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Table with 4 columns: Station, Eastward, Westward, and Time. Lists various stations like Sunbury, Selinsgrove Junction, etc.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for June 8, 1902—The Council at Jerusalem.

THE LESSON TEXT. (Acts 15:22-33). 22. Then please it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief among the brethren.

23. And they wrote letters by them after this manner: The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: 24. Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law; to whom we gave no such commandment:

25. It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul.

26. Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

28. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 29. That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Pardon ye well.

30. So when they were dismissed, they returned to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: 31. Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

32. And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them. 33. And after they had tarried there a time, they were let go in peace from the brethren.

GOLDEN TEXT—Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.—Gal. 5:1.

OUTLINE OF SCRIPTURAL SECTION. An important question submitted, Acts 15:1-21. The question debated, Acts 15:22-23. The question decided, Acts 15:22-33. TIME—A. D. 50. PLACE—Jerusalem. Jews.

NOTES AND COMMENTS. The Great Question.—The Jews welcomed proselytes from other nations upon the condition that they should become obedient to the laws of Moses. When the Jews became disciples of Christ they did not consider those laws of less binding obligation upon themselves. Hence it was natural for them to think that Gentiles should take the same steps to become Christians as to become proselytes of the faith.

The Question Submitted.—The discussion which made so much trouble seems to us to have been about very small matters, but the issue was really important, for a Christianity that practiced all the Jewish ceremonies could never have won the world.—The argument of the Jewish teachers at Antioch probably depended on the fact that the Jewish religion was commanded by God, and so must be observed by all who obeyed God.—The messengers of the church in Antioch were frankly on one side of the question that was to be decided, but the story they had to tell won their great favor all along the way.

The Question Debated.—This was one of the few occasions important enough to call all the leaders of the church together.—The "questioning" of verse 7 was the discussion among those who took sides in the matter.—Peter's speech pronounced for the greatest freedom, pointing out that the Holy Spirit had borne witness to the Gentiles, and that the strictest Jews depended upon God's grace.—Paul and Barnabas added to the effect of this speech by telling what they had seen; and then James gave the final word as presiding officer. The things he insisted on seemed to him a matter of simple decency.

The Question Decided.—The whole church took the final action with apparent unanimity, though neither the Jewish teachers nor Paul abode strictly by the decision. It was a compromise to which they felt (v. 28) that the Holy Spirit had guided them. We know nothing about Judas, but Silas was with Paul on the next missionary journey.—The letter first denies the authority of the men who had insisted on circumcision. It next introduces the messengers, complimenting the zeal and courage of Paul and Barnabas. Finally it lays down the points on which the Jews insisted. To eat things sacrificed to idols was like taking part in the sacrifice; yet Paul withheld in a few years upheld Christian liberty in this matter (Rom. 14:13-15; 1 Cor. 8:1-8). "Blood" was sometimes used directly as food, and the Jews were careful to have all blood removed from meat before it was eaten; while "things strangled" were forbidden, because the blood was left in the body. Fornication, as distinguished from adultery, was considered no special disgrace. This last point is the only one of those mentioned on which Christian morality now insists.—The question had been so troublesome that its decision brought great joy to the church in Antioch.—The omission of verse 34 makes it appear that Silas went to Jerusalem to report and then returned to Antioch.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS. Learn to be contented, and you will know how to be rich. The more conscientious men are, the more likely it is that differences will arise among them. One should learn to be yielding in matters of minor importance, though firm as a mountain rock on essentials.

Care should be taken not to disellowship those whom the Lord has accepted and acknowledged. When any form is discovered to be a galling yoke it had better be broken.

Parties Criminals. But justice never will be done Until there is prescribed The self-same course of treatment for The briber and the bribed.

RHEUMATISM

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Absent-Minded. Indignant Collector—You told me when I was here last week that you would settle this bill if I saw you today.

The Delinquent—I know, but, confound it, the best of us make mistakes sometimes. I intended to be out today and forgot all about it.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The People's Delight. Bolivar—I don't see that you answered any of Jellaby's argument in your speech. You simply pitched into Jellaby.

Silvertong—I didn't mean to. Didn't you see how my address took? People generally would rather hear a man abused than to listen to replies to his arguments.—Boston Transcript.

By Foul Means. Remus—Who took de cake down at det swell cakewalk? Sam—Bill Jones.

Remus—But Bill wasn't invited. Sam—I know, but he ran his hand fro de window an' took de cake when nobody was lookin'.—Chicago Daily News.

Infinitive Variety. Mrs. Crabshaw—I made such a splendid bargain today.

