Sunday School Lesson

July 8—Lesson II—Acts 7: 54 to 8: 3: 22: 19, 20. Golden Text—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Rev. 2: 10.

ANALYSIS

I. THE DEATH OF THE FIRST MARTYR, 54-60.

II. THE YOUTH WHO LOOKS ON.

INTRODUCTION—Stephen occupies an important place in the story of Paul. He was the first official to be appointed by the early church, chosen with six others to help in the distribution of alms among the poor widows. He was also a man of great intellectual ability, belonging probably to the more liberal-minded Jews, and was able to see very clearly what was involved in the teaching of Jesus. He saw that the attitude to the temple and mosaic legislation was now entirely changed. His great speech in Acts 7, reveals his originality and entitles him to be called the first theologian. Also his boldness i nasserting his conviction raised up the stricter party of the Jews against him so he became the first martyr.

I. THE DEATH OF THE FIRST MARTYR, 54-60.

V. 54. Gnashed on him with their teeth. An example of the fury and hatred which so often accompany religious bigotry, as was also seen in the attack made on Jesus.

V. 55. He . . . looked up steadfastly into heaven. Stephen's calmness stands out in striking contrast; and he is sustained by three things. He is filled with the power of the heavenly spirit, he sees the glory of God, and looks upon Jesus standing at the right hand of God. The Holy Spirit represents the active help given by God. The Holy Spirit is God in action. The glory of God may be illustrated by the vision which Isaiah had in the temple (see Isa., ch. 6). While in the appearance of Jesus we have the first manifestation of the glorified Christ who was soon to appear to Paul on the road to Damascus, and whom John afterwards saw on the island of Patmos. Jesus is standing and therefore ready to step in to help his servant. His position at the right hand of God shows that he fills the office of the mediator, while he is also waiting to receive and execute the messages of God.

V. 56. I see . . the Son of man. This was the title which Jesus chose for himself, and it expressed his Messianic claim in a way that revealed both his glory and also his humility. It is very rarely used by any other in the New Testament.

V. 57. And ran upon him. The Judges, as in the trial of Jesus, are filled with indignation, and look upon him as a blasphemer. But the marks of deliberation are even fewer here than in the great trial of Christ. In wild fury they rush him outside the city because their law demanded this, and there they stoned him to death. Much discussion has been given to the question how these Jews could perform so unlawful an act. In the case of Jesus the Jewish authorities had to obtain the permission of the Romani ruler (see John 18:31), where it is distinctly stated that the Jews did not have the right to pass sentence of death. But in this case their anger carries them beyond their rights; and the fact that they did so has been explained by the suppositon that the Roman law was not so strictly enforced during the latter years of Pontius Pilate who left Palestine in A.D. 36, or else it may be that under his successor special priveleges were granted to the Jews in this regard.

Vs. 59, 60. These verses describe the death of Stephen (see Luke 23: 24). He kneels down in the attitude of prayer, places himself in the hands of Jesus, while as he looks upon his wild and angry persecutors, he asks God to forgive them, thus following the example of his Master.

He . . . fell asleep. Into the peaceful sleep which was also to be an awakening into eternity, and into the immediate presence of his Saviour whom he loved.

II. THE YOUTH WHO LOOKS ON.

V. 58. Laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. This is the first mention of one who is to prove such a leader in the church. He may have been as old as thirty, was probably a member of the Jewish court, or Sanhedrin. It is doubtful whether Paul had been in Jerusalem during the trial of Jesus, but at a later time he may have returned as a rabbi or minister in one of the local synagogues. His active participation in this trial is shown by the fact that the witnesses placed their clothes at his feet, while he afterward confessed that he gave his vote against Stephen.

Ch. 8:1. A great persecution. Now began those attacks upon the Christian church which were to prove so formidable at different periods during the next three centuries, and by which many confessors of Jesus were called upon to seal their faith with their blood. Few stories are more moving than those which tell of the courage and heroism of these early martyrs, many of the young men and frail maidens who would rather surrender life itself than deny their Lord and Saviour.

At Jerusalem. It is not unlikely that an immediate attack was now made upon those who were known to be followers of the Nazarene, and probably Paul led the attack. So keen was the persecution that it led to the breaking up of the congregation at Jerusalem, and the members were scattered throughout the whole of Samaria and Judæa, thus extending the gospel to new places.

