SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE. — Acts 19: Ephesians 6: 10-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might." Ephesians 6:10.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time. — Paul remained in Ephesus nearly three years, A.D. 53-56. The Epistle to the Ethespians was probably written about A.D. 62.

Place. — The city of Ephesus was located in the Roman province of Asia, near the mouth of the Cayster River, three miles from the western shore of Asia Minor. Paul wrote the Epistle to the Ephesians from the city of Rome.

"And he entered into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, reasoning and persuading as to the things concerning the kingdom of God." Paul, at Ephesus, follows his usual custom of first entering into the synagogue, for there he would find men of his own race who would know something of the Scriptures, who believed in the one true God, and who were looking for a Messiah.

9. "But when some were hardened and disobedient." The word here translated "disobedient" means primarily "to be unpersuaded, not to believe," and failure to believe God's message is often referred to the doctrines which the Christians believed and practised. "He departed from them, and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus." Separation, which is often necessary if the purity and peace of the church is to be maintained, took place at Antioch of Pisidia (13: 46-48), at Corinth (18: 6, 7), and at Rome (28: 23-28).

10. "And this continued for the space of two years; so that all they that dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks." "Ephesus, as the seat of government, was the center from which the whole province of Asia could best be affected; and the effect of Paul's long work extended far over that vast province."

11. "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul." 12. "Inasmuch that unto the sick were carried away from his body handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out." The word here translated "handkerchiefs" means "sweat-cloths". It is not said that Paul gave away parts of his dress, the cloth used to wipe the sweat from the workman's face and the short apron, in order to work miracles by them. The text rather implies that the people manifested their faith in the same manner as did the woman with the issue of blood (Matt. 9: 20-22); and God answered their faith as God answered the womna's faith, for God answers faith if it is real, even when made imperfect by ignorance or superstition."

18. "Many also of them that had believed came, confessing, and declaring their deeds. It is amazing how wickedness and true belief in Christ cannot exist together. These converted Ephesians not only confessed their sins, but came before the whole church and declared their wrong-doings.

19. "And not a few of them that practised magical arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver." Ephesus was noted for its magicians or wizards and the 'Ephesian spells'. Small slips of parchment enclosed in silk bags and covered with mysterious characters were well known all over the East. The more potent or rare spells or charms were written out in books which passed from one exorcist to another, and were sold for large sums.

20. "So mightily grew the word of the Lord and prevailed." The conjunction "so" refers to all that has preceded — it was in this way that the word of God was revealed as so powerful, for the phrase "mightily grew and prevailed" might be rendered "with overpowering force and strength which nothing could resist."

13. Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day." The article "the" identifies the period of which the apostle is speaking as a critical day," a time of peculiar peril and trial."

"And, having done all, to stand." The admonition here is for the Christian to hold his ground and not to give in or to retreat before the pressure of his enemies.

14. "Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth. Doubt, error, and skepticism can never give strength to resist evil. "And having put on the breastplate of righteousness." (See Isa. 59:17.) The righteousness here referred to is probably the believer's own personal righteousness, his obedience to the holy law of God.

15. "And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. "The feet are the instruments and therefore the appropriate symbols of motion; and the Christian soldier whose career is a march and a battle, must always keep himself in marching order.

16. "Withal taking up the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one." Faith is that by which we lay hold of God as our Saviour. The kindling and inflaming power of suggestions from without, whether to repining against God, or to anger, or to evil desire, or despair is best met by trust in God."

17. "And take the helmet of salvation." (Cf. Isa. 59:17; I Thess. 5: 8.) The Christian warrior here wears the helmet of salvation in the sense of his being the receiver and possessor of deliverance crowned and armed in the victory of his Head." "And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." This is the only offensive weapon in the entire list. In opposition to all error, to all false principles of morals, to all the sophistry of vice, to all the suggestions of the devil, the sole, simple, and sufficient answer is the word of God.

18. "With all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." We are to pray on every occasion, in every crisis, with every conceivable form of prayer, spiritually, watchfully, perseveringly, comprehendingly. No soldier entering battle prays for himself alone, but for all his fellow soldiers also. They form one army, and the success of one is the success of the other.

