

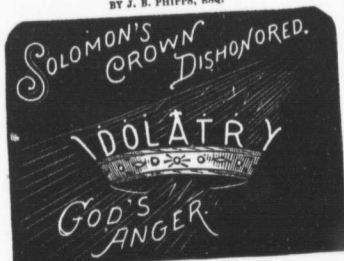
does the Golden Text tell us to "keep?" Yes, we are to keep the heart, that is, keep on obeying God. Solomon obeyed God for many years, but at last he got into bad company. He had friends who worshipped idols, and though God had told Solomon that he should not go after gods, Solomon did not keep his heart. He did not keep the main-spring in order by just obeying God, and so he fell into sin and sorrow. He built some places for the worship of idols in sight of the temple which he had built for God. He did this to please others at first, but soon he worshipped these idols himself. God was angry with Solomon, and told him he would take away his kingdom from his son, as a punishment.

LESSON APPLICATION.

What is the mainspring which keeps the heart going right? Print Obedience in the heart. Can any one obey for us? Tell how once, on the cross, Jesus obeyed for us, and so all our sins may be forgiven. Read "By the obedience of one," etc. Rom. 5. 19. Now our sins forgiven, and new life put into our hearts, we can obey if we will. To obey is to "keep the heart." How shall we do this? "With all diligence." We must watch for God's word. He will tell us what to do if we listen for his voice.

BLACKBOARD.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, BNO.



The blackboard last Sunday represented a crown of wisdom, but to-day we have that crown dishonored. What has taken the place of wisdom? [Idolatry.] Last Sunday we saw shining through the crown God's gifts. What do we now see? [His anger.] The reviewer may here ask the questions

found in the Lesson Catechism of to-day, and in conclusion show the danger of wicked associations.

ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION. Draw a heart: surround it with a circle; name it Fort Fidelity. When garrisoned by Watchfulness, Prayer, Diligence, and Faith, no foe can break in. Change the garrison, and put in its place Self-indulgence. Carelessness, Idleness, and traitor friends, and great will be the fall thereof.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

Ho, daughter of Pharaoh, when you rode out of Egypt, a clattering crowd of chariots coming into Jerusalem with you, did Solomon see that dark-browed spouse left an open gate behind her? Through that open gate what a chattering rabble of female idolaters came in and surrounded the king, so unlike him in Hebrew ways, and so disliking the Hebrew worship! The king is now old. His golden crown is on gray hairs. There are wrinkles across his face, and is there a crook to his back? Alas! there is a crook to his heart, for his wives have given a twist to his religion, and his affections have strayed from the Jehovah of his fathers. I see his idolatrous wives bowing to Ashtoreth and kissing their hands and feet to Chemosh. And the king—watch him as he goes out to "the hill that is before Jerusalem." There is the high place he has built for Chemosh. The altar is there, its top smoking with the red, angry fires of sacrifice. A huge, ugly, stupid image is there, overlooking the altar. I can hear the cries of the worshippers. Solomon's wives are there shrieking, and near them—is it Israel's gray-headed king who is kissing hands to that huge, senseless block he has reared? All around are the trees that would hide with their green veil of foliage this shameful apostasy of a once magnificent ruler. Come out, Solomon, and stand where you can see another hill crowned with God's holy house. Do you remember when you built its goodly walls, hung its sacred veil before that awful holy of holies, and standing before God's altar in the presence of all the congregations of Israel, spread out your hands toward heaven? Then and now! Blessing then, but now, what wonder at the solemn voice saying, "I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant!"