V. 3. Saul . . . make havock of the church. He is evidently the most prominent among the persecutors, and he says himself that he was exceedingly mad against these heretics. He searches them out in their homes, has them shut up in prison where they wait their trial gefore the Jewish courts which would pass sentence on them. It is doubtful whether these Jewish judges ventured to execute any more, but they robbed them of their property, took away their homes, refused to give them any work, and condemned them to poverty—a condition which remained in the Jerusalem church for a long time and which later called forth the generosity of the Gentile churches. Thus we are presented with a situation of great dramatic interest. The leaders of the Early Church are attcked with fierce hatred, while he who is the most prominent among the opponents is soon to be won over and become the most aggressive preacher of the new gospel.

Good Refrigerators Save 50 P.C. In Ice

Recent experiments by the Home Institute of "Delineator" as described in the July issue of the monthly conclusively prove that a cheap refrigerator is a waste of money.

"Performance shows that the cheap ice-box uses about 50 per cent. more ice than the more expensive ones, and that the temperatures within the food compartment are 17 per cent. higher. Food remains fresher in both flavor and appearance in refrigerators which maintain adequate temperatures. Temperatures within the food chamber should average under 50 degrees Fah.

"A glossy white exterior and a smooth white porcelain interior do not insure good refrigeration—it is rather the materials which come between the two and the manner in which they are placed. In the good refrigerators which the institute has examined there have been from six to fourteen separate layers of insulation material sealed into place—the number depending somewhat on the type and thickness of these materials. The thickness of the walls varied from 4 to 5 inches."

Do You Know These Short Cuts

To draw threads easily for hemstitching make a stiff lather of white soap, and brush it over the linen where the threads are to be drawn. Let it dry, and the threads will come out easily.

If, when baking juicy pies, the juice boils out into the oven, sprinkle salt over the spilled juice, and it will not burn, or cause a disagreeable odor in the house.

Do not use powder to clean rough or chased brass. Wash the article in soap and water, dry, and then rub over the surface with a freshly cut lemon. Rinse, and rub dry with chamois.

Save your celery leaves, dry them them in a paper bag and mix an equal quantity of salt. This is an excellent flavoring for soups and stews, and economical.

Sterling silverware can be quickly cleaned if boiled in a solution of baking soda in an aluminum pan. An electrolytic action takes place, which causes the tarnish to be thrown from the metal, which itself is not injured.

Modest Suitor—I am going to marry your sister. Willie, but I know I am not good enough for her. Candid Little Brother—That's what Sis says, but ma's been telling her she can't do better.

Our Rulers

THE KING AND THE PRINCE OF WALES
Snapped at the recent review of the "Guards" at Whitehall.

People are Queer

Lady Rhonda's Paper Attacks Crowd Mind on Earhart's Flight

London.—The first distinctively feminist reaction to Miss Amelia Earhart's flight across the Atlantic Ocean was published here recently, and was decidedly unfavorable. It was registered in Time and Tide, a weekly paper edited by Lady Rhonda, which contrasted the case of Miss Earhart with those of Lady Heath and Lady Bailey as "an interesting illustration of the crowd mind of to-day towards women." Lady Heath and Lady Bailey recently made solo flights between London and Cape Town, South Africa.

"It would seem," Lady Rhonda's paper commented, "as if the public were infinitely more thrilled by the spectacle of women as passengers than women as pilots. It likes to see them brave dangers and take risks, but appears to feel that it is more fitting, and therefore more suitably spectacular, that they should only do so under male guidance. When Lady Bailey and Lady Heath set out on their respective journeys there was a general feeling (which crystalized in some parts of Africa to the point of official refusal to permit them to fly without escort) that women should not be permitted to take such risks.

"But when Miss Earhart is carried as a bundle might be carried across the Atlantic the press of two great countries echoes and re-echoes the excitement and President Coolidge himself telegraphs congratulations. Truly, the crowd mind to-day has changed but little from the crowd mind that liked Princesses to be attacked by Dragons, but preferred that Princes do all the rescuing."

To Keep Butter in Hot Weather

A helpful suggestion as to how to keep butter firm is contained in the current issue of "Successful Farming." It reads: "When ice cannot be had butter may be kept cool in this way: Put it on a dish which has been placed in a shallow vessel of cold water and cover with an inverted new earthen flowerpot which has been scalded and left to cool. The pot should rest in the water and water should be changed from time to time. Cared for in this way, butter will keep firm even in hot weather."

