

# A SHIPWRECK, A SNAKE, A SAINT

The International Sunday School Lesson for Dec. 4 is, "Paul in Melita and Rome."—Acts 28:1-16.

By William T. Ellis.

"When I'm broke," I once heard a man say, rather whimsically, "then is the time that I am surest to give to charity; when I'm hardest hit myself, then I make my greatest effort to do something for somebody else. For I don't want my own troubles to destroy my perspective or dull my sense of obligation to others. Just because I happen to be knocked out in any way is no reason why I should go back on the world; that is the very time to prove that I am not entirely dominated by my own troubles."

That sort of creed rather applies to the conduct of the Apostle Paul, when cast up by an angry sea, amid the wreckage of his vessel, upon the rocky shores of the Island of Melita—where, by the way, just to link the Lesson with the news, the people were a few days ago granted a new charter of self-government by Great Britain, after a period of unrest and disturbance. Starting out as despised prisoner in chains, and ending up as practical captain of the ship and commander of the troop, the great missionary turned at once to humble service, gathering wood for the common fire by which the drenched company were warming themselves in the chill November wind.

### Real and Sham Dignity.

When we were boys building bonfires on the vacant lots, we had a slogan, "chip or run"—that is, contribute a share of fuel or get out. Paul was the sort of honorable soul who, whether at the tent-maker's task, aboard a storm-tossed craft or in an adventure by land, bore a full share of responsibility and effort. He was no social shirker, warming himself by fires of other men's building. Any one so minded, can find material for full discussion in the incidental glimpse of our hero when shipwrecked on Melita.

This man had so much dignity that he did not need to think about it. I heard General Charles G. Dawes once say, "There is nothing so really dignified and great as simple naturalness." As we see all sorts of persons, from diplomats at the Washington conference to actresses in the meanest road company, jealously watching out for their own place of precedence and their own "honor" we may recall the greatest human being since Jesus Christ, moving actively about, despite his age and broken health, gathering firewood for a crowd, many of whom were cowardly ingrates, like the sailors who had tried to desert the ship in its hour of greatest danger.

Service is the great panacea for trouble. When hard times of any sort overtake us, as the shipwreck overtook Paul and his company, then is the hour to get busy at deeds of helpfulness. Only a weakling or a craven slinks away and sulks in selfish sorrow. As the familiar lines of Edmund Vance Cook have it:

"Did you tackle the trouble that came your way  
With a resolute heart and cheer-ful?  
Or hide your face from the light of day  
With a craven soul and fearful?  
Oh, a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,  
Or a trouble is what you make it,  
And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts,  
But only, how did you take it?"

### A Gentleman's Chance.

By way of this trivial task of serving the common fire, Paul came into a great opportunity. There is no other way. A brilliant young British officer, recovered from his war wound, was stationed at an easy post in an inland English city. I found him bitterly rebellious at the inadequacy of his task; he felt that the War Office should give him a rank and a chance worthier of his proved powers. Yet when I pointed out to him the remarkable openings right where he was living, for just the sort of service of which he was most capable—work that would fundamentally further the winning of the war—he would have none of it. He wanted a position, rather than an opportunity. Not for him the undignified gathering of sticks for the common fire of patriotism and war ideals; he wanted a situation as official overseer of firewood-collectors! By just the difference between his attitude and that of the shipwrecked apostle on Melita did my friend fall short of greatness.

A man's chance is "the next thing" or it is nothing. During the Iroquois theatre fire in Chicago a college student with his own hands carried twenty-eight women and children to safety; but in so doing inhaled the fumes that shortly afterwards caused his death. When one commiserated his untimely end the young man replied, "I ask no sympathy or pity. Some men get their chance at fifty, some at forty, some at thirty, I got mine at twenty, and am happy to die." There is the flavor of Paul's, "I am ready" about that.

### A Little Snake and a Big Service.

A dramatic incident befell while the shipwrecked crowd, in the cold and rain, was covering about the fire. Paul carried a bundle of sticks to add to the flame, and among them, unnoticed, was a viper. The warmth revived it, and it stuck its venomous fangs into the withered hand of the Apostle. Horror-eyed, the natives looked for him to fall dead, a victim of the divine punishment. When he merely shook off the creature into the fire (which act some sentimentalists would not be above calling cruelty to animals!), the tickle crowd decided that this shipwrecked stranger was a god!

