

not avail to win them—probably will not, the best of them. But the power of lives like that of Stephen will reach them. The spirit of such men as he they cannot argue against. A life that does its duty as Stephen did his, that meets adversity as he met it, that forgives as he forgave, is an unconquerable life. The life of devotion to truth, which has in it Christ's spirit of sacrifice, is the resistless life. "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die it shall bring forth much fruit." Stephen's death was alike beautiful and fruitful.

Thoughts for Young People.

1. *Prejudice leads to sin.* Prejudice is the forming of one's judgment before the evidence has been fully received. The prejudiced man shuts his eye against God's truth. Opposition to truth, conscious or unconscious, leads always from justice and purity. Wrongness of the head and wrongness of the heart are apt to go together.

2. *The Lord loves the bold Christian.* In hours of crisis the Lord gives special encouragement to a Christian's faith. We may never be stoned to death for our faith. How have we borne it when one stone has been cast at us? Death is a friend to the good. Death to the faithful servant of God is rest after the day's work is done. God intends that we should all look toward the grave as we look toward our night's rest, as an opportunity for comfortable recuperation, to lead to the dawn of an eternal day. In death God does not forget his own. Dying, the Christian does not perish; he falls asleep. From the sleep there will be an awakening to eternal peace and everlasting triumph.

3. *He who is like Christ will see Christ.* The spiritual man can look beyond his earthly surroundings. The Son of man at the right hand of God closely watches every one of us. "The very hairs of our head are numbered." Human influence is undying. Stephen passed away, but the good influence of his life and death remained. Probably it had much to do with the future of the young man at whose feet the executioners laid their garments. It was worth dying to influence such a man.

Teaching Hints for Intermediate Classes.

BY REV. A. H. MC KINNEY.

HISTORY.

Our lesson follows directly that of last week.

INTRODUCTION.

A few minutes should be spent in a brief review of Old Testament history, as summed up

in Stephen's sermon. Questions may be asked concerning the following: Abraham; Isaac; Jacob; Moses; Aaron; David; Solomon.

Make use, as largely as possible, of the pupils' reading during the week, and refer to the lessons studied during the third and fourth quarters of 1901. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the value of a review of this kind, whenever it fits in naturally with the lesson of the day.

NARRATIVE.

We will study the lesson text according to the following outline:

STEPHEN'S

ENEMIES.
VISION.
DEATH.
PRAYER.
BURIAL.

1. *Stephen's enemies* (verse 54). Who were they? How did they feel? What did they do? (Explain the meaning of this.) Why did they feel and act thus?

2. *Stephen's vision* (verses 55, 56). Whither did Stephen look? What two things did he see? How was he enabled to see them? What did he say?

3. *Stephen's death* (verses 57-59). What was the effect of Stephen's words upon his enemies? How did they put Stephen to death? To what is Stephen's death likened? Try to impress the young people with the thought that to the Christian there should be no terrors in death. (Recall the death of President McKinley.) Explain the ancient custom of stoning to death and what part the "witnesses" played in it. Call attention to the fact that we now for the first time meet Saul, who is better known to us as Paul, with whom we shall have much to do in the next quarter's lessons.

4. *Stephen's prayer* (verses 59, 60). What did Stephen say about himself? What did he say about his enemies?

5. *Stephen's burial* (Acts 8. 2). Who buried Stephen? How did they show their courage? How did the Christians express their feelings?

TRUTH EMPHASIZED.

The pupils may very properly ask: If God be all powerful why did he allow Stephen to be treated so brutally? Show that this question is based on a misconception. The real Stephen was not harmed at all. His body was stoned, but his spirit was untouched. To impress the truth draw two pictures:

1. *What the spectators saw when Stephen was stoned.* They saw him dragged outside of the wall of Jerusalem, his hands bound, his