"My wife has run away with a man in my car!" "Good heavens, Not your new car?"

Household Hints

To keep scorched or burned potatoes from tasting, set the pan of potatoes quickly into cold water for a few minutes. If scorched badly, and you wish to mash or season, put them into a clean pan.

A salad that few people use and that almost all like is fresh cabbage and sliced orange and salad dressings. Mix thoroughly and serve soon.

I could never get my family to eat many beans until I was told by a neighbor not to use soda, and to put into them a few tiny bits of sliced onion about a half hour before they finish cooking. Now I can hardly cook enough of them. They do not taste of the onion but the flavor is greatly improved.

Here is breakfast fruit more appetizing than cantaloupe. Take a thick slice of tomato out of the ice-box, pour hot bacon grease over it, put the thin slice of bacon on top and serve. I wouldn't believe how good it was until I tried it.

I have always had good luck making over my husband's suits for my son and getting results that look like a tailor's. The secret of it is in stretching the seams. When I do the machine stitching I pull the cloth toward me just as hard as I can.

To Keep Jellies From Boiling Over

In making jellies leave a flat skimming spoon or dipper in the kettle while cooking; the contents will not rise up and boil over. One does not have half of the skimming to do, as by the old way, and it comes out nice and clear, too, with less work.

Homemade Pillows Are More Satisfying

"Have you discovered the thrill of satisfaction one experiences on viewing a bed or chaise lounge made billowy by quilted silk pillows of one's own make?" asks a writer in "Delineator." "Harmonizing with the color of the room, they are very decorative and their fashioning is really quite simple, especially if they are worked with a conventional floral design whose regular outline is easily traced with the needle. Boxed shapes are the smartest things for pillows. They can be made of satin, taffeta, crepe de chine, radium or sateen."

"Do you read all the health hints?" "Not all," answered Mr. Chuggins. "In my efforts to keep out of the hospital I limit myself to a study of the traffic regulations."

SINGAPORE

A Word to Conjure Romance, Color and Adventure To The Minds. This British Post is Described by M. T. G. in The Christian Science Monitor

A DREAM CAME TRUE

Singapore.—It was not so many years ago, as the course of history runs, since a man whose foresight was only matched by his determination, sailed eastward in a little vessel bearing the British flag. He came after a long time to a narrow waterway where the sun blazed white-hot upon a glassy sea, and where on either side the low shores were fringed with brilliant green foliage growing in mangrove swamps. Behind lay the jungle, uninhabited save for reptiles and many wild beasts. Likewise the shores for many miles were silent and deserted save where, from their hidden lairs, Malay pirates peered out at the ships of the far-wandering white men and considered the possibility of a successful attack.

There was little to appeal about the scene, but Sir Stamford Raffles looked upon it and found it good. "Here," he declared, "I will found a city that shall presently rise to the benefit and glory of Britain. Where stands yonder impenetrable jungle with its reptiles and its beasts, it shall come about that broad streets lined with hotels and shops and commercial structures shall be placed, and where runs yonder silent and forbidding shore line there shall be found to-morrow docks and warehouses, and great ships from all the ports of the Seven Seas. And it all shall be a monument, here at the place which shall presently become the crossroads of the East, to empire builders of England."

So it came to pass. And to-day, as we enter the roads at Singapore, we regard from the decks of a modern steamship the full realization of such a dream of empire as perhaps no man but Sir Stamford Raffles ever had the high courage to entertain. For the swamps and the jungles have gone, the wild beasts have fled, and the Malay pirates are but a legend. The hotels and the shops and the commercial houses, the docks and the go downs and the great ships, the villas and the gardens and broad highways, all are here and in such measure as even the man who conceived Singapore surely never could have foreseen.

Backward from the sea foot by foot, rod by rod, mile by mile, the jungle has been forced. Acre by acre the mangrove swamp has been turned into rubber plantations. And along the once silent and forbidding shore line there has been built a splendid esplanade where one may walk or drive of an afternoon and look upon a harbor full of ships from all ports and all the seas.

