Sunday School Lesson

July 15—Lesson III—The Conversion of Saul, Acts 22: 6-16. Golden Text—This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.—1 Tim. 1: 15.

ANALYSIS

I. THE APPEARANCE OF CHRIST, Acts 22:6-9.

II. THE SURRENDER OF SAUL, 10-16.

INTRODUCTION—The conversion of Saul was one of the most tremendous spiritual experiences ever known, while it was also one of the most influential events in the history of the Early Church. It is related three times at length in Acts, and there are also many indirect references to it in the New Testament. This admission of Paul to the church brought into her ranks the most distinguished of the younger leaders of the Jews, and created a great impression throughout the Jewish world. His great ability and gifts were now placed at the disposal of the Christians, and he did more than any other to carry the gospel into new regions. More liberal teachings on God, man and nature appear with him, and Christian theology and sociology assume new proportions. By his self-denying labor, by his natural endowments, by his early training and absolute surrender to Christ, Paul became the greatest of the apostles.

I. THE APPEARANCE OF CHRIST, Acts 22:6-9.

V. 6. Night unto Damascus. Saul's determination to stamp out this new sect leads him to undertake a journey to Damascus an important city outside Palestine, but near enough to learn easily of the things that were happening. We are not told how the Christian church arose in that northern capital, but it is probable that pilgrims who had gone up to the Pentecost feast had come into touch with the apostles and had carried home the good news when they returned. These disciples did not separate themselves from their Jewish comrades, but kept up all their old customs, only adding to their religion the worship of Jesus as Messiah. They had been left in peace till this visit which now threatens them with ruin.

A great light. This light was supernatural, coming direct from God due to the immediate manifestation of Jesus who now came to call his new servant. This was therefore, not merely a fiction of the imagination, a subjective vision; but a real appearance of the glorified Christ. There are four such appearances in the New Testament. The first was during the life of esus on earth on the Mount of Transfiguration. One came to Stephen, one to John at Patmos, and this is the fourth. In his subsequent life Paul often spoke of this manifestation made to him, and among the other claims made by him of his apostolic standing is that he had seen the Lord.

V. 7. Heard a voice. There are slight differences in the three narratives as given in Acts 9:1-19; 22:6-16; 26:12-18, but these can be explained without much difficulty. Saul distinctly hears his name called in the Hebrew tongue, and the question that follows is a direct and searching one: "Why persecutest thou me?" His attack on these members of his church is an attack on Christ who is now clothed in heavenly glory. In the other narratives the words are added, "It is hard for thee to kick against the goad," as if Paul's mind was not at ease. He could not take real joy in inflicting such ruin, while the patient endurance of the converts must have appealed to him. He was going against his better nature.

V. 8. Who art thou, Lord? The question has often been asked whether Paul had ever seen Jesus during the days of his flesh, and a verse in 2 Cor. 5:16, is quoted, "Though I have known Christ after the flesh"—but even if this were the case, the present vision was quite different, since Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, so that this was the vision of the glorified Christ.

I am Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was known among his enemies as the Nazarene, and he thus uses this term to make it clear to Saul that he is the very Jesus whom formerly Saul had regarded with such anger and contempt.

II. THE SURRENDER OF SAUL, 10-16.

V. 10. What shall I do? This expresses both the surprise of one overwhelmed with the great change that has come to him, and also the great energy of this man who henceforth will throw himself with whole-heartedness into the new duties which he has to face. There is much to be done, but first of all Saul must go into the city not as a persecutor, but as a follower of Christ.

V. 12. One Ananias. The character of this man is given in brief, but suggestive words. Evidently he was a leader among the Christians and was also held in high regard by all the Jews. From the other accounts we learn of the dread which Ananias felt in undertaking this commission, for the evil fame of Saul had preceded him.

