

goes to the making of a king. He has no heart, no soul. He thinks by his loud threatening words to crush the spirit of the people, but he soon learns what a great mistake he has made.

3. *The Battle Cry of Rebellion*, v. 16. Bring out that the people had made a reasonable demand such as the English people made at Runnymede and that they had been denied in the most cruel and insulting terms. As freedom-loving people what else could they do but rebel? Remind the class of the civil and religious liberty which we enjoy which is the result of our Christian religion, and which is something to be eternally grateful for.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Tell the scholars that to-day's Lesson is about a young man who made some great mistakes and the evil results that followed from these mistakes. The name of this young man was Rehoboam, and he was the son and successor of the wise King Solomon.

Picture the assemblage of Israel at Shechem to make Rehoboam king after the death of Solomon (vs. 1-4). Bring out the meaning of the people's request in v. 4. The Lesson Explained will give all necessary information as to the "yoke" which they asked to have lightened.

Take up the *first mistake* of Rehoboam,—his delay in answering the reasonable request of the people and putting them off for three days. What a difference it would have made, had the young king answered at once out of the promptings of a heart ruled by justice and kindness: "I will make your yoke lighter." Then the crowd would have hailed him with joyful shouts as their king and would have served him gladly all his life.

Turn to Rehoboam's *second mistake*,—rejecting the prudent advice of the old coun-

selers, vs. 6, 7. Discuss this advice,—perhaps it meant that Rehoboam should make fair promises for the time, so that the people would go quietly to their homes, leaving him to do as he pleased. It was certainly wiser, in any case, to treat the people kindly. But Rehoboam turned away from the old men's advice. Why did he do this? The answer lies in his pride, which would not permit him to stoop to the people even for a day.

Now deal with Rehoboam's *third mistake*,—following the rash advice of his young companions, vs. 8-11. How did they say the people should be treated? Let the questioning make clear their counsel that Rehoboam, instead of treating the people more gently than Solomon, would be even more stern and exacting. Get the scholars to tell you about the people's return on the third day, and about Rehoboam's harsh answer to them, vs. 12-14.

V. 15 tells us that all this had happened under the Lord's control. Recall the story of Ahijah's prediction to Jeroboam in ch. 11: 26-40, and trace back the division of the kingdom to the sin of Solomon, making it clear, at the same time, that Rehoboam acted with perfect freedom.

Follow out the results (v. 16) of Rehoboam's answer, in the revolt of the ten Northern tribes, with most of Benjamin, which left only the tribe of Judah, with part of Benjamin, under the rule of Rehoboam.

Thus, by his own folly, the young king threw away his chance of being the ruler of a great and powerful nation. The unprinted portion of the Lesson, vs. 17-24, should be discussed, with the account of Rehoboam's two attempts to quell the revolt.

Trace Rehoboam's mistakes to his own pride and failure to seek the guidance and help of God.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

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

Something to Look Up

1. What does it say in Proverbs about a word that is fitly spoken? Find the words.

2. "A soft answer turneth away wrath." Where are these words found?

ANSWERS, Lesson V.—(1) Matt. 2: 1-12.
(2) 2 Cor. 8: 9.

For Discussion

1. Is a king ever justified in refusing the demands of his subjects?

2. Can we ever justly lay the blame of our