

less his duty on that account. We are sure that in the state beyond death God would make up to Naboth what his righteousness had lost him here. Yet if doing his duty should bring a man pain hereafter, as well as here, he ought still to perform it. And whether the result of his devotion to God be pleasure or pain, he will have within him the reward of a good conscience, which no external pain can destroy.

6. *Talents and social position increase one's power to sin.*—No ordinary sinner could have planned or carried out Jezebel's wickedness. What a noble woman she would have made if her gifts had been sanctified by faith in Jehovah, and her regal powers and indomitable will been consecrated to his service! But in the service of sin these gifts only increased her infamy and aggravated her doom. Her name has become a by-word for wickedness.

7. *Sin indulged tends downward with startling rapidity.*—Ahab's selfish desire for the vineyard led, when thwarted, to petulant sullenness, listening to evil counsel, mockery of the forms of religion, perjury and murder. Jezebel had reached a point where she gloried in sin; her words show not the least compunction, but a

certain malicious triumph that her wicked scheme had succeeded so well.

8. *The principal instrument of all this wickedness was falsehood.*—The children ought to be solemnly impressed that it is **never** right to say what is not true. When we see how much wickedness is still wrought among us by lying, we ought to learn the supreme value of truth, and that no sacrifice which we can make to maintain it ought to be counted too great.

9. *The triumph of wickedness is short-lived.* Job. 20: 5.—Ahab was no sooner in the vineyard than Jehovah served a sentence of death on him through the prophet Elijah, and took all joy in his ill-gotten possession clean out of his heart. God has made the punishment of sin a part of the laws of the universe, but sometimes they have not time to work it out within the limits of one short life. Amidst the many unrighted wrongs of this world we need to have faith in eternity and its settlement of all moral accounts.

"The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small,
Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness grinds He all."

CLASS RECORD.

Teacher

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