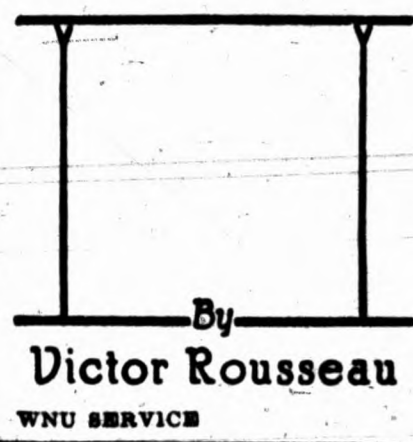


Business Block Laid in Ruins



One of the big business buildings of Santa Barbara, Cal., as it appeared after the earthquake had shattered it. Photograph sent over the wires of the American Telegraph and Telephone company.

The Free Traders



By Victor Rousseau

CHAPTER XXI Saved by Estelle

As the wall of the hut burst into flames Lee struggled with all his might to free himself of his bonds. But in spite of all his efforts he could not loosen them an inch. He writhed until the cords drew blood from his wrists, and the thought of Joyce, lost to him at the last through Estelle's trick, inspired him to still more frenzied efforts, but equally in vain.



Lee tried to push her away. "Go—never mind me!" he tried to mumble through his gag. And he wondered why she, who had lured him there, was now trying to save him.

ceded in fighting his way out of the musk. Seeing the two forms dimly through the smoke, he bent down, felt the cords about Lee's limbs and body and, with his knife, quickly slashed them asunder. He pulled the gag from Lee's mouth and carried him outside. Estelle staggered out after him. In a few moments the fresh air revived them. But hardly were they outside the hut when the roof collapsed with a great crash, sending up a spout of sparks and brands. A huge banner of fire waved where the hut had been. The glowing brands, descending, set fire to the dead reeds. Lines of fire ran swiftly out into the swamp. The sound of whinnying and plunging came from the stables, which were now discernible against the brightening sky. "Monsieur!" cried Leboeuf, pointing. Estelle clung to Lee. "Wait! Wait!" she cried. But even in Lee's misery the instinct to save the animals came first. Leboeuf and he set off toward the building, staggering through the swamp, while the fiery fingers of the conflagration reached out toward them. "No! This way!" cried Estelle, running toward them. She guided them along the little trail. In a few moments Lee and Leboeuf had unharmed the animals, and led them to safety, the Indian carrying the saddles and bridles over his arm. At the neck of the promontory Estelle grasped at Lee again. "He is gone!" she cried. "He has taken her to Lake Misquash in his motor boat. Oh, don't you care, that you stand there like that?" Lee looked at her, despair heavy in his eyes. "So much," he answered, "that I shall follow him to the Arctic ice if necessary. That is why there is no instant hurry, Estelle."

bered nothing from that moment—it could be gathered that one of them had drawn a concealed pistol and fired, felling McGrath and stunning him. Whereupon, thinking him dead, the whole crew had rushed for the motor boat, but, frightened back by Estelle's screams and the sight of the two men there, whom they believed to be more of Lee's raiding party, they had swarmed down the landing place into the York boats, and made good their escape. The whole night's work had gone for nothing. Lee insisted on examining McGrath's wound, and discovered that it was a mere graze along the temple. The bone had turned the glancing bullet. "Aye, 'tis the thick head o' the McGrath saved me, and 'tis the thick head o' the McGrath saved them!" the old man lamented bitterly. "'Twas an evil moment when ye consented to bring me w' ye, Anderson!" Lee tried to console him, but McGrath appeared utterly despondent over his failure. It was in vain Lee told him that he did not need the members of the gang; that it was a good thing on the whole, that they had got away. "Father," said Lee, "we've got to look the facts in the face. First, there's my duty as a policeman, to arrest Rathway for Pelly's murder, however far I have to follow him. He's broken for Lake Misquash, and I'm going to follow him there. "Then there's Joyce. It's true she's his wife," here Estelle tried to interrupt him, but he ignored her. His voice choked for a moment. "I must eliminate that fact from consideration. I'm going to start as soon as possible, and I propose to ride one of Rathway's horses. If Leboeuf is willing to accompany me, I'll take him as a deputy. "Ah, Monsieur, I come with you, never fear!" answered Leboeuf, making a clucking sound with his tongue against the roof of his mouth. And then Lee remembered that Leboeuf had a score of his own to settle with the fugitive, apart from the matter of Joyce. "See, Monsieur!" said the Indian, pointing to two pairs of snow shoes strapped against the saddles. "I have only to make up two packs from what those men have left behind them in these huts, and we are ready to start together to the top of the world. We ride the horses till they can go no longer. Then we take to the raquettes. And at last we catch him. He cannot escape us. "Monsieur, there is no place in the world so small that he can hide in, nor no place so silent that we cannot hear him. My master came to me in a dream and told me so. He told me all that has happened here, but I would not let you know. We catch him by falling water. And she—she shall come to no harm. All this my master told me."

