

Give in." But, like the brave British captains of yore, we must nail our colors to the mast and fight on to the end.

*Remember the Lord*, v. 14. The grapes that hang ripening on the wall must first be pressed before they give forth their nutritious juice.

So is it with God's Word. It *Pressed Grapes* is not sufficient to have a Bible in the home. We must constantly recall its truth and meditate upon it. Such meditation on the Lord keeps us from foolish fear, vain thoughts, feverish impatience; it develops character, it enriches the understanding, it nourishes the soul, it comforts the heart, and more than anything else it keeps hope active.

*Half . . . wrought . . . work . . . half . . . held . . . spears . . . and the rulers . . . behind*, v. 16. What a suggestive object lesson on the division of

**A Niche for Each**

labor is a watch! The activity of the little second hand is very marked. It hurries over sixty spaces while the minute hand is traveling only one space. The hour hand on the contrary is so slow that you could hardly believe it was moving at all, and it takes half a day to make one circuit of the watch. All the same, one could never tell the time from the ever restless second hand alone. He would not know at what second it might happen to be. It takes the combined movement of the three hands together to give us the correct time. Equally necessary are the varied occupations of men. The laboring man, the scholar, the soldier, the ruler are all indispens-

able to the well-being of society. One class should never be arrayed against another, but each should feel its duty to be to supplement the rest. Equally needful, too, are the various types of men, the enthusiastic, the phlegmatic, the thoughtful, the active, for each has his appointed niche in the great workshop of the world.

*With one of his hands . . . work, . . . with the other . . . weapon*, v. 17. The sword and the trowel are alike needful for the Christian.

Before him lies the great task of building into his character, faith and virtue and knowledge and temperance and patience and godliness and brotherly kindness and love. But as he builds he must be ever ready to repel the attacking foe. Like his Lord in the temptation of the wilderness, he requires skill in using the "sword of the spirit," for only with this can he conquer.

*In what place soever ye hear the sound of the trumpet* (Rev. Ver.), v. 20. The call of duty is always imperative. It may be attended

**The Great Imperative**

by hardship or danger, but go we must; and in obedience to this call is our highest reward. "Thank God! I have done my duty," said the dying Nelson. "Stand steady, lads," said the Iron Duke to his soldiers in a moment of peril. "Never fear, sir, we know our duty," was their brave response; and the gratitude of their country is their unending reward.

"I slept and dreamed that life was Beauty, I woke and found that life was duty."

### TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

#### For Teachers of the Older Scholars

By *Rev. W. H. Smith, Ph.D., Sydney, N.S.*

Connect this Lesson with the mission of Ezra to Jerusalem thirteen years before (see Lesson VI.). The walls had been repaired to some extent, but the enemy had broken them down again. Trace the effect of the Jews' policy toward the Samaritans in connection with the rebuilding of the temple, and also the effect of Ezra's policy regarding mixed marriages (compare Ezra 4 : 1-7; ch. 10). Nehemiah had been informed of the deplor-

able conditions, ch. 1 : 3. His prayer was answered; he received a commission from the king, and started for Jerusalem (ch. 2 : 8) to rebuild the walls.

1. Study his method. He secretly surveyed the whole situation (ch. 2 : 11, 12), made a night examination (ch. 2 : 13-16), and decided to build, ch. 2 : 17, 18. Note the rally of the leaders and how his courage animated the people, v. 6. Note also the extent of of the repairs needed, chs. 1 : 3; 2 : 13. The names and order of the builders, each over against his own home are given, ch. 3. Nehemiah united all parties, even those dissatisfied under Ezra. The serious situation is seen in