Singapore is a name to conjure with, and its very existence where a century ago and less all was swamp and jungle seems to have followed the waving of the conjurer's wand. Of empire building it is the climatic feat; of colonization it is the master achievement. Dairen and Tsing-tao were monuments to the Russian and German advances in the Far East. Hong Kong is a British marvel—but Singapore is a miracle. In the singing euphony of the very name lies a suggestion of the romance which associates itself with this spectacle of a great city—the most colorful city in all the world—rising full panoplied, as it seems, from the equatorial jungle.

Singapore is a name that has accompanied our dreams of far wanderings ever since our earliest school days. It has symbolized to the imaginative thought all the mystery and magic and magnificence of the storied East. The pronouncement of that one word has been an open-sesame which has thrown wide the woor to all the wonders of the Orient, to its rich color, to its teeming activities of every race and nation, to its green and gold of palm and sunlight, to its strange blend of the East and West. Of all the lure of all the world's far places, of the rare and the exotic and the enchanting, the most compelling has lain in that name with which to conjure—Singapore!

Few of the places of which we have ong dreamed are as we have conceived them. Some disappoint us, although much of that is the fault of the individual. Others outstrip our most vivid fancies. But it is the common experience that all are different from what we expected. Mark Twain, in his characteristic language, declared that Hawaii was the only part of the world that "comes up to the brag." After seeing most of the places which he visited and a good many that he did not, I am inclined to think that he must have been singularly hard to satisfy. For it seems to me that every place, if not in one way certainly in some other, "comes up to the brag." But of whatever the latter might consist there is one bit of the globe that far transcends it, an that is Singapore, which must be visited properly to be appreciated.

You have heard of Singapore, perhaps as "the hottest place on earth," and that is about all you have heard of it. Finding it in your atlas not very far from the equator you have concluded that all there was to it was heat, and you have let it go at that. But here, my friend, you have been greatly in error; for Singapore is neither excessively hot nor, from the viewpoint of the tropics, at all uncomfortable. But in any case, all that is a trifle.

When you step ashore from your ship at some one of the great docks and take a motor or ricksha or one of the curious little pony carriages known as a "gharry," then and there commences the unfolding of a panorama of such a variegated sort as no other place in the world can show; a series of fascinating pictures which pass before you with the rapidity of a cinematograph; a moving, kaleidoscopic spectacle which banishes at once all thoughts of such trifles as temperature or climatic conditions. For here is China, the China of a dozen provinces, more colorful and exotic than China itself; here is India, the India of Burma, of Bengal, of the Punjab, of Ceylon; here is Malaysia, the Federated States and all the islands; here is Java and Sumatra, the Isles of Conrad; the Philippines and the South Seas; and here, too, is Africa and the Near East, all of it blending with Europe and the Western world, which here at the crossroads of the East rubs elbows with the world "East of Suez." It is, in effect, like a mighty spectacle, epitomizing the habits and customs of all the world, this vivid, teeming, richly hued Singapore.

That is the first impression. And when you are driven out of the seething, energetic city itself and into the residential suburbs, you come upon a beauty of villa and garden and drive and palm grove that rivals Hong Kong and Honolulu. And beyond that you find yourself amid the rubber trees, where the great groves have replaced the swamp and the jungle. There are vast forests, and through them over well-metaled roads you may drive for miles wondering at the marvel that has been brought about in the realization of one man's dream.

On each tree, if you examine it closely, you will find the little slit in the bark down which flows, drop by drop, the white viscous liquid into its little cup quite as the maple syrup runs on a Canadian hillside, presently to expand into broad sheets of the precious, wealth-bringing rubber. And then, by another metaled highway, broad and lined with majestic royal palms, you may motor back into Singapore tarrying, if you like, at a massive hostelry which is one of the many forms in which has been commemorater the name of a great man.

Now that the cool of the day is at hand, you will find all of Singapore abroad, the motorcar of many a wealthy Chinese vying in luxuriousness with those of the European rubber growers. For the commercial capacity of the Chinese race has found its most impressive manifestation here in this wonderful city on the equator. The Chinese is as important as any in Singapore, and in its blended activities and far-reaching commerce he plays an influential part.

Wife of well-known man.—"You loved me more when we were only engaged." Well-known Man.—"Well, to tell the truth, my dear, I never cared for married women."

MUTT AND JEFF—Bud Fisher.

This Ought to Cure Mutt of Swiping Jeff's Bed.