

unless they were "made to?" A writer suggests the analogy between the handcuffs put on a culprit by the policeman, and the bit and bridle used to control and subdue the horse and mule. (Illustrations along this line may be used.) That is the way with us all. We do not need bits and bridles to guide us, but we need to be controlled by God's laws and God's voice within us (what do we call it?). Impress the thought that people cannot be "made good" unless they really try to be good themselves. This is what King David means in the song we shall hear him singing to-day. No doubt he felt that he himself had been like the horse or mule needing to be held in with bit and bridle, for you remember he had done a great wrong to Uriah and his beautiful wife (recall).

King David sings as if God were speaking: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will counsel thee with Mine eye upon thee. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule," etc., v. 9.

Forgiveness—A father told his boy that every time he disobeyed him, a nail would be driven into the gate-post. The nails in that post multiplied. Every time a bad report came from school, a nail was driven into the post, for every thing of which his

father did not approve was recorded, but every time his son obeyed, the father pulled out one of the nails. At length a happy day came. John looked at the gate-post and then threw up his cap and shouted for joy. The nails were all out of the post, and for that he was glad, but the nail holes were all in the post and for that he was sorry. John would start out for a happy day, but as he passed the gate, the nail holes seemed like eyes glaring upon him. God says when He forgives He will remember our sins no more.

God FORGIVES
FORGETS

It is as if the father, when he forgave John, had had the old post taken out and a new one put in.

Golden Text—King David has confessed his sin to God and God has forgiven him, and David is filled with joy and sings the beautiful words of our Golden Text (repeat). Read to the class vs. 1, 2, 5, 11.

Four Things for Naughty Children to Do—

First—Be sorry for doing wrong.

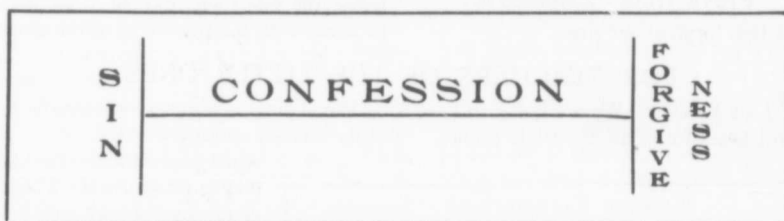
Second—Confess the wrong-doing.

Third—Don't do it again.

Fourth—Be glad to be forgiven.

What the Lesson Teaches Me—GOD WILL FORGIVE ME.

FROM THE PLATFORM



Draw two perpendicular lines, one at the left and the other at the right of the blackboard. Alongside the line at the left print SIN. Recall the great sin of which David had been guilty (see last Lesson), and remind the scholars that the psalm of to-day's Lesson is his song of joy after he had repented of his sin and had been freely and fully forgiven. Question about the different words for wrong-doing in vs. 1 and 2, bring out the specific meaning of each word. Impress the ugliness of sin described by these words. Next alongside the other perpendicular line print FORGIVENESS. Call for the three words used for pardon in the same verses as above. Emphasize how complete and how free God's forgiveness is. Dwell on the misery caused by sin (vs. 3, 4) and the joy when it is pardoned. Now ask how forgiveness is obtained. V. 5 tells, with its three words for confession. Draw a horizontal line joining the two perpendicular ones, and print above it CONFESSION. Impress the truth that forgiveness can always be obtained from God by confession and in no other way.