

one read aloud vs. 19, 20. Talk the matter over with the class. Why is it so hard to serve the Lord? (Be sure that the word "jealous" is explained—jealous of His own honor and of holiness; and make plain that even the loving Saviour—who is the Lord—can be and is angry, and will punish when we persist in sin: compare Ps. 2:12).

The people's answer, v. 21.

The solemn oath which they take; for that is what v. 22 means.

The proof they are to give of their sin-

cerity, v. 23.

Their final response, v. 24. The solemn covenant, v. 25 (explain the various words).

The words written down, and the monument set up as a witness, vs. 26, 27.

The hardest part of the choice was still to come. "What can that be?" the class will ask. V. 28 answers: it is so much easier to come out on the Lord's side in response to a great appeal and when others do it, than it is to keep on His side alone in our daily task.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

(SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON V.)

To-day's Lesson is occupied with the vale and town of Shechem. The vale (see QUARTERLIES) lies between Mts. Ebal and Gerizim, where Joshua assembled the tribes of Israel to hear the blessings and the cursings of the law, Josh. 8:30-35. Canon Tristram says that "a natural amphitheatre exists at the base of Mount Gerizim, and exactly opposite in the base of Mount Ebal is a similar one, and that the voice may be easily distinguished from one to the other. The natural features of these two mountains are striking, Ebal being bare and stony, while Gerizim is clad with verdure."

Mr. C. G. Trumbull, in *A Pilgrimage to*

Jerusalem, gives the following description, Nâblus being the modern name of Shechem: "Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim towered above us as we rode between them into our camp on the edge of Nâblus. We were traveling southeast; on our left, the north, was Ebal, the mount of cursing; on our right, Gerizim, the mount of blessing. Red-roofed and sheltered in the valley between them, nestled the city that was Shechem. Through narrow streets and dark, damp alleys and corridors, closed overhead like subterranean passages, we were led on what must have been a walk of half a mile before we reached our goal, the Samaritan synagogue".

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

From the Library

It was at Shechem that Joshua's last meeting with the people took place. It lay a few miles to the northwest of Shiloh, and was not only distinguished (as we have already said) as Abraham's first resting-place in the country, and the scene of the earliest of the promises given in it to him; but likewise as the place where, between Mounts Ebal and Gerizim, the blessings and curses of the law had been read out soon after Joshua entered the land, and solemn assent of the people given to them. Shechem was therefore the scene of Joshua's farewell address. Possibly it was delivered close to the well of Jacob and the tomb of Joseph; at the very place where, many centuries later, the New Testament

Joshua sat wearied with His journey, and unfolded the riches of divine grace to the woman of Samaria.—Dr. W. G. Blaikie.

Some Test Questions

1. Describe the condition of Israel after the division of Canaan amongst the tribes.
2. What two gatherings did Joshua summon before his death? For what purposes?
3. Of what did he remind the people? What did he urge upon them?
4. On what ground was Israel urged to fear God?
5. What choice did Joshua present to them? What example did he set them?
6. How did the people respond? What proofs of God's goodness did they recall?
7. With what apparent discouragement did Joshua receive the people's offer of service? Explain his purpose.