19. "And on my behalf, that utterance may be given unto me in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (See Acts 4. 29.) If Paul ever became weak in his preaching, his life-work was over. The chains to which the apostle refers were those which which coupled his right wrist to the left wrist of a soldier who continually stayed near him during his Roman imprisonment. The fact that he was in chains did not cancel the fact that he was also an ambassador of God.

Preserving Milk

Writes the Detroit News.— Milk, charged with oxygen somewhat in the fashion that soda water is charged with carbonic acid gas, may mark the next conquest of the chemists in their unending war on destructive bacteria.

Milk treated by this preservative process, developed by Dr. Holius of Frankfort-on-Main, has been shipped in experimental quantities to South Africa and back to Amsterdam, with no change in taste, the nourishing qualities or chemical consistency, the trip taking two months.

The process has engaged the interest of our Commerce Department which has examined it sufficiently to say without qualification that it makes possible the transportation of milk over great distances without the expense of pasteurization, refrigeration or condensing.

Dozens of scientists, at meetings in recent years, have indicated that the trend in scientific thought as it affects everyday life is strongly toward exploration of the possibilities in the chemical field. A process which would do away with or modify the vast machinery by which so common a commodity as milk is shipped from place to place unspoiled would surely work a revolution in our economy.

Liberty, Lost in a Subway, Finds Freedom From Storage Rooms—

Bidding was brisk for this gilt Statue of Liberty, 44 inches high, which was absent-mindedly left in a New York subway by its owner. She came to light at auction of subway's lost and found department and found

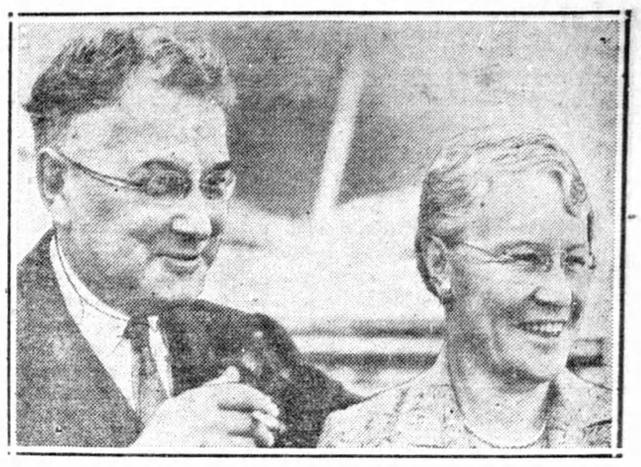
An Advance Criticism On the Autumn Salon

Workers hanging paintings in the 1936 exhibition buildings for the Paris, France, Autumn Salon discuss the merits of the various works of art as they get a new slant on them while using floor as their lunch table.

Canada Playing Her Part Abroad—

Here are Canadian delegates in Europe attending some of the important meetings that have been going on. Left to right. Dr. W. A. Riddell, Canada's permanent delegate to the League of Nations; Dr. O. D. Skelton, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Col. C. P. Vanier, adviser in State Department; Paul Martin, M.P., for Essex West, who attended the You th Conference, Senator Dandurand.

News Executive Returns As Shinto Expert



J. W. T. Mason, for years noted as foreign affairs expert of the United Press, pictured as he arrived in San Francisco with Mrs. Mason after spending a year in Japan studying Shintoism.

Writer of Sea Thriller Arrives With Wife

William McFee, famous author of sea tales, pictured with Mrs. McFee as they arrived in New York City on S. S. Washington

Laboring to Halt Forest Fires

This scene of toil shows how 200 men halted a forest fire on half-mile front in Cedar River watershed near Seattle, Wash. They are carrying gasoline for waterpumps and other equipment up steep slopes (right).

Survivor of Wreck

M. Le Gonidec, the sole survivor of the ill-fated arctic expedition headed by Dr. Charcot, famous French explorer, is pictured with his wife after arriving in Brest, France, from Rakjavick, Iceland, where ship sank.