

strange punishment to the workers of iniquity." Job xxxi. 3. **OVERTHREW.** In total ruin. ALL THE PLAIN—of Jordan; or, probably, the "Vale of Siddim." This vale was "full of slime pits," (Hebrew, "wells, wells of bitumen.") Gen. xiv. 10. It is generally considered identical with the present southern end of the Dead Sea. ALL THE INHABITANTS. There were four cities full of people deluged with fire. Gen. xiv. 2.

The term brimstone (Hebrew *gophrith*, cognate with *gopher*—gopher-wood) originally signified resin or pitch, but it is also applied to other inflammable substances, especially sulphur and bitumen. The word frequently occurs in Scripture to denote punishment and destruction. Deut. xxix. 23; Job xviii. 15; Isa. xxx. 33; xxxiv. 9; Ezek. xxxviii. 22.

Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and a horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. Psa. xi. 6.

"We find it easy to tread on and crush a worm that we see crawling on the earth; so it is easy for us to cut or singe a slender thread that any thing hangs by; thus easy is it for God, when he pleases, to cast his enemies down to hell. What are we, that we should think to stand before him at whose rebuke the earth trembles?"—*Jonathan Edwards*.

"In hell there is no hope.... On every chain in hell there is written 'forever.' In the fires there blazes out the word 'forever.'.... Their eyes are galled and their hearts are pained with the thought that it is 'forever.' O, if I could tell you to-night that hell would one day be burned out, and that those who were lost might be saved, there would be a jubilee in hell at the very thought of it. But it cannot be: it is 'forever' they are 'cast into utter darkness.'"—*Spurgeon*.

4. THE FATE OF THE DISOBEDIENT. ver. 23. LOOKED BACK. Disobeying the command "look not behind thee," (ver. 17.) Possessed with sinful curiosity, or loth to give up Sodom with its worldly pleasures, Lot's wife is the type of many a half-hearted halting Christian. PILLAR OF SALT. Probably suffocated with the fumes of brimstone and the rain of sulphur; or possibly struck by lightning, and then incrustated with salt. We need not trouble ourselves about how she became so: it is enough that God tells us of the fearful fate of one who had every chance to escape.

Jesus says, "Remember Lot's wife." Luke xvii. 32.

How great the sin of disobedience! This sin banished Adam and Eve from Eden. It

has filled earth with woe, and hell with millions of the lost.

A young man was chained to a fellow-convict, and was about to leave his native country and heart-broken mother, probably forever. When a child he was allowed to have his own way. When his mother ought to have firmly, but kindly, enforced obedience, she foolishly yielded to his whims. The effect of this unwise home-training became yearly more apparent. When sent to school he was idle and would not learn. He soon began to play truant. His mother scolded the master for punishing her head-strong boy. With bad companions he was soon found robbing orchards and cruelly treating dumb animals. His career was from bad to worse. At last, for a highway robbery, he was convicted and sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude.

Of backsliding Bunyan says: "They fall deepest into hell who fall backward into it. None so near heaven as those that are convinced of sin; none so near hell as those who have quenched conviction."

Only in Christ can we overcome the world. John xv. 5; xvi. 33.

"As the mother-pearl-fish lives in the sea without receiving a drop of salt water; and as toward the Chelidonia Islands springs of fresh water may be found in the midst of the sea; and as the fire-fly passes through the flames without burning its wing; so a vigorous and resolute soul may live in the world without being infected with any of its humors, may discover sweet springs of piety amid its salt waters, and fly among the flames of earthly concupiscence without burning the wings of the holy desires of a devout life."—*Francis de Sales*.

III. HINTS FOR INFANT CLASS TEACHERS.

<p> </p> <p>Whisper-Song.</p> <p>Suddenly, Certainly, Will the day of judgment come; Speedily, Eagerly, Fly to Christ, the sinner's home.</p>	<p>Let the incidents of the story be brought out, so that a tolerably correct picture can be made on the mind. 1. The two cities. 2. The wicked people who lived in them; so many that not even ten good people could be found. 3. Lot and his family. 4. The visit of the angels to them. 5. The departure from Sodom. 6. The fiery rain from heaven. 7. Disobedient woman changed into a pillar of salt.</p>
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All this can be easily represented on the black-board even by persons unskilled in the art of drawing, as most of us are who use the black-board. It is a mistake to suppose that children need a finished drawing to fasten the ideas of a lesson on the mind. There is no objection to a