V. 14. God of our fathers. The God of the Christians is the same God who had guided and blessed Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and this God will so bestow his grace upon Paul, that great results will follow: 1. In Jesus, Paul is to find out the will of God. 2. Jesus is the righteous one, one who fulfills all the hopes of Israel and who will meet all the needs of mankind. 3. Jesus will give him explicit directions for his work. 4. The great world beyond the Jews will also hear of the wonderful salvation of God.

V. 16. Be baptized. This is the natural consequences of Saul's conversion, for it is the outward symbol of entrance into the church. He is now one of the disciples, ready to undertake whatever task his Master assigns to him.

Saskatchewan Man Given High Award

Hamilton, Ont.—Awards for bravery were announced by the Royal Canadian Humane Society here recently, after the board had considered a large number of cases of heroism throughout Canada in the past year.

For the second time in 25 years, the gold medal, highest award in the society's gift, was granted. It was voted to Albert J. Ewen, of Riverhurst, Sask, Mr. Ewen was working as hired man on the farm of H. J. Skeoch, when hearing screams, he rushed to the house to find Mrs. Skeoch's clothing a mass of flames and the house on fire from a gasoline explosion. He wrapped her in a blanket, suffering terrible burns himself, carried her to safety and then returned to rescue three children.

SMART FROCKS FOR THE GROWING GIRL.

The distinctive feature of these two frocks is the circular flare introduced at the hip-line, giving the required fulness yet retaining a graceful flowing line. The popular two-piece effect is simulated in the frock worn in View A, although in this instance for practical purposes, the blouse and skirt are joined beneath the narrow belt. The round collar fits becomingly to the neck, and the long sleeves are gathered into a narrow band. The collar was omitted in View B and the short sleeves finished with a cuff. The diagram pictures the simplicity of pattern No. 1175, which is in sizes 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Size 8 years requires 2½ yards of 32-inch, or 2⅜ yards of 36-inch material. Price 20 cents.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

A Trick of the Fox Ranching Trade

PUSSY ACTS AS A FOND "MAMMA" TO FOXES

They are silver fox pups belonging to a breeder near Toronto, and the cat, who is mothering them takes her job very seriously.

Police in London Halt Motors for Coaching Club

Eleven Coaches Represent Remnant of National Pastime of Yore

London.—Memories of a century ago were vividly brought to the attention of those Londoners who were fortunate enough to visit Hyde Park on a recent sunshiny June morning to see the annual first meet of the Coaching Club. Eleven coaches, shining with brilliant varnish and bright color, and driven by men in gray top hats and frock coats, formed a picture which one observer accurately called "a prancing museum of Dickensian glory."

The entire atmosphere of the meeting was that of a quieter and more leisured age. The swift motorcars speeding through the park seemed modern anachronisms, a view apparently shared by London's traffic police who halted all motor traffic while the dignified and sedate coaches passed through the park and then to Ranelagh. The only modern touch was the frocks of the women guests, the men and grooms being attired practically as they would have been had the journey been made a century ago.

This is the only surviving coaching club in London. Until last year there were two. England clings tightly to its traditions and its picturesque memories and a more easy-going age, and there were many in Hyde Park as the coaches set off who sighed regretfully for the pre-motor days when sociability and good fellowship distinguished transportation and the roads as contrasted with the incessant rush and turmoil of a petrol era.

The club will have two other meetings before the summer ends. The drivers find that by traveling in groups they avoid much of the difficulty caused by the practical monopoly of the country roads by motor cars.

Stuffed Peppers

Green peppers, allowing two to each person, are to be prepared by removing the seeds and white veins, and by a few minutes of scalding. Fill them with a mixture of chopped veal or pork and rice, chopped onion and parsley cooked together in butter only long enough to blend. When the peppers are filled, put one tablespoonful of cream over each and bake gently for one hour.

Robbing the Mails

Toronto Mail and Empire (Cons.): The successful hold-up in the Union Station has been a revelation to most people. There was an idea that a mail coach loaded with treasure would be guarded by men with loaded guns. The public are amazed to learn that there was in that mail coach hundreds of thousands of dollars to be had just for the taking. The gunmen would not be so successful if the Government were not so slack a trustee.

