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I was very poorly and could hardly get about the house. I was tired all the time. Then I tried Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and it only took two bottles to make me feel perfectly well.

Tired when you go to bed, tired when you get up, tired all the time. Why? Your blood is impure, that's the reason. You are living on the border line of nerve exhaustion. Take Ayer's Sarsaparilla and be quickly cured.

Address: J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

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You can't care of any form of tobacco using... Don't smoke, don't spit, don't smoke.

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Office: Over New Whitehead Building, 2 to 4 o'clock, p. m.

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Office: HOTEL LAWRENCE, SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.

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Office: 121 N. Y. A. T. L. A. W. STAND NECK, N. C.

Practises wherever his services are required.

H. H. SMITH, DENTIST

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THE COMMONWEALTH

Editor and Proprietor. "EXCELSIOR" IS OUR MOTTO. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1902. NO. 14. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00. SENT FOUR ADVERTISEMENTS IN NOW.

IF YOU ARE A MUSTLER YOU WILL -ADVERTISE- YOUR Business.

PLEASANT FIELDS OF HOLY WRIT.

Save for my daily range. Among the pleasant fields of Holy Writ, I might despair. -Fenbyson.

International Sunday-School Lesson.

SECOND QUARTER. LESSON I. APRIL 6, 1902. ACTS IX. 1-12.

SAUL OF TARSUS CONVERTED.

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Hebrew ecclesiasticism is tottering to its fall. Those who enjoy her easy-going benefices are in a rage against the plebeian power which bids fair to buy them with all their offices and emoluments under the debris of disestablishment. The advent of Saul is hailed with delight. The Cilician enthusiast rushes to the rescue. He is an ideal inquirer. With the vigor of youth he unites the credence and dialectical skill of a patriarch. The "heyday of his young manhood" supplies the physical force, while complete knowledge of the history and dogma of Israel provides the mental furnishing. Saul departs for Damascus with the benedictions of those who get their living by priestcraft. Many sincere souls, who consider Christianity a dangerous innovation, also follow the persecutor with their prayers.

It is a journey extraordinary! The sailing of the three little ships from Pales, fourteen hundred years later, was not so significant. The outcome of that voyage was the discovery of a hemisphere. The issue of the expedition to the capital of Syria affects two hemispheres to the end of time. There is no more striking comment on the saying, "Man proposes, but God disposes," than the ninth chapter of Acts. The denouement is exactly opposite to the one expected. Fire of persecution is of a sudden quenched. Clouds give place to prayers. He who expects to lead others bound is glad to find some one to lead him. Yet he reads this thrilling incident superficially who imagines that the conversion of Saul is a mechanical affair—a case of sacred sunstroke. The appearance of Jesus is a merciful approach to a noble soul in desperate straits,—one whose heredity and environment are dead against the dawning conviction of the truth of the system he has set himself to destroy. In no other sense can the expression, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" be understood. Saul first felt the pricking point of conscience, as Augustine suggests, when he witnessed officially the death of Stephen. A religion that made a man's face shine like that of an angel, helped him to forgive and pray for his murderers, gave him a vision into the open heavens, and enabled him to die like one falling asleep,—such a religion has marks of Divinity. Yet, is not the religion of Moses Divine. And where is it taught that it shall ever be abrogated? The very fury of Saul's persecution against the Christians is an effort to extricate himself from a dilemma—an effort which the Lord mercifully cuts short by the direct revelation of himself. Such is the eagerness of this young Sanhedrist to lay his hands upon these perverts from Jewry that he shows no pity toward either man or beast in his own cavalcade. The universal Eastern custom would have called a long halt during the noon hours. But on he speeds, "With lips firm closed and fixed eye, Like warrior when the fight is nigh, Nor talk nor landscape heeds." A half-mile, and the goal of this ever-memorable journey will be reached. The city's eastern gate is in sight. On an instant it is as if the troop struck an invisible but impuatable barrier. Brave riders are unhorsed, and dumb brutes give sign of recognizing the preternaturalness of the event. "What sudden blazes is round him poured, As though all heaven's refulgent hoard In one rich glory shone?" No wonder that the highroad has been deflected from the spot where this scene is thought to have transpired, in order that careless feet may not profane it. A deep excavation has been made in the original roadbed by the carrying away of pebbles by myriads of pilgrims. The conversion of St. Paul is next to Pentecost in importance in the history of Christianity. Aside, too, from its sacred claims, on purely historic grounds, the spot is one of transcendent interest. There the complexion of Europe was changed, and our current Occidental civilization made possible.