Possibly as a result of this, or because of what Centurion Julius reported of him to his fellow Roman officials, Paul and his party were hospitably entertained for three days in the home of the highest Roman dignitary in Melita. The gracious acknowledgement of this courtesy on the part of Luke is characteristic. Paul was a gentleman under all circumstances. His tolerant attitude toward the "barbarians," or non-Greeks, of the island is of a piece with his urbane manners. To him, folks were folks everywhere. One reason the missionary is usually more popular than other foreigners in pagan lands is that he displays this Pauline spirit of gracious friendliness, which always evokes friendliness. If we were all like Paul there would be no occasion to quote the prayer of the little girl; "O God, make all the bad people good; and, if you can, ma'e all the good people nice."

By way of the sticks gathered for the fire, the Apostle came to the home of Publius; and secured the opportunity to heal the governor's father of fever and dysentery; and so, in turn, a chance to cure many sick in the island, rendering a service that brought great honor to the home of Christ. A little deed of kindness is often like the small dove of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem; it leads into a vast and wonderful opportunity and privilege.

### Friends in a Strange Land.

Life is full of joys, small and great—the glory of the rich, the ripeness of the Autumn foliage; the graceful flirt of a gray squirrel's tail, such as I saw this instant, in glancing out of my window; the light in a mother's eye as she lifts her baby; the lavish beauty of the clouds that sail lightly across the heavens; and of the sunset's splendour; the word of praise from a fellow craftsman; the quiet peace of spiritual communion; the charm of a book by a master, read at one's own fireside; the magic of music's melody; the glow in the face of a friend at reunion—what a horn of plentiful happiness the Lord of life pours at the feet of the least deserving of us! But of all the joys of this life, few can surpass that of a lonely man's finding friends and fellowship in a strange land.

We do not well to be sorry for this harried, heavy-laden and hate-bounded man, Paul. He had royal pleasures. One of them was the meeting of fellow Christians on his journey. Three on the way to Rome, after three months' sojourn in Malta and a safe passage to Italy, Paul and his companions had this rich experience. Seven days were spent with the brethren at Puteoli, on the Bay of Naples; and who does not envy the Puteoli Christians the privilege of hearing, hot from the chief actor's own lips, the story of God's providences in the ministry of Paul?

As one who has shared the same joy of friendliness and hospitality in more than one lonely land, I can testify to the thrill that must have been Paul's, as he found himself met by fellow disciples who had come out from Rome to welcome him—one group having travelled forty miles and the other ten. Last night, in New York, I attended a farewell dinner to Fred B. Smith, as he set out on a religious mission around the world; and I mused "Is there any other tie on earth, except only that of blood, so sure and strong and satisfactory as that of Christian fellowship?" We can understand Paul's mood, as he welcomed this foretoken of the brotherhood that awaited him in Rome, that "he thanked God, and took courage."

### At Brewer's Mills.

Brewer's Mills, Nov. 29.—The painting and decorating of the interior of St. Barnaby's church has been completed.

Mrs. Aloysius Keys and children were removed to the General Hospital, Kingston, on Friday, suffering from diphtheria. One of the children died on Sunday morning. The remains of the late Mrs. Harry Randall arrived this afternoon from Kingston. The bereaved parents and relatives have the sincere sympathy of the whole community.

James Dockrill, Buffalo, N.Y., is visiting his parents here. Mrs. James Smith, who has been ill, is recovering.

### Isoked All Right.

Mother was terribly upset by Tommy's appearance, particularly his unwashed face. "Tommy, Tommy!" she exclaimed in great distress. "Your face needs washing terribly! Did you look at it in the mirror this morning?" "No, mother," said Tommy, with every indication of surprised concern, "but it all right when I felt it."

### The Hypnosis Political.

"John," whispered wife into hubby's ear, at three a.m. "Wake up, there's robbers in the house."  
"Right you are," he retorted sleepily, "and this darn government went and put a lot more in the senate."

Siamese women wear knee-length pants, and for generations have refused to be bothered with long skirts.



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### ONE WIFE ABANDONS HER COUNTER-ATTACK

Mrs. Stillman is Not to Further Assail Her Husband's Conduct.

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Abandonment of the counter-attack upon the conduct of James A. Stillman by Mrs. Anne U. Stillman in the divorce proceedings instituted by the New York banker was forecast after the adjournment of a one-day hearing before Referee Daniel J. Gleason.

