

some women of history, tall, stately, beautifully dressed and perfumed, with a sweet, winning voice, and most kind and loving towards her husband. Temptation to sin never comes in a repulsive form. Try to picture in a graphic way the conversation between them.

**Fifth scene.**—The fast in Jezreel. Describe the gathering of the solemn assem-

bly, the sudden appearance of the witnesses, their charges, Naboth's surprise, his protests, the rage of the crowd, they seize him, drag him forth, the witnesses strip off their upper garments, Naboth's prayer to Jehovah, the pain of the first blow, insensibility, death, the dogs devouring the mangled form. This is the result of sin.

## QUESTIONS FOR STUDY.

Why could Naboth not sell his land? Lev. 25: 23.

Could the land be ever sold? Lev. 25: 25-27.

For how long? Lev. 25: 28.

What was Ahab's character? 1 Kings 16: 25, 30, 33; 21: 25.

What is covetousness? Eph. 5: 5; Col. 3: 5.

With what sins is it classed? Mark 7: 22; Rom. 1: 29; 1 Cor. 5: 10-11; 6: 10; Eph. 5: 3.

Give some examples of Sons of Belial. 1 Sam. 2: 12; 10: 27; 25: 17; 2 Sam. 16: 7; 20: 1.

Trace the history of Jezebel. 1 Kings 16: 31; 18: 4; 19: 2; 2 Kings 9: 30.

What woes are denounced against evil counsel? Micah 2: 1-2; Hab. 2: 9-12.

What were the elders for? Num. 11: 16-17; Deut. 16: 18-19.

Why were these elders ready to obey Jezebel? Ps. 12: 8; Prov. 29: 26.

What is the true purpose of a fast? Is. 58: 6.

What was the penalty for blasphemy? Lev. 24: 16.

How was a false witness punished? Deut. 19: 16-19; God's estimate of it. Prov. 25: 18; Mal. 3: 5. Instances, Matt. 26: 60-61; Acts 6: 13.

What was the end of Ahab? 1 Kings 22: 34-37. Of his heir? 2 Kings 9: 24. Of his other children? 2 Kings 10: 6-7. His daughter? 2 Kings 11: 13-16.

## PRACTICAL THOUGHTS

1. *Duty should always be more in our thoughts than pleasure.*—If Ahab's mind had been full of the well-being of his subjects, and the political, social, and religious strength of his nation, threatened as it was at this time on several sides, he would not have had time to think of building palaces or laying out pleasure grounds in Jezreel. At the present time there is a danger that many young people will become so much interested in various kinds of sport that they will, like Ahab, easily fall into sin, neglecting their work, their studies, breaking the Sabbath, and completely destroying their Christian conscience.

2. *Happiness does not depend on having many things but on being good.*—Therefore a sinful desire for the possessions of others is very foolish as well as wrong. It makes us more selfish, hard-hearted and unhappy. And if we get the things we long for, the possession of them does not make us better, but worse. Covetousness is idolatry and idolatry is insanity. Happiness comes through the possession of

Christ, and by administering all our gifts and opportunities for Christ's sake.

3. *Sulking is a sin.*—Pouting, a somewhat milder form of it, is common among children, and is painful to others, injurious to themselves, and displeasing to Jesus. Sulkingness is a sour, cross and obstinate ill-humor, at something which has happened to us. It generally arises from thinking too much of ourselves. When we give way to it, it keeps the evil part of our nature uppermost, and makes us a constant prey to wicked thoughts. When we feel it coming on, we should betake ourselves to prayer.

4. *The danger of listening to evil counsel.*—The tendency of our own natures to sin is like tinder, to which the evil advice of others is the convenient kindling spark. We need to seek counsel from those who will repress the evil in us, rather than from those who will encourage it.

5. *Doing our duty may bring us loss, pain and death.*—So it did to Naboth. But it was not