Haverhill Gazette.

The chief business of the Christian Church is not to nurse itself, but to evangelize the world. As Parrolee's Vegetable Pills contain Mandrake and Dandelion, they cure Liver and Kidney Complaints with unerring certainty. They also contain Roots and Herbs which have specific virtues truly wonderful in their action on the stomach and bowels. Mr. E. A. Cairncross, Shakespear, writes: "I can do Parrolee's Pills an excellent remedy for Biliousness and Derangement of the Liver, having used them, myself for some time."

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For Cuts, Wounds, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Rheumatism, Stiff Joints, Burns, Scalds, Bites of Insects, Croup, Coughs, Colds, Haygard's Yellow Oil will be found an excellent remedy. Price 25 cents.

If a child eats ravenously, grinds the teeth at night and picks its nose, you may almost be certain it has worms and should administer without delay Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup this remedy contains its own cathartic.

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"I have used Ripans Tablets for a number of years and would not be without them. I was troubled with indigestion and constipation, and have noticed since I have been using them that I can get rid of some terrible bilious spells which used to bedevil me on account of the medicine. Of late I have not had any. I had just got over a bad spell of bilious fever and was sitting on the step, when a neighbor came to me and remarked how red I looked. I told him I had just got over the fever and that I was afraid to get anything on account of indigestion, from which I had suffered since I was quite young. He advised me to take Ripans Tablets. I said I would try them, and from then I haven't been without them. I can eat anything, providing I follow with a Tablet instead of dinner. I feel very thankful that I have found something that will prolong my life."

GASTRIC TROUBLES.

"I had suffered three years at least from gastric troubles. I could not sleep at night. My head ached and my feet would be cold as ice. My bowels were not regular and I would have each cramp from gas forming on my stomach that I would faint away. I was in such a state that I would have sooner died than live. About three months ago I was suffering and told as my body was fast up heavenly. My brother recommended Ripans Tablets to me. My bowels obtained some for me from the nearest drug store and I would not now be without them. They relieved me of all the fatal gases that formed in my stomach and they move my bowels regularly, for which I had been taking physics all the time. There is no more gas, my bowels move regularly, I have no more headaches and can sleep well. In fact, I feel as light as the air which I breathe, and that is saying a good deal for a woman who weighs 100 pounds. I am sorry that I did not commence using the Tablets a year ago, for they would have saved me a great deal of pain and suffering."

One gives relief

Ripans Tablets, now and then. Will benefit the wisest men. And if dyspepsia is their wo. Continued, R.I.P.A.S.'S make it go.

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