

had been full of rejoicing, and congratulated themselves on having secured such a blessing. "Now," says the apostle, "what has become of that blessedness and rejoicing." "Have plucked out:" so deeply were they attached to the apostle and his teaching that they would have given up what was most valuable and indispensable for his sake.

Ver. 16.—Yet because he told them afresh the truths of the Gospel, some seemed to think him "an enemy." The best friend is he who speaks the truth, and this should produce anything but enmity: yet for this, he who was once counted as an "angel," was now counted an enemy.

HINTS TO TEACHERS.

Prefatory.—Teachers generally, of junior classes especially, will need to simplify this lesson and to put it in the thoughts of to-day. To do this they must get into their own minds a thorough appreciation of the apostle's teaching, and how it will specially bear upon the young, giving to them at the same time principles fitted to go with them through life.

Topical Analysis.—The topic is "Christian Liberty," this is shown by contrast. (1) Bondage. (2) The liberty wherewith God makes us free.

On the *first* section it may be well briefly to show the bondage from which these Galatians had been delivered and that into which they were foolishly entering, then the bondage, the slavery, in which we may be held. The Galatian Gentile converts had been delivered from the terrible bondage of heathenism and pagan superstition with their horrid rites, their degrading observances, and their cruel demands, yet they were willing to take upon themselves another form of ceremonial bondage, which those who had received it made tenfold more burdensome by their traditions, while all the time it was not only needless, not required by God, but was opposed to the Spirit of the Gospel of His Son. So to-day we may take upon ourselves the burden of rites and ceremonies and observances, all man-made, not given by God, and may weary ourselves in seeking peace through these when God is giving us all that we need without money and without price. Teach, then, first, that salvation is not from or in the externals of religion. But further there is a bondage under which some of your scholars may be labouring, the bondage of sin, led captive by the Devil. Tell them that Christ came to make them free, to give them liberty, to break the bonds of sin and have the freedom of the children of God. Then there is the slavery of sinful habits and how many are suffering from this cause. Warn, entreat, your scholars, now, in their youthful days, to guard against the growth of appetite and the indulgence of habits which in the years to come will form a chain they cannot break. Many are these habits, these chains, and oh, how they grow link by link until at last they bind fast their poor helpless captive; gambling is one, profanity, worldly amusements, and perhaps most terrible of all, the drinking habit that leads so many captive to death and hell every year; beseech that they touch not, taste not, handle not, never fasten upon themselves the first link of the chain, for the battle is half lost then. Show that there are but two states: God's freedom, and the Devil's bondage, and that he who is not in the one is in the other.

The other aspect is *Liberty*. What will you teach? That it is *not liberty to do wrong*—our liberty is the liberty of the "servants of God," and as such alone are we to use it. It is not the liberty of disobedience to parents, of profaning God's day, of neglecting the place of worship, of giving up the Bible, such is not the liberty Christ gives, while he delivers us from the bondage of sin he puts a "yoke" upon us, but He says "My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Liberty allows us to do as we please, only so far as we please to do right. It is freedom in things innocent, it gives us no right to send dynamite through the mails, or poisonous

liquor through society. *Those who are God's freemen are God's sons*; those whom He redeems from bondage He does so that they may "receive the adoption of sons." How glorious the change from a slave of Satan to a son of God! "and if a son then an heir of God through Christ," heirs of the kingdom which He hath prepared for those that love Him. Draw the contrast sharply and vividly between bondage and liberty; show where the power of resistance to bondage and victory over evil is to be obtained; tell of Him who is ready to help every struggling soul, whether fighting against the beginnings of sin or striving to break away from its yoke, and you may live to know that this Sabbath's teaching has been the turning-point in the history of some of your scholars, has saved them from the downward path and turned their feet into the way of peace.

INCIDENTAL TRUTHS AND TEACHINGS.

There is no liberty in fear, perfect love casteth out fear.

The bondage of sin the worst of all slavery, John 8: 34-35; Rom. 6: 16-20.

Liberty and obedience go hand in hand, the one is an evidence of the other, Rom. 6: 23.

Christ came to bring deliverance from sin and to give liberty, John 8: 36; Rom. 6: 23.

If we are free from the bondage of sin our hearts will go out after God crying, "Father."

True liberty is the gift of Christ.

Main Lesson.—The liberty of the Gospel the liberty of love to God and man. Matt. 22: 37-39; Rom. 5: 17-22; 1 Cor. 8: 9; Gal. 5: 13, 14; 1 Pet. 2: 16.

THE LOST PEARLS.

Linda Lee, with yellow curls,
Sat by a streamlet stringing pearls—
Sat singing in the sun:
Six pearls upon the strand she slipped,
Then from a casket, silver-tipped,
She took a golden one.

"I'll string them so," said Linda Lee,
"And oh, how beautiful they'll be,
For I have many pearls!
And of the golden ones, I know,
There'll be enough: I'll string them so,
And bind them in my curls."

Six snowy pearls, then one of gold,
Until at length they all were told;
Then, with a happy look,
Sue caught the string to bind her hair;
Alas! for not a pearl was there:
They'd slipped into the brook!

Alas! how many thoughtless girls
Still careless string life's precious pearls—
Each pearl a priceless day—
Until, when all are past, they find
Life with its promise left behind,
Its pearls all passed away.

The British Medical Journal, simply on the grounds of its disastrous effects upon health, demands that betting be put down by the strong arm of the law.