

The Sunday-School.

FIRST QUARTER
LESSON XIII.—March 29.

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Lo, I am with you
always, even into the end of the world.*
—Matt. 28:20.

The New Centre. The first twelve chapters of the book of Acts, which we studied last year, relate the history which centered in Jerusalem, and concerned chiefly the Jewish element in the church.

Then one of the offshoots from Jerusalem took root in the city of Antioch, which thenceforth became a new centre, concerned chiefly with the Gentile element, a missionary church from which the gospel reached out to every country of the Roman Empire.

RADIANTS FROM THE JERUSALEM CHURCH.—The Jerusalem church was also a centre of missionary operations. Though not recorded in the Acts, we learn from other sources with great probability that Peter was a missionary to the Jews as far as Babylon and Rome; Andrew to Scythia, Asia Minor and Greece; John to Asia Minor, especially Ephesus; Jude to Assyria and Persia; Thomas to Syria, and perhaps Persia and India; James to Egypt and Palestine.

RADIANTS FROM THE ANTIOCH CHURCH.—*First missionary journey through Asia Minor.*—Acts. 13: 1-15:40. Two or three years. A. D. 47-50.—Paul and Barnabas.—Cyprus, Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe. Return to Antioch of Syria, Council at Jerusalem.

Second missionary journey, Europe.—Acts 15:41-18:23. Two or three years. A. D. 50-52.—Paul and Silas.—Revisits churches of Asia Minor. They enter Europe. Philippi.—Lydia, conversion of jailor. Thessalonica. Berea. Athens (1) Thessalonians; Corinth (2) Thessalonians. Return to Antioch.—Revisits Jerusalem; some time in Antioch. Galatians.

Third missionary journey, Europe and Asia.—Acts 18:23-21:16. Three or four years. A. D. 53-57.—Paul.—Apollos, Aquila, Priscilla, Timothy, Luke, Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Tychicus, Trophimus, Philip, Agabus. Revisits Asia Minor.—Ephesus.—Scava; burning magic books; shrines of Diana; the mob. I Corinthians. Revisits Macedonia and Greece, 2 Corinthians; Romans. Troas, Eutychus, Miletus. Address to Ephesian elders; Tyre, seven days. Caesarea.—Philip the evangelist.—Agabus the prophet. To Jerusalem.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.

1. Take your scholars, by means of the map, on a series of journeys with St. Paul and his companions. Trace the missionary journeys. Note who went with Paul on each journey. At each stopping place recount the events that took place there, the methods of work, the obstacles, the success, the time spent.

2. Sum up the progress of the gospel during the six or seven years included in this quarter's lesson. The extent of territory reached. The broadening of Christian thought and life.

The churches founded.

The epistles written.

3. Note the obstacles overcome. In every place there was opposition, often persecution.

4. Note that the same forces are at work now as then. The century just ended has witnessed much in the progress of the gospel that parallels the history we are studying.

5. The missionary enterprise has spread the gospel into many lands, at great cost, overcoming obstacles as great as mountains which Christ promised that faith should remove.

What would Jerusalem and Antioch have been had they kept their gospel to themselves?

The church that is not a missionary church is a dying church.



Sunday School Evangelistic Week and Decision Day.

It is recommended by the International Sunday-school Executive, that all Sunday-school associations observe Decision Day with such preparatory work as may help to make it effective.

In harmony with the acceptance of other Provincial and State Associations, the New Brunswick Executive have adopted the week preceding Easter Sunday April 5th to 11th, for special evangelistic work for the Sunday-schools, using Sunday, 12th, as a day of decision or ingathering.

Doubtless some will make their own plans, while others will welcome suggestions. For the latter, the committee make the following outline.

At a reasonably early date, not later than March 22nd, let pastor, officers and teachers unite in prayerful confidence to form such laws as may be in agreement with their church rules, to bring about the object contemplated.

On the next Sunday after such conference, let the pastor preach to parents, showing them their responsibility, and asking a hearty co-operation with their teachers. We also advise the distribution of leaflet literature promoting this subject among teachers and parents. A little book on "Decision Day in the Sunday-school," by Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, can be obtained free by sending postage at the rate of one cent per five copies to the Secretary's office, Rev. A. Lucas, Sussex, N. B.

We advise each teacher to visit parents of scholars in his class, conferring with them on the aim of the school, and the best methods of winning their own children to Christ.

On Sunday, April 5th, let one sermon be on the subject of early conversion, trying to have children, teachers and parents present. Let the session of Sunday-school on this day be followed by a prayer-meeting, especially seeking the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit.

During the week several meetings should be held with the scholars for simple instruction on the plan of salvation as the only means of escaping from sin and its evils.

So far as possible a teacher should seek personal conversation with each

individual scholar, making plain the way of salvation.

Sunday, 12th, should especially be used for opportunities of confessing Christ by all who have decided, not forgetting to aid such as do not as yet clearly understand.

In the school session the exercises may include prayer by teachers, and a brief appealing address by pastor or other person.

Some schools distribute cards containing the following:

DECISION DAY CARD.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

MY DECISION.

Believing that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Saviour of the world, and that no other name is given under heaven among men by which men may be saved, and further, realizing that I am a sinner, and cannot save myself, I do now, after having carefully read God's Word, and engaged in earnest prayer, decide to accept Christ as my Saviour, to begin a Christian life, and to unite with the church of God.

Name,

Address

Teacher

Date

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

In all we do, let us seek only to be instruments of the Holy Spirit, being careful not to hinder his work. Some hinder by being silent when he wants them to be his mouth-piece, but we can talk too much and frustrate the operation of the Spirit. He will guide. Let us follow.

T. S. SIMMS,
REV. T. F. FOTHERINGHAM, D.D.
REV. G. O. GATES, D.D.
REV. A. LUCAS,

Committee.

To aid superintendents and others the committee send this circular to every newspaper in the province for early insertion, and they will make the March issue of *The Sunday-school Advocate* a special evangelistic number, suitable for distribution. Extra copies can be obtained by sending to the Secretary's office: A. Lucas, Sussex, before February 22nd at the rate of one dollar per 100.

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