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The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Third Quarter-Lesson V. — July 30.

PAUL AT EPHEBUS.—Acts 19:1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.—When he the spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth.—John 16:13.

THE RETURN OF THE MISSIONARIES.—Paul remained a year and a half at Corinth, founding and strengthening the church in that city. Then he went to Jerusalem to be present at the feast of Tabernacles. He then went to Antioch, the starting-point of his missionary tour.

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY. (1) The old churches revisited and strengthened. (2) New churches founded. (3) The Gospel introduced into Europe and into the centres of influence. (4) New workers brought into the missionary work. (5) Two epistles written, the first books of our present New Testament that were written.

THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY. The first portion of this tour we are unable to trace with accuracy. Paul left Antioch early in A. D. 54, revisiting the churches which he had founded in Galatia and Phrygia; thence he came to Ephesus. There he remained nearly three years. Thence he went into Macedonia and Greece, whence he returned to Jerusalem. This was the end of his third missionary journey. The time of this tour was in about four years. During this tour he is thought to have written the following epistles, viz.: From Ephesus, spring, 57, 1 Corinthians; from Macedonia, autumn 57, 2 Corinthians; from Corinth, winter of 57, Galatians; from Corinth, spring of 58, Romans.

EPHEBUS AND THE CHURCH THERE. Ephesus was not only the capital of the province, but the city of the greatest importance in Asia Minor, and the principal emporium of trade in the East. The inhabitants of Ephesus were Greeks. The deputy of the province resided here. They were under the Roman government; but Ephesus was a "free city," governed by its own magistrates and popular assembly. In Christian story it was famous not only for the long residence of Paul and Timothy, but subsequently it was known as the abode of the Virgin Mary, and the home of the old age of the Apostle John. The graves of Mary and of John were here.

THE NEW PENTECOST AT EPHEBUS.—Vers. 1-7. While Apollos was at Corinth, Apollos was an eloquent, cultured Alexandrian Jew, who had been converted with a very inadequate knowledge of Jesus and his religion. He preached with power at Ephesus. He was taught the Gospel more fully by Aquila and Priscilla, and had gone on to Corinth before Paul reached Ephesus on this journey. Paul having passed through the upper coasts. Borders, country, not sea-coasts. Came to Ephesus, on the Aegean Sea. And finding certain disciples. Christian converts. They were disciples, but desired to know more about Jesus and his teachings. Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? The more accurate rendering is far more emphatic and clear. Did ye receive the Holy Ghost when ye believed? We are left to conjecture what prompted the question. The most natural explanation is, that St. Paul noticed in them, as they attended the meetings of the church, a want of spiritual gifts. Something was manifestly lacking for their spiritual completeness. We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. The more accurate translation of the Greek guides us to the true interpretation of this answer. On the contrary, we did not (at the time of our baptism) so much as hear whether the Holy Ghost was given. No Jew had heard of the Holy Ghost. But they were doubtless ignorant that his mighty influence was no longer confined, as under the old dispensation, to a few favored individuals. They were ignorant of the first Christian Pentecost and its marvels. They knew nothing of his miraculous influences. Unto (or into) John's baptism. It was a confession of repentance, a hope of a Messiah, an effort to lead a new life, but without the aid of a present Christ and the special gifts of the Spirit. They were leading a life of fasting, and prayers, but had not passed on to "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. That they should believe on him which should come. John's baptism was a preparation for the Messiah. When they heard this they were baptized. This shows that baptism was important. In the name of the Lord Jesus. "Baptized in" expresses the close union with God into which men are brought by baptism. The Holy Ghost came on them. Manifested by its effects. They spoke with tongues, and prophesied. It was on the day of Pentecost. Every man received a consciousness of a new and mighty power, each one felt the

presence and love of God. The utterance of praise was an outward sign of the grace and power which followed the descent of the Holy Ghost on these favored men. And prophesied. This means to speak with inspiration, not to foretell future events. As at Jerusalem, the Spirit given in this centre of Gentile activity that a like result might follow, and that the amazement at such a power might win attention and gain converts to Christ. And all men, etc. A few persons, filled with the Holy Spirit, are mighty for the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan.

PREACHING IN THE EPHESIAN SYNAGOGUE.—Vers. 8, 9. And he went into the synagogue, and spoke (at their religious services) boldly. It required great boldness to preach to these Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. It was sure to awaken opposition and persecution, and might cost him his life. Such occasions came to every preacher, where he must take his life, his comfort, and his reputation in his hand, and speak boldly. Disputing (reasoning) out of the Scriptures, that Jesus was the Messiah, etc., and that the promised restoration of the kingdom was to be accomplished in him. Disputing and persuading, discoursing, and thus persuading. The kingdom of God. That kingdom which all Jews were expecting. But when divers (some) were hardened. Confirmed in their evil ways and in opposition to the truth. And believed not, or (Rev. Ver.) were disobedient. They were hardened by resisting good influences, by disobeying known duty, by trampling on their convictions, by refusing to believe what was true. Neglect of duty will always harden the heart. But spake evil of that way. If men will not change their lives, they will try to oppose the teaching that commands them to change. Unbelievers are forever uttering falsehoods about the Gospel. That way. The Christian religion. He departed from them; i.e. ceased to take part in the public services. And separated the disciples. The Christian part of the congregation.

