

23rd October

Memory Verse:

**For now we see through a glass, darkly;
but then face to face:**

now I know in part;

but then shall I know even as also I am known. I Corinthians 13:14

For information on this memory verse see the lesson for 25th October.

Something to think about



“Give me a child until he is seven and I will give you the man.” This Jesuit maxim is attributed to the founder of the order, Ignatius Loyola (1491–1556), who was born on **23rd October**.¹ If you did the lesson for 14th August you might remember reading about the Counter-reformation and the council of Trent: if you missed that lesson because you were on holiday it would be worth looking back at it today for some background information. The Jesuits were the spear head of the Counter-reformation. They went everywhere “educating” people in the “old” Roman ways and inciting and organising persecution of those who wanted to follow the Bible. They soon gained a reputation for scheming, spying and plotting and they were at the bottom of many efforts to dethrone or assassinate Queen Elizabeth I and other Protestant monarchs throughout Europe. In fact they had such a reputation for plotting that English people were often quick to cry “Jesuit Plot” when there was any trouble even if they were not involved! Jesuit schools were an important part of their work of fighting Protestantism and they aimed to get hold of youngsters as early as possible – in line with their founder's famous saying.

How much truth is there in these well-known words of Loyola? Certainly there is some, for the Bible says, “Train up a child in the way he shall go and when he is old he will not depart from it.” [Proverbs 22:6] If you have godly parents you have much for which to thank God. But it is also true that it is possible, by the grace of God, to turn from an evil path, repent from sin and so pass from death to life in Jesus Christ. So a bad beginning does not automatically lead to a bad end: God is gracious. But we who have a better start in life should be careful not to depend on our parents' faith – it is an example to us but it will not save us. We must ourselves be walking “in the way we should go.”

Today's Optional Resources files include an extract from E H Broadbent's *The Pilgrim Church* which deals with Ignatius Loyola's life and work.

Something to read from history and a flag to make

Today is an important day in the history of the relationship between England and Scotland. This extract from *Our Island Story* by H E Marshall explains why.



Since 1603 A.D., when James VI. of Scotland became King of England, there had been very little real union between the two countries. For union means 'oneness,' and although there had been only one King there had been two Parliaments, one in England, and one in Scotland, each making laws.

¹ Aristotle had said something very similar many hundreds of years earlier.

Sometimes the Scottish Parliament would make laws which the English Parliament thought were dangerous; sometimes the English Parliament would make laws which the Scottish Parliament did not like. It almost seemed at times as if the union of the crowns had done no good at all, and the two countries were ready to quarrel and separate.

Wise men saw that there could be no real union until there was only one Parliament, until English and Scots met and discussed the laws together. Cromwell indeed had called English, Scottish, and Irish members to his Parliament, but it had been for so short a time, and in such troubled days that people had almost forgotten about it.

Even now it was not an easy thing to do, but at last all difficulties were smoothed away. It was agreed among other things that each country should keep its own law courts and its own religion, but that they should have the same King, the same Parliament, the same money, and the same flag, and that the country should be called Great Britain.

The English flag was a red St. George's cross on a white ground. The Scottish flag was a white St. Andrew's cross on a blue ground. So to make one flag, the two crosses were placed one on the top of the other, and they made something very like the Union Jack; but not quite. The Union Jack was not complete until the Irish cross of St. Patrick (which is the same as a St. Andrew's cross, but was red on a white ground) was added to the other two. Then the flag we love was complete.

The reason we call our flag the Union Jack is because James I used to sign his name in French—Jacques—which sounds very like Jack. His two flags, the English and the Scottish, came to be called the Jacks, and when the two were made one the flag was called the 'union' Jack.

When the Queen gave her consent to the act of union, as it was named, she called both Lords and Commons together, and made a speech to them. 'I desire and expect from all my subjects of both nations, that from henceforth they act with all possible respect and kindness to one another, that so it may appear to all the world they have hearts disposed to become one people. This will give me great pleasure.' Then the last English Parliament rose, and, on **23rd October** 1707 A.D., the first British Parliament met.

It was a great state ceremony. Each Scottish lord was led to his place by two English lords. The Queen in her royal robes made a speech from the throne in which she heartily welcomed the new members, and ever since that day, in spite of difficulties and troubles, England and Scotland have really been one country.

H E Marshall was writing in the early years of the twentieth century. How has the relationship between England and Scotland changed since then and when did it happen?²

Sometimes the Scottish Parliament would make laws which the English Parliament thought were dangerous; sometimes the English Parliament would make laws which the Scottish Parliament did not like.

Can you comment on these words from the passage above in the light of the present day relationship between England and Scotland?

The Welsh dragon does not appear on the Union Flag. This is because the Union Flag was originally a Royal flag. When the first Union Flag was created in 1606, the Principality of Wales by that time was already united with England and was no longer a separate principality.

² Since 1999 Scotland has had its own parliament again.

You can make a folding “model” of the structure of the Union Flag using the template and instructions in today's Optional Resources files.