A Prime Minister's Faith

While he labors for an earthly kingdom, Prime Minister Baldwin has not forgotten the Kingdom of God on earth, and his declaration of sublime faith in the Bible as a "high explosive" which has helped and will help again to bring great revivals is a wotness that the Book is not without friends in high places. Mr. Baldwin was addressing the recent annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society in London when he gave voice to the faith that is in him. Speaking of the "universal appeal to mankind of the personality of our Lord," which, he says, must come to every one who reads the Bible, he went on, as the London Times quotes him:

"It is that faith that animates the Bible Society, and it is in that faith that they send that Book out in all tongues to all peoples of the world, and so I come back to what I said at the beginning. It is a high explosive, but it works in strange ways, and no living man can tell or know how that Book in its journeyings through the world has started the individual soul in ten thousand different places into a new life, a new belief, a new conception, and a new faith. These things are hidden until some man, some people, is touched beyond all this by the Divine fire, and the result is one of those great revivals of religion which repeatedly, through the centuries, have startled the world and stimulated mankind and which, as sure as we are meeting in this room, will occur again.

"So much of our time in this world we seem to be carrying on our struggle in twilight or in fog—friends, and men who ought to be friends, hitting blindly ni the melee and wounding men who are or ought to be their brothers. Nothing but the light which comes from that Book can lighten that twilight or dispel that fog. The Kingdom of God may be very far off, but this society works on through good times and through evil times in faith. I wish this society all that is good, and I would say for myself before I close that if I did not feel that our work, and the work of all of us who hold the same faith and ideal, whether in politics or in civic work, wherever it may be—if I did not feel that that work was done in the faith and the hope that at some day, it may be 1,000,000 years hence, the Kingdom of God would spread over the whole world, I could have no hope, I could do no work, and I would give my office over this morning to any one who would take it."

Immigration

Toronto Telegram (Ind. Cons.): The immigration investigation at Ottawa reported on most phases of colonization, but failed to answer the one burning question: How are we to bring in settlers, while we try to keep them out? Until this problem has been worked out the immigration will be laboring under a handicap second only to its present head.

British to Extend Aid to Agriculture in All Dominions

Aim of Information Bureaus Explained to Americans by Sir Robert Greig

Sir Robert Blythe Greig, chairman of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, has just arrived in Ottawa to arrange with Canadian Government officials for the inauguration of the plan of the British Government for an extensive chain of agricultural information bureaus.

These bureaus, when the organization work is completed, will be located in British dominions all over the world, Sir Robert said. Representatives from 60 British lands overseas attended the Agricultural Research Conference in London, at which the plan for the bureaus was outlined, he aded, and there will be more than this number of bureaus co-operating for the development of agriculture. In addition to their own work the inforation bureaus will co-operate with the Departments of Agriculture or similar branches of government of all of the countries with such departments.

"Through the work of the bureaus and with the co-operation of other nations already promised, farming within the next 10 years will have access to a fund of information on a par with other industries maintaining vast research divisions," Sir Robert said.

Hoover and the Waterway

Victoria Colonist (Cons.): The nomination of Mr. Hoover has a special interest for Canada. He is the chief protagonist in the United States of the internationalization of the St. Lawrence waterway. His choice as President would undoubtedly give that project a fillip and lead to greater pressure than ever before being brought on the Government at Ottawa to sanction what water power users and transportation interests want in the United States. A Republican victory in November next will be warning to Canada to bring public opinion to bear on the Government at Ottawa to prevent any cession to the United States of rights, which should bring, and which do belong, to this Dominion.

The Hardest Thing

The hardest thing in starting work. In the time we fiddle around before getting under way we might have the most difficult job half done. Things are rarely as hard to do as we think they are going to be. We suffer most in anticipation. It's really fear that keeps us from starting. The water's fine when we get in. The least pain comes when we plunge. The wind is coldest when we dawdle along the bank.—Capper's Weekly.

