

Meet all unkindness and enmity with the "wisdom that cometh from above," which is "pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated." Jas. 3. 17.

2. A word of comfort. In spite of this powerful enemy, "The Lord was with David." Saul's hatred was no proof of God's disapproval. Had all gone smoothly with David, had he stood as high in the king's favour as in the love of Jonathan and of the people generally, his soul might have suffered through too much prosperity. Certainly he would have missed many of the lessons of affliction. Many of his most beautiful psalms, those which are now the comfort of tried believers, might never have been written. And while the Lord was with him nothing could really harm him.

But who may take this word of comfort? Only he who is, like David, the Lord's servant. I was sitting one day in the garden of one of the London squares. It was cool, fresh, and pleasant, while outside the road was hot and dusty. The gate stood wide open as if to invite passers-by, and yet I knew the garden was only meant for the dwellers in the square. I saw some people enter and take a seat, but presently the square-keeper advanced and spoke to them, and they got up and walked out. Evidently they were strangers who had no right in the garden, and so its pleasant rest and refreshment were not for them. Just so the Lord's favour, the Lord's presence, the Lord's protection, are not for those who are yet strangers to him. Only in this case there is an open gate which does not deceive. Those who come unto him he will in no wise cast out.

We must not close without one word of warning. Saul, the enemy of David, is, like Haman the enemy of Mordecai, and Edom the enemy of Israel, a faint type of the terrible foe who seeks to destroy both body and soul. However men smile on us they cannot preserve us from this enemy. There is no safety unless the Lord is with us. May each one seek and enjoy this divine protection!

### BEREAN METHODS.

#### Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Tell or draw out from the class the story of Jonathan's exploit (Chap. 14.).... Jonathan's character as here shown: 1. Freedom from envy; 2. Love; 3. Generosity.... Jonathan's friendship a picture of Christ's.... David's success—wherein it was shown: 1. In the love which he inspired; 2. In his management of affairs; 3. In his popularity; 4. In his progress from position to position; 5. In the favour of God.... David's success—how was it won? 1. By his opportunity;

2. By his ability; 3. By the divine help.... David's trials: 1. By prosperity; 2. By envy, etc.... Note the contrast of character in Saul and David. (See Analytical and Biblical Outline.).... God's help to his follower. (See Additional Practical Lessons).... A good working outline: 1. Loved; 11. Hated.... By whom, why, and how both loved and hated.... ILLUSTRATIONS. Friendship. Abram and Lot. Gen. 13. 8, 9. Judah and Benjamin. Gen. 44. 18-34.... Hate. Isaac. Gen. 26. 14. Jacob. Gen. 31. 1, 2. Joseph. Gen. 37. 3, 4. Christ. Mark, 15. 10.... Saul's envy of David. Aristides the just was once asked by an ignorant Athenian who did not know him, to write down his vote for the banishment of Aristides (himself). "Has he ever done you any wrong?" said Aristides. "No, but I'm tired of hearing him always called the 'Just.'.... David in the palace did not forget the pasture-fields, as many references show. It is said that a great ruler, in order to remind himself of the lowly origin, kept through life the suit of mean attire in which he had come from his humble home to the city before his elevation to office. Jonathan's gifts. Mrs. Postans, a traveller of the last century, related the following incident of life in India: "I recollect the tiger-hunting party, held by Meer Alli Moorad in Upper Sindh, where that chief sat in a small tower with his personal friends to see the sport. A Sindhian behaved most valiantly, killing a tiger and her cubs, and the hero was brought up on the tower, when Meer Alli Moorad took from his neck a muslin scarf and bestowed it on the man, who felt himself distinguished above all honour, and remunerated beyond all price."

**References.** FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA OF ILLUSTRATIONS: Poetical, 2179. Ver. 5: Prose, 4473. Ver. 6: Prose, 1222. Ver. 7: Poetical, 1788, 3315. Ver. 8: Prose, 3347, 9985, 9986. Ver. 9: Prose, 1911, 1919, 8390. Ver. 10: Poetical, 3310, 3972. Ver. 14: Prose, 2685, 6046, 12238.... FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Ver. 4: Princely robes, 257. Ver. 6: Dancing, 123; "Instruments of music," 258. Ver. 7: Responsive singing, 259. Vers. 10, 11: The "javelin," 253.

#### Primary and Intermediate.

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**LESSON THOUGHT.** *God Conquers Enemies.* Print "David" on the board, and let children tell all that they have learned about him: as the shepherd lad, the appointed of the Lord, fighting the Lord's battles, etc. Then tell how Saul kept David in his place after he had killed Goliath, and made him captain over his soldiers, how Jonathan loved him, and how he won the