Mrs. Crawford—What was it, dear? Mrs. Crabshaw—By paying five dollars to an employment bureau they agree to send me a new servant every two weeks for a whole year.—N. Y. Sun.

How Iron Was Discovered. Teacher—Johnny, can you tell me how iron was first discovered? Johnny—Yes, sir.

"Well! Just tell the class what your information is on that point." "I heard pa say yesterday that they smelt it."—Spare Moments.

Financially Speaking. "Am I as dear to you now as I was during our courtship?" asked the bride of six short months.

"Much dearer," briefly answered the husband, as he proceeded to audit a fresh crop of monthly bills.—Chicago Daily News.

The Danger. "You are speculating?" said the president of the bank, severely. "Yes, sir," replied the cashier. "No harm in speculating, I hope?"

"Well, no; provided you don't get excited and drop the 'st'."—Town Topics.

Fishin' Time. Now Nature calls her children Where speckled beauties gleam; So the teacher wallops Johnny Because Johnny whips the stream.—N. Y. Sun.



Uncle E. Z. Marke—Say, if thet young feller don't hurry back with the change fer that thousand dollar bill I'll never be in time to git them green goods for Deneon Jenks and thet gold brick fer me!—Chicago American.

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CARRY HEAVY BURDENS.

How the Peons of Mexico Manage to Transport Heavy Loads with Comparative Ease.

Very heavy is the beam of timber which the man shown in the accompanying picture is carrying, and yet



PEON CARRYING A LOAD. (Poised so That the Weight Rests on Back and Shoulders.)

the burden is not nearly so onerous as it seems to be, since it is so poised that its weight rests as lightly as possible on the man's back and shoulders. The man who is carrying it is a Mexican, who for years has worked in the mines of that country. Like other workmen similarly employed it is often his duty to carry ponderous logs of timber from one part of the mine to another, and long experience has taught him how to place the timber on his back so that it will not prove an excessive burden.

At the best, however, says the Louisville Courier-Journal, it is not an agreeable task, and many of those who have seen Mexican workmen with these loads on their backs have wondered why mules and donkeys were not employed in their stead.

Then We Find Out. The man was running for office for the first time.

"What are his views on the various questions before the public?" asked the unsophisticated voter. "His real views?" asked the politician.

"Certainly." "My dear sir," explained the politician, "the only way to find that out is to elect him."—Chicago Post.

Signs of Genius. "What a charming infant!" exclaimed Miss Frizz.

"Yes," said the mother, proudly. "We are looking forward to a brilliant future for our boy."

"I'm sure he will realize it. I shouldn't be at all surprised if he were to become a great literary man. What he is saying now sounds to me exactly like Scotch dialect!"—Washington Star.

Two Survivors of 1800. Claremont, N. H., has two citizens born early in the year 1800, and who will soon celebrate the one hundred and second anniversary of their birth.

Both are comparatively active men, and one continues to enjoy skating. They have the appearance of men of 75 or 80. At the age of 62 one enlisted in a New Hampshire regiment and served three years.

Nothing Rash About Her.

"But you are too young," pleaded the anxious mother. "No girl should marry before her mind is fully formed."

"Oh," said the gladsome maiden of 18 summers, "my mind has been made up for more than a week."—Tit-Bits.

The Ones to Avoid. Old Man—If you would select a good wife, my young friend, you must avoid the descendants of a certain famous woman.

Young Man—I shall certainly heed your advice. Who was she? Old Man—Eve.—N. Y. Weekly.

Neighborly. Rusty Rufus—De lady in de next house give me a piece of home-made cake. Won't you give me somethin', too? Mrs. Spiteful—Certainly! Here's a pepsin tablet.—Judge.

Not Too Liberal. Parishioner—The people are complaining that you are too liberal. Unorthodox Pastor—Oh, that's a mistake, my dear, a great mistake. I am just as stingy as the rest of you.—N. Y. Weekly.

Sacrificed the Tree. Visitor—You are having that beautiful old tree cut down, I see. Why? Mr. Sutherland—It interferes with my neighbors' view of the house, and they keep running in to find out what is going on.—N. Y. Weekly.

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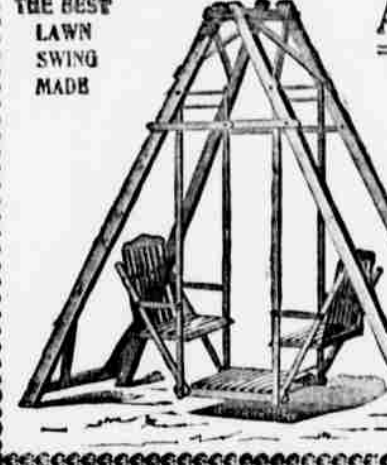
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