

Rays of hope are stealing down. Peace begins to still the pleading soul.

You see his sackcloth.

You see the ashes, the coarse robes, the bent form, and you seem to see a scarred, bleeding hand that rests upon him and quiets and stills with the hope, the assurance of forgiveness.

### By Way of Illustration.

BY JENNIE M. BINGHAM.

"Blot out my transgressions." "Blot out all my iniquities." A little boy said to his mother, "What becomes of our sins when God forgives us?" And she answered by asking, "What has become of the figures which you made on your slate yesterday?" "They are washed out." "But where are they?" "They are nowhere; they are gone." "So does God blot out our sins."

"I acknowledge my transgressions." As beggars, if they have any good thing conceal and hide it, and only show their rags and sores, whereby they may move beholders to pity them, even so it behooveth us not to boast our good deeds before God, as the Pharisee did, but confess our sin, if we would provoke the Lord's mercy toward us, as the publican did.—*Cowdrey*.

Ben-hadad, King of Assyria, being overcome by the King of Israel, was told that the King of Israel was a merciful man. He therefore sent his servants, clothed with sackcloth, and ropes about their necks, to entreat pardon and peace. When the king saw their submission he made a covenant of peace with them.

"Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." A Scotch minister once asked a loathsome woman to pray the following prayer twice a day for two weeks: "Lord, show me myself," and told her he would give her a present for so doing. The woman prayed, and soon God began to show her herself. She told the minister she had prayed, that she did not want his present, but wanted some delivery from sin. And he told her to pray this prayer: "Lord, show me thyself." God's light began to shine into her heart. She came across that "little Gospel," as Martin Luther used to call it, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son," and in consequence became totally transformed.—*B. Fay Mills*.

"Make me to hear joy and gladness." Jerry McAuley, while in prison serving out a sentence for crime, was visited by one of his old associates who had been converted. Jerry knew that this man was no hypocrite, and to hear that voice in prayer and praise which he had always heard in profanity and rioting made Jerry anxious to know more about the religion which his friend had embraced. When he went back to his cell he took down the

prison Bible and read from it, and a Christian lady came and prayed with him. He was overwhelmed with his load of sin, and threw himself on the stone floor in an agony of grief. In the watches of the night he felt a gentle touch and heard a voice saying, "Thy sins which are many are all forgiven thee." He always believed that a real Presence visited him. He began to praise the Lord, and aroused the keeper, who thought him insane. From that hour he was a saved man, and gave his life to the rescuing of others.—*Dr. A. T. Pierson*.

"Create in me a clean heart." When Elisha healed the bitter waters of Jericho, "he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there." He was a philosopher as well as a prophet.

Suppose my watch was not going well, and I should take it to the town-clock, and make the hands of my watch point the same as the clock. Very soon the hands would be as far wrong as ever. I must send my watch to the watchmaker that he may put its heart right, and then the hands will go right, too. So when the heart is right the hands and feet and tongue will be right.—*Rev. J. Inglis*.

### The Teachers' Meeting.

Study well the history which led to this psalm, and carefully and wisely recount as much of it as is necessary to be known to fully understand this lesson. His punishment (some of it already inflicted) might be profitably recalled. Show that David not only sinned, but repented of his sin. ....I. Notice in this psalm David's view of a sinner's condition, with the words describing it—"transgression, iniquity, sin, evil, blood-guiltiness." Let these words be found and fully explained....II. Show what David desired, and explain the words, as before: (1) "Blot out;" (2) "Wash;" (3) "Cleanse;" (4) "Hide;" (5) "Create;" etc....III. Show the privileges of a penitent as here presented....IV. Show the vows of a penitent as here made....Do not fail to present in this lesson the way of salvation.

### References.

FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK, Ver. 7: Use of hyssop, 437.

### Primary and Intermediate.

BY MARTHA VAN MANTER.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Standing Before Our King*. Introduce the lesson by a little talk about King David. Call from the children what they know about him as a boy, his call from God, his brave deeds when a shepherd-boy, his love for Jonathan, and, later, his power and glory as a great king.