

came and ordered school to be closed, what should we say? This what Pharaoh said when ordered to let Israelites go—"I know not the Lord," (Ex. v. 2.) Therefore God begins His laws by telling who He is and what He has done. *Who is He?* The Lord—living, eternal, unchangeable. (Ps. xc. 1.) *What has He done?* Set Israelites free from being in bondage—delivered them from hard masters—made them not His slaves but His people free to serve Him. So has redeemed us—from whose slavery? From the misery and bondage of sin. Therefore we will serve Him.

I. THE SIN FORBIDDEN. (Read 1 Kings xvi. 30-33.) Have an instance here of a king forsaking God. Whom did Ahab worship? Gods of other nations. So broke Commandment by worshipping *false Gods*. Read of Israelites worshipping sun, moon, and stars. (Acts vii. 42.) Athens in St. Paul's time full of temples to strange gods—read of such still in India and other countries.

Others, called atheists, worship *no god* at all. Do not believe there is a God. See what St. Paul says about them. (Rom. i. 20.) They are without excuse—because God is known by His works.

Are we tempted to break this Commandment? Certainly, in both these ways. What do we care about most? Some care most for bodily

comforts—eating and drinking. St. Paul says their god is their belly. (Phil. iii. 19.) Others, like Demas, forsake God for this world. (2 Tim. iv. 10.) Or we are tempted to live without God—to neglect prayer and worship—to love others more than God—above all to love *self* best. All this is to have another god.

II. THE DUTY COMMANDED. (Read Gen. xxii. 1-9.) May sum up our duty in two words, *Faith* and *Love*. Abraham an example of both. What did he hear? Believed in God's presence—God's call, and at once obeyed. So he who comes to God "must believe that He is." (Heb. xi. 6.) This faith will make us trust Him for all events of life, feeling sure that all He orders must be right.

The other duty is *Love*. Remind how Christ summed up the teaching of this Commandment. (Matt. xxii. 37.) Must love God with whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, *i.e.*, with all powers. How was Abraham required to show his love? Could any sacrifice be greater? Told to kill his only dearly loved son. But loved God best, so at once obeyed.

We sometimes called upon to give up our best—perhaps health, money, plans, friends, etc. Can we do it willingly, cheerfully? Thus shall show our love.

LESSON. *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart.—Quiver.*

THE HOME OF THE METEORS.—A remarkable theory as to the outskirts of our solar system was advanced last week in a lecture by Prof. Benjamin Pierce, of Harvard College. Briefly his theory is, that beyond the outermost planet bounding our solar system, is a vast spherical shell of matter broken up into small fragments, from which come the meteors and comets. This shell he calls the home of the meteors. He rejects the hitherto accepted theory that

comets may be, and are necessarily, strangers to our system, and thinks they are distributed throughout space with great uniformity; also that a comet would require 867,000,000 years to pass from the regions of terrestrial visibility to the limits of its sphere, and just as long to return. He concludes that the whole number of comets which are capable of being seen from the earth at perihelion, and which are contained in our sun's sphere, may be estimated fairly at over 5,000,000,000.—*J. M.*