THE TEACHER'S LANTERN.

Grace, even in Paul's case, was not irresistible. When he says he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, the inference is plain that he might have been, if he had so chosen. Mighty motives are still brought to bear upon the erring—but that ultimate element of selfhood, the will, is never violated. See the utility of prayer. If Saul had not prayed, Ananias had not come to him. The obligation of baptism is apparent. Saul immediately submitted to and honored the rite. The splendid courage of Saul is evident. As in a panorama, the scenes of his future sufferings passed before him; but none of them deterred him from espousing the cause of divinity of which he was now convinced. The infidel Lord Littleton set for himself the task of proving the conversion of Saul a fiction. It was the means of his own conversion; and his monograph upon the subject is a Christian classic. Barrett says, "Well, many a reflective mind, hitherto unmoved, has yielded to the power of this page of the gospel." The insufficiency of conscience as a guide is exemplified in this incident—Saul "verily thought he ought," etc. There are consciences and consciences. One illuminated and cleansed is a reliable guide, and only such a one. One sentence in that never-to-be-forgotten dialogue lifts the veil from the heart of the prostrate persecutor: "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." So, then, Saul has been resisting repeated thrusts of the goal of conscience. The very speed and fury of this long, ineffectual journey may have been a last effort to rid himself of the conviction of the Messiahship of Jesus—a conviction which no doubt began at the martyrdom of Stephen.

MANY RELIABLE WITNESSES

Prove That Old Cases of Chronic Catarrh can be Cured.

A Medicine That Will Cure Cases of Catarrh of Long Standing Deserves a Very High Place in the Annals of Medical Discovery.

Such a Medicine is Peruna.

THOUSANDS of testimonials are pouring in every day of old cases of chronic catarrh that have resisted all treatment for years, being promptly and permanently cured by Peruna.

These reports do not all come from obscure places, signed by obscure people. A large proportion of these letters are written by men and women prominent in business and professional circles and many of them well known from ocean to ocean.

Colonel John Franklin Waters occupies a prominent position among the leading trial lawyers of Chicago. He has probably obtained more verdicts against corporations in suits for personal injuries than any man of his age in the United States, and during his practice of over fifteen years he has not lost a single case in the Supreme Courts of Illinois and Missouri. He is a hard worker and has the energy of four men. For a number of years he had been afflicted with chronic catarrh and having recently been thoroughly cured of his old affection, an interview was obtained with him by one of our reporters in which he gave the following statement to the public:

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 6, 1900. The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.: Gentlemen—It gives me great pleasure to testify to the merits of such a worthy remedy for catarrh as your Peruna. I had suffered for a number of years from this very disagreeable disease and had tried many so-called remedies, but until I used Peruna none had the desired effect. I feel that I am perfectly cured and can cheerfully recommend Peruna to any one suffering from catarrh.

JOHN F. WATERS, 120 E. Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.

Another case equally well-known in Chicago, is reported through a letter from a veteran Railroad man. Captain John H. Lyons, of Chicago, passed over to the other side of the great hereafter for various railroad companies for the past twenty-four years, connected with the Postoffice Department for six years, the Police Department for six years, and at present Grand Juror of the Chicago Police Department, had a similar case. He is a

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COLONEL JOHN FRANKLIN WATERS, OF CHICAGO.



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WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PLAINLY on outside of package containing BANDS or WRAPPERS and forward them by registered mail, or express prepaid. Be sure to have your package securely wrapped and properly marked, so that it will not be lost in transit. Send bands or wrappers and requests for presents (also requests for catalogues) to C. E. Brown, 4241 Folsom Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. OUR NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE of presents for 1902 includes many articles not shown above. It contains the most attractive list of presents ever offered for bands and wrappers, and will be sent by mail on receipt of postage—two cents. Our offer of presents for bands and wrappers will expire November 30, 1902. American Cigar Company

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