If we wanted to shirk we would organize a labor union of runners and say that we would cut down the race to five miles and we would loaf.—Clarence De Mar.

Bees and Bee Books

Most bee-lovers will agree that the charm of the old bee books is largely owing to their romantic flavor and the picturesque classics and medieval beliefs therein contained about the wise little creatures we are still so far from understanding. Until well-nigh the close of the seventeenth century the masterpieces of those great bee-lovers—Aristotle, Virgil and Pliny—were studied as practical handbooks, and the exquisite poetic fancies of the older Grecian writers which enrich the fourth book of the "Georgics" were accepted without uestion by our old bee masters. But the greatest charm of the Elizabethan and Stuart books is surely the love of bees which shines through their pages and the writers' deligst in the mystery and glamor of one of the most ancient crafts under the sun.

The rarest of the old English bee books is Hyll's slender little volume, "A profitable instruction of the perfite ordering of Bees," which was first published in 1572 with his "Profitable arte of gardening." It was published separately in 1579, and in this form is a very rare book. Edmund Southerne's "Treatise concerning the right use and ordering of Bees" (1594) is almost equally rare and a far more interesting book, in that it is an original work, whereas Hyll's is mainly a compilation from the classical writers.

The most fascinating of the earlier bee books, however, is undoubtedly Charles Butler's "Feminine Monarchie; or a Treatise concerning Bees and the due ordering of them. Wherein the truth found out by experience and diligent observation discovereth the idle and fond conceipts which many have written anent this subject" (1609). . . .

An interesting feature of the book is the "bee-music" associated with the after-swarms. The author gravely sets forth the notes, which strikes one as a typical seventeenth century conceit, and in the 1623 edition this "bees' madrigal" is expanded into four pages of music with the words. Butler naively avows he cannot vouch for its accuracy "because in that confused noise, which the buzzing bees in the busie time of their departing doe make, my dull hearing could not perfectly apprehend it, so that I was faine to make up that as I could."

The old bee masters differed greatly on the merits of the picturesque custom of "ringing" bees. Southerne says: "When the swarme is up it is not good to ring them, as some doe, nay it is a common thing where there is no experience to keep a stirre and lay on either with a Bason Kettle or Frying pan taking (as the common proverb is) great paines and have little thankes; for by such means they make the bees angrie, and go further to settle then otherwise they would." Samuel Purchas, rector of Sutton in Essex and author of that quaint little volume, "A theatre of Political Flying-Insects" also condemns the custom. Both Purchas and Butler quote the "ancient law of Christendome," whereby bee owners were allowed to pursue their bees when they swarmed wherevery they went. "This benefit there is of ringing," says Purchas, "that if you have neighborrs near you that keep bees, you may give notice thereby to prevent wrangling, if some of theirs should rise at the same time. But if they will not be stayed, but hastening on still, go beyond your bounds, the ancient law of Christendome permitteth you to pursue them withersoever, but our common law is more uncivil, and yeelds no such privilege, for if your Bees bee out of your ground, your property is lost, if you bee not more courteous."

But in the whole range of bee literature surely the most fascinating book is that dainty little play, "The Parliament of Bees, with their proper characters. Or, a Bee-hive furnisht with Twelve Hony-combes, as Pleasant as Profitable . . . By John Daye" (1641). All the characters, with the exception of Oberon, are bees; the sweetness of fancy is exquisite, and throughout one seems to har th light hat of iny wings. There is no record to show whether "The Parliament of Bees" has ever been performed, and it is so delicate that perhaps it is impossible.—Eleanour Sinclair Rohde, in "Garden-Craft in the Bible and Other Essays."

Watch the garden for the insect visitors. A bug in time saves nine, and it saves the garden, too.

MUTT AND JEFF—Bud Fisher. **Looks Like the Floor Again for Jeff.**