king unlike the other nations, but superior to them all. ALL THE PEOPLE SHOUTED. So the shouts of a populace rise on small occasion, or if on a worthy occasion, as when Jesus entered Jerusalem, still the popular cry of "Hosanna" soon changes for "Crucify him." Notwithstanding the shout, some demurred from the outset, ver. 27. A better class adhered to him and followed him home, ver. 26. But yet Saul assumed his rural rather than his regal duties, chap. 11. 5. From this lowly work, however, he was soon called to the leadership of the people as seen in 1 Sam. 11, so that a joyous coronation ensued-chap. 11. 15-and Saul was really king, The fact that he was an unknown, untitled man was a great obstacle in the way of his securing honors easily. God save the king. So of Adonijah, 1 Kings 1. 25; of Solomon, 1 Kings 1, 39; of Joash, 2 Kings 11, 12.

# Outlines and Lessons. SAUL CHOSEN KING.

- 1. Against Samuel's protest.
- 2. Against God's preference.
- 3. At Israel's united request.

#### SAUL A REPRESENTATIVE KING.

- 1. Representing the desire of the nation :--a king.
- Representing the ambition of the nation:—a great king—physically imposing and strong.
- 3. Representing the moral weakness of the nation—an ungrateful, impulsive, unstable king.
- 4. Representing the former failures of the nation—their enemies gaining the ascendancy.
- ..... God chose Saul as a king, not because he was the holy man who should occupy such a post, but because he was such a one as men would choose. Externally he was great. Really he was small. Had God been consulted in the whole case far better would undoubtedly have been done. Saul's reign was a failure. Enemies annoyed them all through it, and eventually encroached upon them.

### LESSONS.

(1) The great patience and long-suffering of the Lord, who woos and waits upon and waits for the slow and obstinate human heart. (2) The frankness and fairness of the Lord, who tells us the whole truth concerning ourselves. (3) The gentleness of the Lord, who, yielding to our

clamors against his own will, still does for us graciously and helpfully in the low estate into which we come by our errors. (4) The barrenness of a soul toward God, that lives for self and gets all that it can for selfish enjoyments.

## English Teacher's Notes.

### 1. Who chose the king.

It is remarkable that notwithstanding the disp'easure of God at the people's demand, he did not in his anger leave them to find a king for themselves. Saul was not their choice, but God's choice. This illustrates a point to which attention was called in the last note, namely, that the government by a king was as much a part of the Divine purpose concerning Israel as the government by elders or judges or high-priests.

We should also note the unselfish and noble conduct of Samuel. We might have expected him to say, "Well, if you will have a king, go and find one: I can have noting to do with it." Though evidently much pained, he sank all thoughts of self, headed the "king movement," and set himself to find the best man. And when Saul was chosen Samuel proved the most faithful friend he had. Most men in such circumstances would have wished the experiment to fail. Samuel did his best to make it successful. Boys and girls do not often show this spirit. Even in games, if all is not just as they like, they will cry, "I sha'n't play!"

#### 2. How the king was chosen.

Why is this related with such great detail? Much more space is taken up by the minute account of the circumstances that led to Saul's election than by the whole history of Samuel's judgeship. Surely this is because the story illustrates so strikingly the providence of God in guiding and overruling the smallest incidents of every-day life to the accomplishment of his own purposes. The teacher cannot do better than go through, shortly and rapidly, the whole story of Saul and his father's asses, showing at every step how God was making all things work together to the one point.

### 3. The man chosen.

Here again we see the hand of God. The pec, alphe would naturally have looked to the grit is leading tribes of Judah or Ephraim for †confifature king, or perhaps to tribes like Dan, four

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