

This Society has lately made an arrangement which deserves special attention from ministers, Sunday School Superintendents and families. In order to promote the circulation of a number of books which have been greatly owned of God, it is enabled to sell them at considerably reduced prices. Thus, Baxter's "Saints' Rest," Hodge's "Way of Life," Pike's "Guide for Young Disciples," Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," Bogatzky's "Golden Treasury," and Bonar's "God's Way of Peace," the regular price of which is 38 cents each, are now offered for 25 cents each; Doddridge's "Rise and Progress," is reduced from 33 cents to 20 cents; Pike's "Early Piety," and "Early Religion," and "Robert Annan, or the Christian Hero," from 25 cents to 20 cents each; Baxter's "Call to the Unconverted," James' "Anxious Enquirer," and Reid's "The Blood of Jesus," from 25 cents to 15 cents each. Thus for \$2.75, a really valuable Christian Library can be obtained, each book of which has been stamped with God's own seal.—J. F. C.

Notes on Sabbath School Lessons.

LESSON FOR 19TH MAY.

1 Sam. 18: 3-25. Text—Is. 59: 2. *Show from Scripture—That God disregards those who persistently reject him.*

Last lesson from Old Testament was on chap. 24. Very interesting stories intervene, to which direct the attention of the scholars.

V. 3.—Samuel's death, &c.—See chap. 25: 1. Repeated here to explain Saul's conduct. "Put away," &c.—See Lev. 20: 27. This was right, whatever his motive. Perhaps he thought himself bewitched by some of them. Perhaps he did it in obedience to God's law. Men are often ready to oppose a sin for which they have no fondness, while they freely indulge themselves in one they love; and even plead their loyalty in the one as an excuse for their rebellion in the other. Let their desires change, and their conduct changes accordingly. Compare V. 7.

V. 6.—Information was sometimes given by dreams, compare Gen. 28: 12; 37: 5-11; and in New Testament, Matt. 1: 20; sometimes by the High Priest's Urim—see Num. 27: 21 (in what manner is not known); sometimes by prophets who received it themselves in dreams or in visions (Num. 12: 6.) By none of these would the Lord now answer Saul! Samuel had been

disobeyed and was dead, and no other was sent. He had himself massacred all the family of the High Priest, except Abiathar, who had escaped and fled to David, and was thus out of reach. And no dream was given to guide him. Is. 59: 2, describes his case.

V. 7, &c.—Was witchcraft simply imposture, or was there really a dealing with evil spirits? Partly imposture; but Scripture plainly teaches that there was more. Compare the language of the Old Testament laws against it, and especially in New Testament, Acts 16: 16-18. In this case was there a mere trick or really an apparition? If the latter, did the witch procure it, and was it an evil spirit in the guise of Samuel? Or if not, was it Samuel himself, thus allowed by God to appear and declare Saul's punishment? The best modern commentators seem to favour the last explanation. But these are most difficult questions, hardly fit for discussion in Sabbath School; and the use to be made of the incident is to point out the folly and sin of consulting fortune-tellers, a practice unhappily not yet abandoned.

V. 9.—"Gods" Compare Ps. 82: 6—a dignitary. How foolish is sin! The witch fears Saul, but not God; Saul thinks to better himself by sinning, he only forestalls his punishment.

Ver. 19. "With me," in the state of the dead; but each in his own condition there.

Ver. 20, &c. Poor Saul! How great his distress! Had he formerly fasted through sorrow for sin, he should not have fasted thus now.

Ver. 24. Comp. Gen. 18: 7, 8. Still common there.

Lessons—Follow the instructions God has already given, if you would get future guidance from him. Those who will not now tremble through fear of sin, shall soon tremble through fear of suffering. Sin indulged, results in prayer unanswered. Slight not God now, lest He slight you in your extremity. How dreadful the case of those who persist in rebellion against God; He will refuse their cry when, too late, it is wrong from them. Comp. Prov. 1: 24-33. How foolish and profitless is sin!

LESSON FOR 26TH MAY.

Acts 18: 1-17. Text—1 Kings 19: 18. *Show from Scripture—That God encourages his servants.*

Paul's second journey continued. Leaves Athens and labours in Corinth. Point out on map. Notice important position of Corinth, on isthmus connecting Peloponnesus (now Morea) with mainland, having two ports, one on Ægean sea, one on Ionian.