

Stand then in his great might,
With all his strength endured;
But take to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God.

No. 463, *New Hymn Book*.

S. M.

"I the good fight have fought,"

O when shall I declare?

The victory by my Saviour got,
I long with Paul to share.

O may I triumph so,
When all my warfare's past;
And, dying, find my latest foe
Under my feet at last!

This blessed word be mine
Just as the port is gained,
"Kept by the power of grace divine,
I have the faith maintained."

Time.—A.D. 28, immediately following the event of the last lesson.

Place.—Castle of Machærus, near the Dead Sea.

Parallel Passages.—Matt. 14 1-13; Luke 9. 7-10.

HOME READINGS.

M. Death of John the Baptist. Mark 6. 14-29.

Tu. Martyrdom of Stephen. Acts 7. 44-60.

W. The persecutions of Paul. 2 Cor. 11. 18-33.

Th. The souls under the altar. Rev. 6. 1-11.

F. The rewards of glory. Rev. 7. 9-17.

S. The victories of faith. Heb. 11. 24-40.

S. Comfort in persecution. Psal. 37. 1-18.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. **A King's Fear**, v. 14-20. What king was this? Whom did Herod believe Jesus to be? Why did he feel troubled when he heard of Jesus? What had Herod done to John, and why? How did Herod feel toward John? Why did he respect John? Did he do as John urged him to do? How did his conduct illustrate Ezek. 33. 32?

2. **A King's Folly**, v. 21-25. What took place on Herod's birthday? What promise did he make? Why was it a foolish promise? How was his folly shown? What character did this request show in the young girl? How did it show the truth of the Golden Text?

3. **A King's Crime**, v. 26-29. How did King Herod feel about his promise? Why ought he not have kept such a promise? What did Herod do, and why? What was done with the head of John the Baptist? What was done with his body? What did the disciples of John afterward do? Matt. 14. 12.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

How does this lesson show—

1. That the wicked are troubled by a guilty conscience?
2. That the wicked fear the good?
3. That the wicked hate the good?

The Lesson Catechism.—(For the entire school.) 1. Whom did King Herod believe Jesus to be? John the Baptist. 2. What had Herod done to John? He had put him in prison. 3. How long did he keep John in prison? About a year. 4. What did he then do? He put him to death. 5. Whose hatred caused Herod to kill John? The hatred of his wife, Herodias.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Human depravity.

ANALYTICAL & BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

Contrasts of Character.

I. THE PROPHET.

1. **Courage.** Said unto Herod. v. 18.
"I have made thy face strong," Ezek. 3. 8.
2. **Righteousness.** A just man. v. 20.
"As a very lovely song," Ezek. 33. 31, 32.
3. **Holiness.** And a holy. v. 20.
"A burning and a shining light," John 5. 35.

II. THE KING.

1. **Indecision.** Much perplexed. v. 20.
[Rev. Ver.]
"Double-minded man is unstable," James 1. 8.
2. **Rashness.** He swore unto her. v. 23.
"Death and life... power of the tongue," Prov. 18. 21.
3. **Want of principle.** For their sakes. v. 26.
"Thy very princes are rebellious," Isa. 1. 23.

III. THE QUEEN.

1. **Sensuality.** Thy brother's wife. v. 18.
"The works of the flesh... adultery," Gal. 5. 19.
2. **Hatred.** Would have killed him. v. 19.
"Whosoever hateth... is a murderer," 1 John 3. 15.
3. **Cruelty.** The head of John. v. 24.
"Out of the heart proceed... murders," Matt. 15. 19.

ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL LESSONS.

The Lessons of John the Baptist's Death.

1. It shows that duty is to be done, even though self-interest, liberty, and life itself must be sacrificed. v. 18.
2. It shows that crime is no less, but greater, wickedness in a ruler than among common people. v. 18, 19.
3. It shows that one crime is sure to lead to other and greater deeds of guilt. v. 19, 26.
4. It shows that when men put themselves under the dominion of evil influences they cease to have control of their own conduct and its consequences. v. 17, 20, 22, 27.
5. It shows that both men and women are often controlled by their passions rather than by principles. v. 19, 22.
6. It shows that a rash word may lead to terrible results. v. 22.
7. It shows that a guilty conscience will give a wicked man no rest. v. 17.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

33. When Pharaoh let Israel go out of Egypt, how did they get over the Red Sea?

Israel being permitted by Pharaoh to go out of Egypt, and having arrived on the banks of the Red Sea, Moses with his rod divided the waters of the sea asunder, and the people went through upon dry ground.