

5. "But the high places were not taken away." Contrary to God's positive order. "And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images." Lev. 25. 30; Deut. 12. 2; Exod. 34. 13; Num. 33. 52; Jer. 3. 6.

6. "The people still sacrificed in the high places." The obedience we render to God should not contain a reservation. "Ye have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I have commanded you." Josh. 22. 2, 3; Deut. 28. 14; Eccl. 12. 13; Phil. 2. 12; Heb. 11. 6.

7. "All the money." The circulating medium of that day. "And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron, and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant." Gen. 23. 16; 2 Sam. 24. 24; 2 Kings 22. 4; Ezra 8. 25; Jer. 32. 9, 10.

8. "All the money of the dedicated things." That is, the sacred money, or money set apart for God's service. "And behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service." Num. 18. 21-24; 2 Kings 23. 4; Psa. 84. 10; Lev. 27. 28.

9. "The dedicated things" were three different kinds of money to be used in the temple service. "Even the money of every one that passeth the account," Exod. 30. 13; "The money that every man is set at," Lev. 27. 2-8; "And all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the Lord." Exod. 35. 5; 25. 2; Mark 12. 41, 44; 2 Cor. 8. 11, 12.

10. "Let the priests take it." The preacher ought to take the initiative in all great Church enterprises. "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." 2 Tim. 4. 5; 2 Cor. 13. 10; 1 Thess. 2. 4; Phil. 1. 7; Acts 20. 24.

11. "Every man of his acquaintance." The burden of Church expenses should be borne by all who are interested, that is benefited by the outlay. "Go out unto all the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year." 2 Chron. 24. 5; Exod. 30. 12, 16; Gal. 6. 2; Rom. 15. 1.

12. "Let them repair the breaches of the house." God's priests and God's people are appointed to care for God's house. "Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your celled houses, and this house He waste?" Hag. 1. 4; 1; Ezra 3-8; 2 Cor. 12. 19; Jer. 3. 15; Isa. 49. 25.

13. "The priests had not repaired the breaches of the house." A negligent priesthood soon shatters the prospects of a Church. "Repair the house of the Lord your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened not." 2 Chron. 24. 5; Phil. 1. 20, 21; Rom. 14. 7, 8; 1 Cor. 9. 27.

14. "Why repair ye not the breaches of the house?" The inactive priest occasions, permits, or accomplishes, the ruined altar. "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees." Heb. 12. 12; Isa. 35. 3; Rom. 14. 12; Dan. 7. 10; Acts 20. 33.

15. "Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar." A providential suggestion to save the priests from temptation and stimulate general conscientiousness in giving. "And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end." 2 Chron. 24. 10; Prov. 4. 14, 15; John 12. 6; Rom. 12. 8; Matt. 6. 3.

16. "There was much money in the chest." A free-will offering, and pleasing to God. "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform: even

a free-will offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the Lord thy God." Deut. 23. 23; 2 Cor. 9. 7; Heb. 13. 16; Phil. 4. 14-16.

17. "They gave the money into the hands of them that did the work." God would compensate, not equiscript, the human labor he needs. "The laborer is worthy of his hire." Luke 10. 17; James 5. 4; Deut. 24. 14; Jer. 22. 13; Mal. 3. 5.

18. "And repaired therewith the house of the Lord." United and earnest effort in the Lord's cause will succeed. "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Gal. 6. 9; 1 Cor. 15. 58; Heb. 6. 10-12; Mark 1. 35; Luke 2. 49.

Berean Methods.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Give an account of the temple, its location, building, cost, plan, etc. . . . How the building had fared since Solomon's day, plundered by Egyptians, neglected and desecrated by enemies, etc. . . . Its condition in the time of Joash. . . . Motives inducing the king to repair it. . . . How the money was raised, first attempt, failure, and why. . . . Second attempt, success, and why. . . . How the money was expended. . . . Lessons for our Church work. . . . See Analytical and Bible Outlines, and Thoughts for Young People, for lines of thought in this teaching.

References. FREEMAN. Ver. 4: The temple-tax, 674. Ver. 10: Money-bags, 174.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



EXPLANATION. The last three words of to-day's lesson are placed on the board. "They dealt faithfully." Who are "they"? What is meant by deal? What is meant by faithfully? Are you dealing faithfully with God? Do you distribute of your means faithfully for his cause? Here is a chest with a hole in the top of it like the one Jehoiada prepared. On one side is the word *Save*. Is that enough? No. We must not only save, but we must *Give*. It will not do to hoard up money. Duty toward God attaches itself to the key, and bids us unlock our treasure-house, and as God has given to each one of us, so we should give to him.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Giving for God's Cause.*

INTRODUCTORY. Recall the division of the kingdom. Ask in which kingdom Jerusalem and the beautiful temple were. Tell that while Jehu was reigning in Israel, a little boy-king began to reign in Judah. Tell the story found in 2 Kings 11 and in 2 Chron. 22. It will interest the children deeply. Show a small gilt