

ern life are used by some as so many servants to do the bidding of God, and by some are turned into idols as real as Baal or Astarte. Young people have other idols quite as really worshipped; for where the treasure is, there the heart is also.

**2. Warning.** The Lord speaks to us as he spoke to Manasseh and to his people. How? To them by a succession of prophets; to us in a thousand ways—by home influences, sermons, Sunday school lessons, the Bible, etc.

**3. Persistency.** Strong will power is a talent which may be turned into a practical vice or a practical virtue. If Manasseh had used his will on the side of God he would have been one of the saints of all the ages.

**4. Punishment.** This word is used for convenience' sake. God often brings hardships in our way to help us to be good. Manasseh's affliction was corrective. Perhaps none of our class have had severe afflictions yet. Some may have. All will have. What is their effect upon us?

**5. Penitence.** Watch the process. Manasseh (1) turned from false gods to the true God; (2) humbled himself greatly; (3) prayed (with the intimation that he used similar persistency in prayer as he had used in sin). God (1) heard his prayer; (2) granted it; (3) brought him back to home and royal power.

In our Golden Text the words "nation" and "people" are equivalent. A nation may be exalted in wealth, power, reputation, or may be degraded, impoverished, defamed. How? Our Golden Text teaches that not "might" or "power" is to be depended on. It is righteousness which exalts, and sin which degrades. What is thus true of nations is true also of persons. Let the pupils write on their pads:

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS } ANY PEOPLE.  
SIN DEGRADES } ANY PERSON.

#### The Senior Grade

[For pupils above the age of seventeen. Each pupil, if possible, should be supplied with a copy of the Senior Quarterly.]

The gist of this lesson is, that God hates the

sin but loves the sinner. Study the passage textually. Note:

**1.** A man may leave his wealth and position to his son, but cannot bequeath his character.

**2.** The rule of bad men cannot undo the rule of God. The God of righteousness sits in heaven, and, in the vigorous imagery of the prophet, holds his opponents in derision. None can withstand his power. He will not interfere with the free will of any man, not even of Manasseh; but he will overthrow the champion of wickedness and bring his counsels to naught.

**3.** The God of justice is the God of mercy. He never closes his ears against the prayer of sincere penitence. "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Remember the story of the prodigal son. Remember the woman that was a sinner. Remember Zaccheus the publican. Remember the thief on the cross. Remember Manasseh.

**4.** Adversity has moral uses. Afflictions, especially those which come as the result of sin, are proofs of God's love quite as much as of his justice.

"Afflictions, though they seem severe,  
In mercy oft are sent;  
They stopped the prodigal's career,  
And caused him to repent."

**5.** In Manasseh's repentance, as in the return of the prodigal son, we see the influence of a godly father's prayers and instructions, effective though slow in working.

**6.** Repentance includes an honest effort to undo all evil done: and it is a sign of Manasseh's sincerity that he removed the strange gods and cast them out of the city. Reformation is the only trustworthy evidence of repentance.

**7.** The best moral reformer is he that is godly from his youth up. This statement does not at all discount Manasseh's sincerity, or the efficacy of his repentance, or his later usefulness as a child of God; but he *could* not now do all that he *would*. It was left to Josiah, who turned to God in his childhood, to destroy the foreign abominations.

#### The Responsive Review

**1.** What did Manasseh do when he became king? *He worshipped false gods and made his people do so.*  
**2.** What did he do in God's house? *He brought idols into it.* **3.** What did he do with his children? *He made them pass through fire in honor of false gods.* **4.** What did God do? *He made him the captive of the king of Assyria.* **5.** What did Manasseh do? *He repented of his sin and prayed to God.* **6.** What is the GOLDEN TEXT? *"Righteousness exalteth,"* etc.

#### The Church Catechism.

**48.** What are our duties to our country? Our duties to our country are to render due honour to rulers; to observe the laws of the land in the fear of God and to support their authority; to contribute our just share to the expense of government; to promote the public well-being; and to exercise our franchise for the public good.

Matthew 22. 21.  
Romans 13. 1.

SOME THOUGHT TO HAVE A MUSICAL CLASS IN THE BIBLE WINDOW, BUT THE DESIRABLE, BY WORK. AND