

The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Third Quarter-Lesson VIII. — Aug. 20.

PAUL BEFORE FELIX.

Acts 24:10-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*—1 Cor. 16:13.

THE COURSE OF EVENTS.—In our last lesson we left Paul as he was being rescued from the mob.

Paul's Roman Citizenship did him good service on this occasion. He was released from bonds and saved from scourging, but detained in prison.

Before the Jewish Council. The next morning Lysias brought Paul before the Jewish Sanhedrim to learn what they accused him of.

A Vision of Cheer and Promise. In this hour of darkness, when he was weary in body, when his plans and hopes seemed about to fail, and the Roman power held him in prison, in this hour the Lord stood by him with words of cheer. Jesus was with him. He might suffer, but in every time of danger, by land or sea, he knew henceforth that he was safe, and was sure of success. All things were working together for his good.

The Plot. Early the next morning 40 Jews plotted to kill Paul, binding themselves not to eat or drink till they had murdered him. But Paul's nephew in some way learned of the plot and revealed it.

Paul sent to Caesarea. The conspirators were foiled, and Paul was sent under guard by night to Caesarea, the political capital. Here he remained five days while Governor Felix sent for his accusers to come from Jerusalem and present their charges.

THE CHARGES AGAINST PAUL. The charges brought against the prisoner seem to have included three particulars: (1) that he was guilty of sedition, and so of disloyalty to the Roman government; (2) that he was guilty of heresy, the ringleader of a sect, and so a renegade from Judaism; (3) that he was guilty of profaning the temple, and thus of affronting a worship which was under the patronage and protection of Rome. The object appears to be not the condemnation and punishment of Paul by Felix, but his surrender to the Jewish authorities for trial.

PAUL'S ANSWER TO THE CHARGE OF SEDITION.—Ver. 10-13. He answered by flat denial. Then Paul answered, *thou hast been of many years a judge. Six years I do the more cheerfully answer for myself.* Paul felt his judge had had ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with the leaders of the Jews, their jealousies and narrowness. *Thou mayst understand.* There could be no difficulty in obtaining witnesses and proofs. *That there are yet but twelve days.* Not more than twelve days. *I went up to Jerusalem for to worship.* He went on purpose to worship. *They neither found me in the temple disputing.* Discussing disputed questions which might excite a tumult. *Neither raising up the people.* Stirring up a crowd. *Neither can they prove the things.* A challenge to his accusers to produce proof of their only criminal charge against him.

HIS ANSWER TO THE CHARGE OF HERESY.—Vers. 14-16. This charge he explains. *But this I confess unto thee.* Paul now comes to the charge that he was a ringleader of the sect of Nazarenes. He admits that he does belong to this so-called sect; but maintains that by doing so he did not relinquish the religion of his fathers. *After the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers.* He worshipped the same God that the Jews worshipped. He was a true Jew. He had not broken the Roman law nor the Jewish, by introducing a new God. And he claimed for his sect the same toleration as was given to the other Jewish sects. *Believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets.* Paul denied that in becoming a Christian he had apostatized from the faith of his fathers. Christianity to him was but the fulfilment of Judaism. *And have hope toward God.* Found on his revelation. His hope was that there shall be a resurrection of the dead. *Immortal life and glory.* Of the just and unjust. Bringing a double motive of hope and of warning. *Herein.* In the worship, faith, and hope spoken. *Do I exercise myself.* Implying training one's self, as in an art that requires practice for its perfection.

ANSWER TO THE CHARGE OF PROFANING THE TEMPLE.—Vers. 17-23. *Now after many years.* It was 21 years since his conversion, and 10 years since he started on his first missionary journey. *To bring alms to my nation.* A large sum of money which Paul had been collecting since his last visit, for the disciples at Jerusalem. *And offerings.* The usual sacrifices customary at the feast of Pentecost. *Whereupon certain Jews from Asia.* The tumult was not raised by Paul, but

by these Asiatic Jews themselves. *Who ought to have been here.* This also is a skilful argument, it being the custom of the Romans not to judge a prisoner without the accusers face to face. *When I stood before this council.* Paul refers to the inquiry before the Jewish court. *Except it be.* He had not done any evil, and the only possible thing which could be construed into exciting a tumult, was his siding with one party in the council. *Felix... having more perfect knowledge of that way.* Felix, from his long residence at Caesarea, was too well acquainted with Christianity to be deceived by the misrepresentation of the Jews. *He commanded a centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, from bonds.* His imprisonment was to be as comfortable as was consistent with safety. This continued two years.

PAUL'S APPEAL TO FELIX AND DRUSILLA.—Ver. 24, 25. The audience. Felix, the governor of Judea. He was notoriously avaricious, cruel and licentious, but a man of great energy and talent.

Drusilla was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I, who died in horrible torments. She was a famous beauty and married when only about 15 to Aziz. She abandoned her husband and gave herself to be the so-called wife of Felix. Such was the pair before whom Paul "reasoned of justice and continence and coming judgment."

He reasoned of righteousness. Embracing those varied duties which every upright citizen owes to another. *Temperance.* Especially "self-control." *And judgment to come.* The certainty that for all infractions of these principles he must receive the due reward.

W. C. T. Union.

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

Dominion Convention.

(Continued.)

That notice of motion be given for adding the words "Auxiliary to the World's W. C. T. U." to Article I of the constitution.

That by-law eleven be so altered that the Day of Prayer shall be January 3rd, and Crusade Day be appointed for September 28th, the birthday of the World's W. C. T. U. president.

That a collection be taken on the Day of Prayer to be equally divided between the Northwest Territories and the World's W. C. T. U. missionary work.

That the Dominion W. C. T. U. seek incorporation.