That and the announcement that John F. Brennan, counsel for Mrs. Stillman and J. E. Mack, guardian ad litem for Guy S. Stillman, will leave for Montreal today to make preparations for hearings there, were the chief developments of the proceedings. Testimony to be taken in Canada is expected to be regarding the relations of Mrs. Stillman and Fred Beauvais at and near the Stillman summer camp at Three Rivers, Que.

ably would not call any more witnesses in support of charges that her husband was guilty of misconduct with Florence H. Leeds, former Broadway show-girl. The testimony of all witnesses to be called, it was explained, would be devoted to defending Mrs. Stillman and the paternity of baby Guy Stillman, whom Mr. Stillman seeks to have adjudged illegitimate.

Testimony at the hearing was understood to have set forth that Mr. and Mrs. Stillman and two of their children stayed at a cafe in St. Regis hotel, New York, for two weeks during February, 1918, nine months before the birth of Guy Stillman, it was said to have been brought out that Fred Beauvais, the Indian guide employed by the Stillmans and named co-respondent in the banker's complaint, was a guest at the hotel during that time.

Adjournment was taken until next Tuesday.

### HAREM PARTY SPONSORS MAY LOSE SOCIAL LIFE

Held a Side Show at Which the Feature Was a Young Woman.

Chicago, Dec. 1.—Certain young and frisky members of the Casino club, an ultra-exclusive north shore society rendezvous, are to learn that the war is over and that with its ending there also came a cessation of some wild-eyed capers that were tolerated during the national strain.

Mrs. Joseph G. Coleman, president of the club, has called a meeting of the board of directors and there are hints that two members may be asked to resign. It is no trifling matter to be expelled from the Casino club, as that action automatically closes many hospitable doors.

out of the affair. Also, it is hinted, there was too free a display and consumption of hip liquor.

Landis and Ruth. Chicago, Nov. 29.—Judge Kenneth M. Landis, Baseball Commissioner, Tuesday completed the draft of his decision in the case of Babe Ruth, New York Yankee outfielder, who played exhibition games in violation of major league baseball rules, but withheld announcement of what action he had decided upon. The judge said he wanted to go over the decision again, before announcing it, but was too busy in court to do so. It will be given out soon, he said.

### If Tormented With Corns, Use Good Old "Putnam's"

It's really a simple thing to remove your corns, and without pain, if you apply Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. It acts like magic, lifts out the corn, root and branch, leaves the skin smooth as silk. No failure with Putnam's. 25c. everywhere.



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Dr. H. A. Stewart, Dental Surgeon. Wishes to announce that he has resumed his practice, cor. Wellington and Princess Streets. Phone 2092. Dr. H. A. Stewart

### EAT LESS AND TAKE SALTS FOR KIDNEYS

Take a Glass of Salts if Your Back Hurts or Bladder Bothers.

The American men and women must guard constantly against kidney trouble, because we eat too much and all our food is rich. Our blood is filled with uric acid which the kidneys strive to filter out. They weaken from overwork, become sluggish; the eliminative tissues clog and the result is kidney trouble, bladder weakness and a general decline in health.

When your kidneys feel like lumps of lead; your back hurts or the urine is cloudy, full of sediment or you are obliged to seek relief two or three times during the night; if you suffer with sick headache or dizzy, nervous spells, acid stomach, or you have rheumatism when the weather is bad, get from your pharmacist about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate clogged kidneys; to neutralize the acids in the urine so it no longer is a source of irritation, thus ending bladder disorders.

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She Mixed Sulphur With It To Restore Color, Gloss, Youthfulness.

Common garden sage brewed into a heavy tea with sulphur added, will turn gray, streaked and faded hair beautifully dark and luxuriant. Just a few applications will prove a revelation if your hair is fading, streaked or gray. Mix the Sage Tea and Sulphur recipe at home, though, is troublesome. An easier way is to get a bottle of Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound at any drug store all ready for use. This is the old-time recipe improved by the addition of other ingredients.

While wispy, gray, faded hair is not sinful, we all desire to retain our youthful appearance and attractiveness. By darkening your hair with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound, no one can tell, because it does it so naturally, so softly. You just dampen a sponge or soft brush with it and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time; by morning all gray hairs have disappeared, and after another application or two, your hair becomes beautifully dark, glossy, soft and luxuriant.

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