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How He Lost \$1,000,000.

Colonel Ochiltree used to tell a story of how he once lost \$1,000,000. "It was at a banquet," he would say, "and Senator Hearst of California sat beside me..."

The Pale Yellow Kind.

There is a double joke in this story which the New York Mail and Express relates. A little girl, riding with her mother in a street car, was much attracted by an amber necklace worn by a lady who sat opposite.

Superfluous Implement.

"Here, madam," said the peddler at the back door, "I have a most useful little household instrument. It is a combined screwdriver, buttonhook, can opener, lamp cleaner, letter opener, paper cutter, pipe ster and penknife. Can I sell you one?"

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Before and After.

The Adorer—It's wonderful, old man, what love will enable a fellow to see in a girl that he never saw before. The Onlooker—No doubt, but it's equally wonderful what it won't let him see that he'll see later.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VI, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, MAY 10.

Text of the Lesson, Acts xxiii, 12-22. Memory Verses, 20-22—Golden Text, Acts xxiii, 11—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

[Copyright, 1903, by American Press Association.] 12, 15. And when it was day certain of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

More than forty thus bound themselves with this oath of execration (see margin), and they had a plan that the chief captain should be asked to bring him again before the council, that they might inquire more perfectly of some things, and then they would fall upon him and kill him. Whatever they might profess religiously, their conduct made it manifest that they were children of him of whom the Lord Jesus said, "He was a murderer from the beginning" (John viii, 44). "Whoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother" (I John iii, 10). "The wicked plotteth against the just and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him" (Ps. xxxvii, 12, 13). "The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to naught. He maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations" (Ps. xxxiii, 10, 11). We have the thoughts of His heart in verse 11, which, though not in the lesson, is in the portion assigned for study, and every teacher would do well to spend much, if not all, of the time for the lesson upon it. Note the Lord's visit to him in the castle. No prison walls or soldiers can keep Him out. Note the words "The Lord stood by him" and compare II Tim. iv, 17; Zech. iii, 5. Notice the Lord's "Be of good cheer" and look up similar words in the gospels and in the Acts and note also the Lord's purpose that Paul should testify of Him at Rome as he had at Jerusalem and see Jer. ii, 23, with Isa. xiv, 24; liv, 17.

16, 17. And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait he went and entered into the castle and told Paul. It will be a pleasure some day to get acquainted with Paul's sister, for we trust she is among the redeemed, as well as with the other members of his family and this nephew who here plays an important part and is sent by Paul to the chief captain with the tidings. Paul might have said: "There is no danger, my boy. Go home and tell your dear mother not to be troubled, for the Lord came to me last night and said that I should yet witness for Him in Rome." But Paul saw nothing inconsistent with faith in God and taking all possible precaution to keep out of the enemy's hands, and surely he was right.

18, 19. Paul the prisoner called me unto him and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

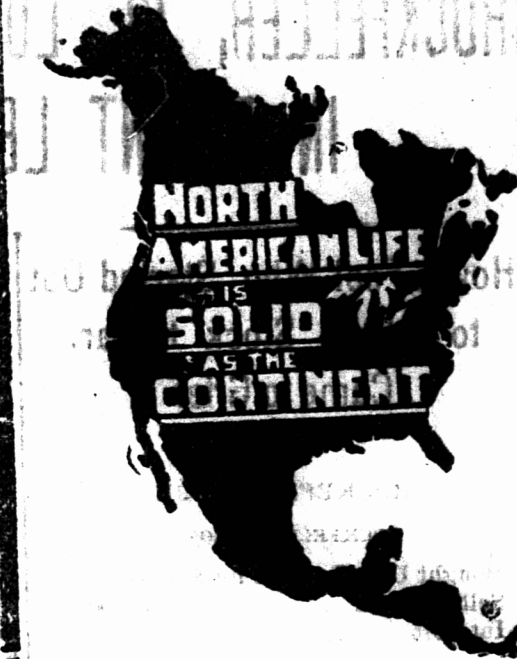
Thus said the centurion who brought the young man to the chief captain. The expression "Paul the prisoner" reminds us that Paul was many times a prisoner and in some of his letters spoke of himself as "the prisoner of the Lord," "Paul the aged and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ" (Eph. iii, 1; iv, 1; Phil. 9). In the list of his trials he says, "In stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft," and yet he could say, "I take pleasure in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake" (II Cor. xi, 23; xii, 10). He knew that no suffering could be compared with the glory and that all the suffering was working out a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (Rom. viii, 18; II Cor. iv, 17).

20, 21. But do not thou yield unto them, for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men which have bound themselves with an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him.

We would like to know more of this young man who could thus advise the chief captain as well as state his facts so clearly, but eternity will give some astonishing sequels to unfinished Bible stories. Thinking of young men whom the Lord has used, we recall Samuel, David, Joseph and the lad whose loaves fed the 5,000, and, like the latter, we would fain be as fully in the Lord's hands as were the loaves and fishes which he so fully gave up to Him who could so multiply them.

22. So the chief captain let the young man depart and charged him, See that thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

That very night Paul is started off to Caesarea under the care of seventy horsemen, 400 soldiers accompanying him as far as Antipatris, and this chapter leaves him, humanly speaking, in the hands of Felix, the Roman governor, who said that he would hear him when his accusers were come. But he is in higher hands than those of man, even in the hands of Him who has all power in heaven and on earth, who doeth according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay His hand or say unto Him, "What doest thou?" (Matt. xxviii, 18; Dan. iv, 35.) He who shook the prison foundations at Philippi and opened all the doors and loosed every one's bands, who also sent an angel and brought forth Simon Peter when he was chained to two soldiers (Acts xvi, 26; xii, 6, 7), could with a word have delivered Paul from his present captors, but it was not in His plan. When we cannot understand why God sometimes delivers and sometimes allows the oppressors to continue to oppress, we must remember that "as for God, His way is perfect," and just hear Him say, "Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Ps. xviii, 20; xlv, 10).



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