

5. He is an almighty and universal King, ruling over all the forces of nature. v. 16-18.

6. He is a prayer-hearing King, willing to hear, and ready to grant, the petitions of his people. v. 18, 19.

7. He is a gracious King, ready to forgive even those who have neglected his laws, if they will turn to him. v. 22.

8. He is a faithful King, abiding by his choice, and keeping his covenant. v. 22.

9. He is a protecting King, delivering his people against all their oppressors and enemies. v. 24.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

14. *How doth Christ execute the office of a Prophet?*

Christ executeth the office of a Prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name.—John 20. 31.

No man hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.—John 1. 18.

The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things.—John 14. 26.

ENGLISH TEACHER'S NOTES.

BY SARAH GERALDINA STOCK.

I REMEMBER reading once an account of a picnic party which was broken up far more quickly than the company expected or desired. Being requested by the leader to betake themselves to their mules and start at once on the homeward journey, they obeyed with considerable surprise and not a little vexation. Why should their pleasure be so quickly checked, and their enjoyment so unaccountably cut short? The answer, when it did come, namely, after they were out of danger, furnished an abundant justification of the leader's conduct. He had discovered a boa-constrictor asleep in their immediate vicinity. Not knowing when the creature might wake, and fearful of rousing it, he had abstained from giving any alarm till all were well started: then the discontent of the party was exchanged for hearty gratitude.

The address which is the subject for our consideration to-day, was delivered on an occasion of great national rejoicing. The Israelites had had a king after their own heart given them. Under his bold leadership a great disaster had been averted and a signal victory gained over their enemies, the Ammonites. Those who had withheld their allegiance from Saul were now threatened

with summary vengeance, but the king had interposed and rescued them. All opposition being put down, a sort of second coronation festival was held at Gilgal; sacrifices of thanksgiving were offered to the Lord, and "there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly."

Samuel no doubt entered into this rejoicing. But as he looked upon it, he could not but see a deadly danger lurking close at hand, quiescent, it might be, for the time, but ready, some day or other, to turn all that gladness into mourning and desolation. In desiring a king the Israelites had in their heart departed from the Lord; they had persisted in their wish, and had chosen their own way in preference to his. God had granted their request, and they were now in the possession and enjoyment of that which they had desired. But they had not seen the error of their ways; they had not acknowledged their sin. They seemed to take it for granted that because of God's mercies to them, all was right between themselves and him. And were this belief suffered to continue, they would grow more and more wilful, following their own ways, and forgetting the law of God, thus bringing upon themselves, eventually, wrath and destruction.

Could Samuel see all this and keep silence? Could he mark the danger and quietly leave them exposed to it? Samuel was a true patriot, and of such neglect he could not be guilty. And so, when the chief men of Israel were assembled together at a joyous festival, he broke in upon the gladness by holding up to them a dark picture of their own sin.

For this purpose he first compelled them to bear testimony to the righteousness of his own rule over them, thus taking away any ground of excuse for their desire to change. Next, he reminded them of all the Lord's care for them, thus bringing out into clearer light their own ingratitude. But this was not sufficient, therefore he next alarmed the people. The storm which came in answer to his prayer was a rare and unexpected occurrence at that season of the year, and meant great disaster to their crops. This alarm had the desired effect. It woke up the Israelites to a sense of their guilt and of what they deserved at the hand of God. They confessed their sin.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall find mercy." Prov. 28. 13. And now that the Israelites had taken their right position, Samuel could speak words of peace to them. Sin, confessed and repented of, need cause them no fear. What man, with true penitence, confesses, God covers—puts