

suffering. (See Ps. 119 : 67.) Note that the last end of this king was better than the first. It is a good thing to have life end well ; it is a better thing to have it good all through.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Say to the scholars that the Lesson may be called *The Story of a Long Reign* in five chapters, and that you wish them to tell the story chapter by chapter.

Chapter I.—*THE SOWING* (vs. 1-10). The points to be brought out in this chapter are : Manasseh's age when he came to the throne and the length of his reign ; his imitation of the "abominations (Explain) of the heathen" ; the restoration of idol altars thrown down by Hezekiah and the worship of the heavenly bodies ; the erection of heathen altars in the temple courts ; the horrid custom of sacrificing children to the god Molech ; the practice of magic ; the setting up of an idol's image in the very house of God itself ; all this wickedness done in the sight of the Lord, despising His love and braving His wrath ; leading the people astray ; and rejecting the Lord's warnings.

Chapter II.—*THE REAPING* (v. 11). Here the points are : the coming up against Judah of the Assyrian army ; the binding of Manasseh with chains and fetters ; and his being taken away a captive to Babylon.

Chapter III.—*REPENTANCE* (v. 12). Man-

asseh's deep distress and suffering ; his earnest prayer to the God whom he had so grievously forsaken ; and his sincere humbling of himself, are the points to be brought out in the third chapter of the story.

Chapter IV.—*RESTORATION* (v. 13). How the Lord heard Manasseh's prayer, forgave his sin, delivered him from bondage, and brought him back again to his throne in Jerusalem, and how Manasseh thenceforth acknowledged the Lord as the one living and true God, is to be told in the fourth chapter.

Chapter V.—*RESTITUTION* (vs. 14-20, the unprinted portion of the Lesson). In the closing chapter should be related how Manasseh strove, after his restoration, to make amends to God and his people for the evil he had done, by strengthening the fortifications of Jerusalem and providing for the defence of other cities in Judah ; by removing the idols from Jerusalem, and especially the image he had placed in the temple, and casting out the heathen altars from the city ; by repairing the altar of the Lord and offering sacrifices upon it ; and by doing his best to persuade his people to follow him in the service of the Lord.

The lessons to be emphasized are the deep ingratitude of sin against God who has done so much for us, our responsibility for our influence upon others, the certainty of sin's punishment, and, above all, God's infinite willingness to forgive and restore the sinful.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON I.]

Find, near the southern edge of the Jerusalem map, the point of a large V whose arms reach off northeastward ; it is numbered 27. If you stand to-day at the point of that V and look northeast over the space included between the two spreading lines, you have right before you the very places where Manasseh's degenerate policy was carried out. You find at your feet a stony hillside, sloping down into a deep valley—the old Valley of Hinnom. At the farther side of that valley another hill rises (Moriah), partly covered with olive trees, partly laid out in walled fields, partly shaped into terraces like great stairs with retaining walls of stone. At the top of that hill a high wall of stone masonry

marks a long, crooked enclosing line, the south wall of the city. Over the wall you have glimpses of the grayish stone buildings of Jerusalem. Quite near the city wall in one place you see a building with a high dome accenting its roof ; that is a Moslem mosque standing where Manasseh used to have his palace. Farther away, a little to the left, a still larger dome rises with several tall, slender cypress trees near by ; that is another Moslem building standing on the site of the old temple.

To see the ground for yourself, use a stereograph entitled, *Jerusalem, From Across the Valley of Hinnom to Olivet, Looking North-east.*