

told God about it, Ex. 5 : 22, 23. Then God made a promise to Moses, Ex. 6 : 6-8. In our Lesson to-day, we see God's PUNISHING HAND raised against this proud Pharaoh.

The Plagues—Our Lesson recalls how God brought the children of Israel into Egypt (recall). Then it tells us of the ten plagues that God sent to make Pharaoh's proud heart humble. Do you know what a plague is? We call the troublesome flies "a plague," and the mosquitoes that sometimes keep us from enjoying a walk in the woods beside the water, we call "a plague." (It is not well to make the description of the plagues too vivid.) God sent flies and frogs and lice in great numbers to be a plague to Pharaoh and his people. God gave Moses power to turn all the water into blood so Pharaoh and his people had no water to drink. God sent storms of hail and rain and thunder and lightning that broke down all the trees and vines of the Egyptians. Then came swarms of locusts and caterpillars to eat up all green things that the hail did not destroy. God sent disease amongst the cattle and upon the people themselves. Then He sent darkness over all the land for three days, so the people could not see to go out or come into

their houses, but none of these plagues made the proud Pharaoh humble.

Pharaoh's Hard Heart—When Jack is a naughty boy, he promises his mother he will be good if she will not punish him more ; but when the punishment stops, he soon forgets and is naughty again. When the plagues came, Pharaoh promised Moses he would let the children of Israel go if God would take away the plagues, but as soon as God took the plague away, Pharaoh was as proud and cruel as ever.

The Last Plague—Tell of the last dreadful plague of death of the firstborn in every Egyptian home. We'll hear about this again next Sunday. At last the proud king was humbled, and he begged Moses to take the children of Israel out of the land as soon as he could. Pharaoh is now afraid of their God. He now knows what a powerful God He is. He knows now that God is with His own people helping them and taking them from bondage. He knows that God is humbling him. We see how true our Golden Text is.

The Meek and Lowly Jesus—Who can help us all to be humble and good and obedient to God's commands?

Symbol—God's PUNISHING HAND.

To Think About—I should be humble.

FROM THE PLATFORM

PHARAOH'S STUBBORNNESS
ISRAEL'S STRUGGLE
SUCCESS

Print on the blackboard, lantern slide or large piece of paper, STUBBORNNESS. Ask who, in the Lesson, showed stubbornness. When the scholars have answered, print PHARAOH's, and question about the king's repeated and obstinate refusals to let Israel go free, and the plagues which were sent upon Egypt, as a punishment for Pharaoh's defiance of God's will. Next print STRUGGLE, and get the scholars to tell you who, in the Lesson, had a hard struggle. Print ISRAEL's, and bring out by questioning, the severe hardships and sufferings which God's people had to endure, and how difficult it was for them to win their freedom. Now ask to whom success came,—to the stubborn king or to the struggling Israelites. Print SUCCESS, and get the scholars to tell you how, at last, the stubborn Pharaoh was brought to let Israel go. Ask why it was that success came to Israel, and press home the lesson, that those who have God on their side are sure to succeed.