"Lee, I may never see you again. I want you to forgive me for all the wretched, miserable wrongs I did you in the past. Lee, if it's any consolation—I know it can be none—but I did love you once. I knew I was unworthy of you, but it wasn't all fake and sham. "Never mind, Estelle," said Lee. "All that's long past." "I should have told you about—about the man, Kean, but I didn't dare to. You—you idealized me. You thought me something that I wasn't and could never have been." "Estelle—" "If you hadn't put me upon a pedestal I should have found courage to tell you that Kean had been my lover, that I cared more for you—then, I should have knelt at your feet and begged you to forgive me. I ran away with him because I was afraid of you, and I have hated you—and hate you still—because of the wrong I had done you." "Please don't say any more, Estelle—" Lee tried to interpose. "You think that I'm a woman with a score of lovers, and that I only been one man in all my life, Lee. Because—I'll tell you now. Jim Rathway is Kean. And his wife's still alive—at any rate, she was alive when he went through that marriage ceremony with Joyce. Alive and not divorced from him. That makes Joyce yours!" (CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.)

ing their hearts with gladness. III. The Stoning of Paul (vv. 19-22). Wicked Jews from Antioch and Iconium pursued Paul with relentless hate to this place where they stirred up the very people who were willing to worship them a little while before. This shows that satanic worship can soon be turned into satanic hate. This hatred took form in stoning Paul and dragging him out of the city for dead. God raised him up, and with undaunted courage, he pressed on with his missionary duties, bearing the good tidings to the lost. IV. The Organization of Churches in the Field (vv. 23-28). Evangelization with Paul did not mean a hasty and superficial preaching of the gospel, but the establishment of a permanent work. Elders were appointed in every church. The work of the missionary is not done until self-governing and self-propagating churches are established on the field.

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson. Lesson for July 19. THE GOSPEL IN LYSTRA. LESSON TEXT—Acts 14:1-28. GOLDEN TEXT—"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."—Matt. 5:10. PRIMARY TOPIC—Paul Heals a Lame Man. JUNIOR TOPIC—Paul Stoned at Lystra. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Going Forward in the Face of Difficulties.—Matt. 5:10. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Tribulations and Triumphs of Missionaries.

1. Paul and Barnabas Preaching at Iconium (vv. 1-7). Their experience here was similar to that at Antioch. They entered the Jewish synagogue and preached, causing a multitude of Jews and Gentiles to believe. The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles to the most bitter opposition. 1. Their Manner of Preaching (v. 1). This is suggested by the little word "so" in verse one. They spoke that a great multitude believed. They were true preachers. Only that which brings conviction of sin and induces decisions for Christ can be truly called preaching in the Biblical sense. It is not enough to merely bring the truth to the people. It must be brought in such a way that men and women will decide for Christ. This is also true of the Sunday school teacher. 2. Their Attitude Towards Opposition (v. 3). This is suggested by the word "therefore." Long time therefore they tarried. The opposition did not prevent their preaching, but incited them to continue preaching. 3. The Lord Accompanied Their Preaching With Miracles (v. 3). Since the opposition was so fierce, the Lord granted special help which was needed. 4. The Effect of Their Preaching (v. 4). The multitude of the city was divided. Where men faithfully preach the gospel, there will be division. 5. Paul and Barnabas Assaulted (vv. 5-7). The Jews and the Gentiles united in this assault. Being apprised of their effort, they fled to Lystra and Derbe. II. An Attempt to Worship Paul and Barnabas as Gods (vv. 8-18). 1. The Occasion (vv. 8-10). It was the healing of the lame man. God's gracious power shown in healing this lame man occasioned a new difficulty. That which ought to have been a help was turned into a hindrance. This was a notable miracle. The man was a confirmed cripple. He had never walked. On hearing Paul preach, faith was born in his heart (Rom. 10-17). When Paul perceived that he trusted Christ, he called with a loud voice that all could hear for the man to stand upright. The cure was instantaneous for he leaped up and walked (v. 10). 2. The Method (vv. 11-13). Barnabas called Jupiter and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Jupiter brought oxen and garlands ready to offer sacrifice unto these men (v. 13). 3. Their Efforts Frustrated (vv. 14-18). This foolish act was happily averted by the tact of the apostles. (1) They denied that they were divine beings, and declared that to worship beings with like passions to themselves was criminal. (2) They directed the people to turn away from these vain things unto the living God who made heaven and earth, and has left witness of Himself in that He has always done good, giving rain and fruitful seasons, and fill-

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