

## GENERAL STATEMENT.

Behold the strength of devotion in a daughter! See the strength of love and of self-sacrifice; as our TOPIC has it, the *Earnest Devotion of a Daughter*. Devotion to her mother, and to her mother's people, and to her mother's God. See GOLDEN TEXT: "*Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.*" Ruth 1. 16. OUTLINE: 1. RUTH'S APPEAL 2. BETHLEHEM'S GREETING; 3. NAOMI'S RESPONSE. The whole beautifully illustrating the DOCTRINE: *The Compensations of Providence.*

## LESSON HYMN.—Tune: "Christmas." C. M.

In all my Lord's appointed ways  
My journey I'll pursue;  
"Hinder me not," ye much-loved saints,  
For I must go with you.

Through floods and flames if Jesus lead,  
I'll follow where he goes;  
"Hinder me not," shall be my cry,  
Though earth and hell oppose.

## QUESTIONS:

Recite TITLE.

Read carefully v. 1-5, and tell who these women, Ruth and Naomi, were.

Recite TOPIC, GOLDEN TEXT, and OUTLINE.

1. *Ruth's appeal*, v. 16-18.

What appeal of Ruth to Naomi is found in v. 16?

Why did Ruth make this appeal? [Scholars please look carefully over v. 6-15 and be ready in a few words to answer this question.]

How many resolutions does Ruth express in v. 16, 17?

Explain each of them briefly.

Who was the God of Naomi?

Why is Ruth's resolution one which is good for all persons?

What did Naomi see in Ruth, which caused her to cease speaking? v. 18.

What is meant by "steadfastly minded?" [Read Luke 9. 62; 1 Cor. 15. 58.]

What did Ruth leave when she went with Naomi? See v. 4, 8.

What spirit does this show?

In what things should we imitate it?

2. *Bethlehem's greeting*, v. 19.

To what place did Ruth and Naomi go?

How long since Naomi had left there? v. 4. What is meant by "all the city was moved about them?"

Why did they ask, "Is this Naomi?" ["Naomi" means "pleasantness."]

Why does this greeting from old friends of Naomi make Ruth's devotion more beautiful?

3. *Naomi's response*, v. 20-22.

What response did Naomi make? v. 20, 21.

["Mara" means "bitterness."]

What four things does she say God had done to her? v. 20, 21.

Name some other Scripture characters whom God afflicted.

Why does God afflict his children?

What does v. 22 tell of these women?

Look through the chapters which follow and tell briefly what became of them.

What does all this teach us about God's care of his children?

What lesson may we here learn—

1. On religion in the family?

2. On resoluteness in religion?

3. On the sources of prosperity and adversity?

4. On God's fatherly care?

## QUESTION AND ANSWER.

7. *Why was the sacrament of the Lord's supper ordained?*

The sacrament of the Lord's supper was ordained for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of the death of Christ, and of the benefits which we receive thereby.

## OUTLINES, NOTES AND LESSONS.

1. NAMES. ELIM-ELECH—God the King. Naomi—my delight, my pleasure, or my pleasantness. Orpah—a forelock, or a fawn. Ruth, plural form of *Reu*—a friend. Bethlehem—house of bread. Mara—bitterness. Mahlon (ver. 2)—sickly. Chilion (ver. 2)—a pining. *Entreat me not*—"be not against me;" Hebrew—to strike, push—to assail with petitions, etc. *Steadfastly minded*—strengthened herself. See Acts 2. 42; Eph. 6. 10.

.....PRELIMINARY. 1. The teacher should read and encourage the class to read, (at home,) the whole book of Ruth. 2. Remember that social customs greatly differ in this country and Palestine, in this age and the age when Ruth lived. A woman