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INTERNATIONAL LESSONS

BY REV. HENRY M. GROUT, D. D. JUNE 29.-REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT .--- Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature : old things are passed away; behold, all are become new.-2 Cor.-5:17.

The lessons of the three months now brought to an end have all had to do with Paul's third great missionary journey. From Corinth he had returned, by way of Ephesus, Casarea and Jerusalem, to Antioch, which was the starting point of all his tours; whence after a brief period of rest he set forth again.

Three lessons only of the quarter have however, been historical. Most of them have been drawn from the Epistles to the Corinthiane, Galatians and Romans, written while on this journey. These last have taken us into the very heart of the great doctrines and duties of our re. ligion : such doctrines as those of the Holy Spirit, the Resurrection of the dead, Adoption, Justification by faith, the Atonement, and the Divine Sover eignty ; and such duties as Abstinence for the sake of others, Christian love, Liberal giving, and Obedience to Law. Such a careful review of these as to fix them in the memory cannot fail to be profitable.

Our first lesson introduced us to Paul's Third Missionary Journey.

It was now the year 54, and the Apostle was fifty-two years of age. . This journey took him first to Galatia and Phrygia, and thence to Ephesus. At the latter place Appollos had preceded him, and, after receiving valuable instruction from Aquila and Priscilla, had passed on to Corinth. The noteworthy fact brought to view in this lesson was that" Paul found certain disciples at Ephesus who had not so much as heard of the Spirit's wonderful descent at Pentecost. The lessson showed the importance of Christian baptism, but that it is not necessary to salvation.

The second lesson was

Paul at Ephesus.

Being the capital of the province and the centre of trade for the entire East this was also an important centre for Christian operations. His stay here cov. which time "all they which dwelt in Asia (the province) heard the word of the Lord Jesus." It was here that "God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul," and the wandering exorcists. were discomfited, and many converts. who had still practised curious arts, burned their books. "So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

Paul's Preaching.

Here we were introduced to his first letter to the church at Corinth, where

The eighth lesson was Liberal Giving.

This time we found ourselves in the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians; and in this lesson the Apostle was stirring them up to a prompt doing of their share for the relief of the poor Saints at Jerusalem,. The central truth brought toattention was that "God loveth a cheerful giver.

The ninth lesson was Christian Liberty.

In this we found ourselves in the very heart of the Epistle to the Galatians. The Christians in Galatia had at first received the gospel with enthusiastic ardor; but, being of a fickle race, they had been easily turned aside from the simplicity and joy of their first trust. From reliance on the free grace that is n Christ Jesus, they had turned to trust in legal service. Paul's grief and disappointment found expression in mingled admonition and entreaty. The tenth lesson was

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Justification by Fuith.

This grand truth, the key-note of the Reformation, was here set forth as the secret of life and peace for sinners of every clime and class. We were made to see our need of the pardon and acceptance it implies, the possibility of the good, its source and ground in the love of God and sacrifice of Christ, and the simplicity of the condition on which it be comes ours-the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The eleventh lesson was

)10 The Blessedness of Believers. Like the last, this was in the Epistle to the Romans, said by a profound thinker to be "the profoundest book in existence." The entire eighth chapter. of which it was as the sparkling jewel," is full of the blessedness of believers, but in these verses the thought was found to culminate in the assurance that "all things work together for good to them that love God." The ground of this assurance was found in the electing, redeeming, and unchanging grace of God.

The twelfth lesson Obedience to Law.

It taught us that as we owe duties to God and to fellow-men, so also we are under obligations to civil rulers. We are to obey the law of the land in which we live, to help to support those ered a period of three years, during laws and to do what we can for their enforcement. We may also lessen the need of civil laws by cherisbing and seeking to promote that love to neigh. bors which is the fulfilling of law; which does the things law would require, as a matter of free choice.

What One Woman Did.

In 1880 the prisons of Kioto held an unusual number of political prisoners, taken during the rebellion of the iland of Kushu. Many of them high in rank in honor among their couptrymen A few had been pardoned, many h d been executed. while a large number were held as prisoners for a term years. Much of the public work of th city then was, and is still accoup ished by gangs of prisoners up i rounseers. In a remote part of Kiot . an earnest, gifted woman had gathered a gins chool and home. Eager of bears, alert, wise but wary, her noble provide his won its way with the men and were n of Japan in quarters that were that es sible to others. "More work for Jesus" was her watchword ; and this is what happened to her : One day, at morning worship, a gang of prisoners filed into the yard and began cutting the grass in the enclosure. The girls were just sing ing their sweet hymns, "Jesus, I My Cross Have'Taken," and "I'm Glad I'm in this Army," and the unusual words and tone arrested the prisoners' ears, all unaccustomed to such sounds, in their own language. Cautiously they crept nearer and nearer to the piazza, till the teacher stepped forward, asking tial worth, (b) its precious fruit, and (c) them all to enter. Eagerly they clim the steps, and are soon within the walls; a strange sight for a girls' school-the overseer with his lash and sword, and these sad-faced men with their clank. ing chains. But the songs ring out ; their glad welcome ; and the organ peals it was the concluding portion, was to forth its sweet tones; then the old confirm the Corinthian Christians in the old story is read from the Gospel of "This is a strange tale. We would like to here more of it," say they slowly



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we find him declaring that the sum of his preaching to them had been the Cross-"Christ crucified." And this, though to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, he declared to be the wisdom and the power of God unto salvation.

The fourth lesson was

Abstinence for the Sake of Others.

Among other questions which agitated the disciples at Corinth was one which related to eating meat which had been offered to idols. But Paul was much less concerned to answer that than he was to teach them the sin of recklessly wounding in any way the consciences of weaker brethren. His own resolution, "If meat maketh my brother to stumble, I will eat no flesh for evermore," was nobly Christian ; a good one for us all.

The fifth lesson was

Christian Love.

This, too, was a part of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, and was intended to show the supreme importance of this divine principle. The main points brought to view were (a) its essen. its unending duration. Though faith, hope and love all alike abide,"the great. est even of these is love."

The sixth lesson was

Victory over Death.

The design of this chapter, of which inspiring truth of the resurrection of Mark. the dead. The crowning thought presented was the completeness of the Christian's victory over death thus con- filing out, summated, and that this victory is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The seventh lesson was

The Uproar at Ephesus.

In this we returned to the Acts of the Apostles, and the course of Paul's history as narrated there. One result of his preaching at Ephesus had been to diminish the traffic in the silver shrines of the goddess Diana, and thus the gains of the craftsmen of the city. The opposition thereby aroused culminated in the wildest uproar. The lesson disclosed what it is which, at all times, is the secret of much opposition to the gospel. Somehow it interferes with selfish interests. Men do not ask : What is right? name, a waiting company of believers hungering to be taught of the Lord,but What will increase my pleasures and Leaflet.

"Come again, come again ! You are welcome," responds the bright-eyed woman, with a silent prayer. So, as the men were brought for two or three days into the same vicinity, the scene was repeated with increasing interest.

After a few weeks a request was sent from the prison for a Christian teacher and this strong, brave woman went forth fearleasly, under guard of an officer of law if not to preach, at least to speak to those souls in prison. Once only, but mark the result. Months after, when some of these men were released and returned to their homes in Kushu, they carried the precious seeds dropped into their hearts in the girls' school : and by and by there came a pleading call for a missionary to be sent, who, responding to the call, found a church in all but

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