That a suffrage memorial be presented at the opening of the next session of parliament.

That arrangements be made for appointing delegates to the World's W. C. T. U. Convention and the Council of the Dominion Alliance, also fraternal delegates to the American National W. C. T. U. Convention.

Resolutions Committee reported as follows:—

RESOLUTIONS.

Our convention now assembled would offer to our loving Father most grateful thanks for the progress made during the past year. Realizing that the success that has crowned our efforts is due to the "good hand of our God upon us," to Him, therefore, we would give all the praise.

Resolved: That we express our disapproval of ministers, Sunday-school superintendents and temperance lecturers indulging in the use of tobacco in any form.

Viewing with alarm the growing dislike to housework among young women, and the aversion to help in the care of children, so that from a want of knowledge of these important duties they are totally unfit for the proper discharge of the same; resolved, that we members of this convention bring more prominently before mothers the duty of training their daughters in this most useful and honorable department of woman's life that to be a noble wife and good mother is after all the crowning grace of woman.

That we emphatically protest against the exposing or sale, and the bringing in of impure literature, papers, pictures and books.

Resolved: That the Dominion W. C. T. U. delegates here assembled do affectionately acknowledge on behalf of all their absent sisters, the beautiful birthday present received from the Dominion president, Mrs. Williams, to commemorate this their tenth birthday.

Resolved: That the sincere gratitude and united thanks of the Dominion W. C. T. U. convention, in Knox church, Winnipeg, June 1893, be conveyed to Mr. McNicoll, general passenger superintendent of the C. P. R., Montreal.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Dominion convention are heartily due and hereby tendered to the Winnipeg W. C. T. U., to the letting committee, and to all the citizens of Winnipeg who have so hospitably received us into their homes and hearts, and planned for

our every comfort and convenience; to the trustees of Knox Presbyterian, Grace Methodist, Zion Methodist and Central Congregational churches for throwing open their doors for the various sessions, day and evening; to the ladies of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational and Methodist churches for the thoughtful provision of daily lunch in Bethel hall; to the city pastors for their hearty words of welcome and encouragement; to the organist and choirs for the inspiring music; to the Y's who, through the assistance of Mrs. Bishop, so happily entertained us at her residence; to the pages for their untiring assiduity and cheerful service; to the press for their full and most satisfactory reports of all business transacted, also local notices; and to each and all who have in any way helped to promote the comfort and success of the convention.

Resolutions were passed praying that the three evils of India, liquor, opium and the social vice may shortly be entirely abolished by law; that the Union work hand in hand with other temperance societies; protesting against the opening of the Women's building at the Fair on Sunday; acknowledging the excellent work done by the *Woman's Journal*, published by Miss Scott at Ottawa.

THE FAREWELL MEETING.

The farewell meeting was held in the evening in Zion church, Mrs. Williams in the chair. Mrs. Sanderson, of Daiville, Quebec, spoke on the success of local option in her country, and Miss Tilley read the report of Mrs. Archibald on parlor meetings. Mrs. Todd sang, in the Scotch dialect, "The Palace of the King," which was one of the pleasantest and best appreciated part of the evening's programme. Dr. Amelia Youmans and Mrs. Todd gave very fascinating addresses. Dr. Youmans showed how the W. C. T. U. appealed to women, making her point by telling illustrations; while Mrs. Todd, in her inimitable, humorous way, described her visit to the World's Temperance Congress in "great, magnificent, dirty, wicked Chicago."

After the question box had been disposed of the banner committee presented its report, awarding the banner to Quebec Provincial Union as having made the greatest gain during the year. Ontario had 3,758 members and a gain of 475, a percentage of 14. Quebec had 2,119 members and a gain of 491, or a percentage gain of 24.

Mrs. Sanderson, president of the Quebec Union, acknowledged the honor in a brief speech. It is to be noted that Manitoba had increased from 200 to 494, or an increase of over 100 per cent. The province was thrown out, however, on the ground that the fees had not been paid before the Dominion books closed. This is evidently a case where "ignorance of the law excuses no man," for the Manitoba treasurer had the fees all ready to pay the Dominion treasurer several weeks ago, but not knowing the law about the closing of the books held them thinking that it would be in time to present them at the opening of the convention. However, Manitoba is determined to make a vigorous effort and by again making a hundred per cent. increase secure the banner for next year. The convention then closed with the singing of that famous parting hymn, "God be with you till we meet again," and the benediction pronounced by Rev. W. G. Henderson.

Interviewed by a reporter and being asked what were the salient points of the convention. Our reply was "good generalship, harmony, and a splendid advance all along the line" and we can come down from this mount of inspiration better fitted for the work which surely lies waiting for us, knowing this that He is Lord of the valleys as well as the hills and His presence shall go with us and bring peace.

M. S.

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Express for Campbellton, Pughwash, Pictou and Halifax, 7.00. Express for Sussex, 13.30. Express for Halifax, 16.30. Through express for Pt. du Chene, Quebec, Montreal and Chicago, 16.55.

A parlor car runs each way on express trains leaving St. John at 7.00 o'clock and Halifax at 7.00 o'clock. Passengers from St. John for Quebec and Montreal take through sleeping cars at Moncton at 19.40 o'clock.

Trains will arrive at ST. JOHN. Express from Sussex, 8.25. Express from Chicago, Quebec and Montreal (Monday excepted), 10.25. Express from Pt. du Chene and Moncton, 10.25. Express from Halifax, Campbellton and Pictou, 19.00. Express from Halifax and Sydney, 22.30.

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All trains are run by Eastern Standard time. D. POTTINGER, Chief Superintendent. Railway Office, Moncton, N. B., 29th June, 1892.

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