PREACHING IN THE LECTURE ROOM OF TYRANNUS.—Vers. 9-12. Disputing (discussing) daily in the school of one Tyrannus. He may have been the teacher of a Jewish school, or a Greek converted to Christianity, and allowing his school to be a school of Christ. All Asia heard the word; i.e. the Roman province of Asia, of which Ephesus was the capital. And God wrought special miracles by the hands of (i.e. by means of) Paul. What these uncommon miracles were is detailed in the next verse. God works, Paul is the instrument. So that from his body were brought (see Luke 8:46). The throng was so great that the sick could not be brought directly to the apostle, or were too infirm to be removed from their houses. Handkerchiefs or aprons. The word "or" suggests that it made no difference what the article of dress was. The First Epistle to the Corinthians was written during the latter part of Paul's stay at Ephesus. In these three quiet years, not only were the foundations of the great Ephesian church laid, but also the early stories of those famous Christian congregations known as the churches of Asia. It was, perhaps, the most successful period of his busy, stirring career. We can see by the effect upon the heathen business of making silver shrines how "mighty grew the word of God and prevailed." There must have been a very large number of converts to make so serious an inroad upon a bad business. A great revival of religion affects the liquor traffic in the same way in our day. As a natural effect, Paul was mobbed and driven from the city. But the Gospel remained.

W. C. T. Union.

OUR MOTTO.—If God be for us, who can be against us.

About Miss Willard.

We are pained to learn, in a letter just received from Anna Gordon, that Miss Willard has been ill in bed for a week, suffering from a feverish attack which in her depleted condition caused her friends the greatest anxiety. Miss Gordon writes: "Feeling a little stronger, since, in obedience to the doctor's orders she had given up public work, Miss Willard persuaded herself to believe that she could occasionally attend a meeting of unusual interest as an on-looker. This she did once or twice, responding with only a word to an introduction or in acknowledgement of a basket of flowers; but the columns of The Union Signal will bear testimony to the fact that she was also a 'chiel among them takin' notes,' and those notes were afterward elaborately dictated to a stenographer for the benefit of the white-ribbon constituency. Miss Willard so fully believing that 'the best that any mortal bath is that which every mortal

shares.' Early in June came the wonderful meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation, followed by the anniversary of the British section of the World's W. C. T. U. Miss Willard's friends did all in their power to dissuade her from leaving the seclusion of Lady Henry Somerset's lovely cottage in Reigate for a week in London, but a great convention of women proved too powerful a temptation for her to resist, and each session found Miss Willard in her place listening with eager interest to the proceedings, and at last even making a brief speech herself in support of an important resolution.

"On returning to Reigate," Miss Gordon says, "the re-action came swiftly. While in great weariness and wholly unable to do so, she dictated the vivid account of the meeting, already published, and now, although ten days have passed, she has not been able to sit up for an hour. The best medical aid was immediately called, and with skilful nursing and unremitting care, Miss Willard seems to have escaped a long and serious illness, which was at first threatened. While we sympathize most deeply with our beloved leader, whose life long exemption from pain and weakness makes her present illness all the harder to bear, we shall be glad for the lesson she has learned, that public meetings cannot be indulged in for the present, even in moderation, not even for the sake of lending an ear rather than a voice, but must be altogether prohibited. Most bitterly did Miss Willard lament her overwork, when, on June 10 h, she could not witness the magnificent pageant of the Hyde Park demonstration in support of the Direct Vote Bill, an account of which Lady Henry Somerset sends you by this mail."

Miss Willard's busy brain has so many happy years borne the W. C. T. U. as its most coveted burden that we cannot wonder she finds it hard to obey the loving command, "sit still, my daughter!" This she must do, however, for the next few months, and our white-ribboners everywhere owe her dear friends an everlasting debt of gratitude for their tender ministrations to our President during this enforced rest.

Among the multitudinous efforts being put forth to ameliorate human conditions, none that I have lately seen has in it more "promise and potency" than the act of Parliament passed in the Province of Ontario, Canada, of which the city of Toronto is the center, providing that a curfew bell is to be rung in every city and town at nine o'clock at night, and that all persons under seventeen years of age found after that hour in the streets without permission of their parents and guardians are to be punished by fine and imprisonment. Children of tender years so found are to be placed in some public institution and kept there till the government sees fit to release them. The garden gate is the dead line of boy hood in these days of legalized temptation. It is, as a rule, enough to know about the whoresomeness of a boy's habits that he spends his evenings "in the bosom of the family circle." For the good of the nation it was a thousand pities that he was ever permitted to spend them anywhere else. I shall watch this Canadian experiment with intense interest. I see no reason why it should not succeed; and if it does it is sure to be put into practice generally.

On Duty.

There is a loyalty which is higher than any government, any party, any cause, or any friend can claim; it is the loyalty we owe to our honest convictions of truth and right. Whenever these conflict with lower claims the latter must give way.

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Money saved and pain relieved by the leading household remedy, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil—a small quantity of which usually suffices to cure a cough, heal a sore, cut, bruise or sprain, relieve lumbago, rheumatism, neuralgia, excoriated nipples, or inflamed breast.

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MY little boy was taken very bad with diarrhoea, he was very delicate and got so low we had no hope of his life, but a lady friend recommended Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, and although he could only bear a few drops at a time he got well. It saved my child.

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Express for Halifax..... 13.30
Express for Sussex..... 16.30
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Passengers from St. John for Quebec and Montreal take through sleeping cars at Moncton at 19.40 o'clock.

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Express from Pt. du Chene & Moncton..... 10.25
Express from Halifax, Campbellton and Pictou..... 11.00
Express from Halifax and Sydney..... 22.30

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D. POTTINGER,
Chief Superintendent.

Railway Office,
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