

himself to openly and flagrantly disobey God.

Altogether
or Not At All

But he tried all sorts of devices to find out some way of earning Balak's gold, without exactly setting God at defiance. Again and

again he reached out covetous hands to the bribe dangled before him. The story shows the futility of anything but a whole-hearted service. You must serve God in everything, or you utterly fail to please Him.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

It was definitely decided that the demanded experiment in monarchy should be undertaken (v. 1); but neither king nor people could get too much warning as to the perils in the way. Theirs, like ours in Canada, was emphatically a realm of the future. If our country is to be great, we must grasp the principles of true patriotism. Consequently we cannot be too insistent on the need of:

1. *Personal integrity in public office*, vs. 2-5. Old Samuel, intimately known to them from childhood (v. 2), has been a shining example, with his long, pure record, which all are in a position to confirm, v. 4. In our own day, when, with regard to all parties, it has been said that voters may be bought "like oxen, for the price of a sheep", is there not a call to train the future electorate to a higher ideal of public life than prevails? To plant to-day germ principles of personal integrity is of first moment. Honesty, equity, fair play, incorruptibility,—they are all to be found in that third verse. Reclothe them in modern dress, and exhibit them in their real attractiveness as the robes of beauty for present-day office. No king just come to his throne could have had a more inspiring example of personal integrity than that of which Saul and his people were witnesses in Samuel, v. 5. Throw the full force of your personality, too, into making clear the need of:

2. *Divine favor in national life*, vs. 13-25. The present and future not only grow out of the past, but have much to learn from it. That is why Samuel makes the historical introduction recorded in the intervening vs. 6-12, where specific cases of losing and regaining the divine favor are cited. The direct appeal (v. 13), begins with the reminder that "the powers that be are ordained of God". Reverential, obedient

loyalty to the Higher Power, therefore, on the part of king and subjects, can also secure stability to the ruler and to the ruled, v. 14. Perverse irreligion means sure disintegration of national life, v. 15. To emphasize this warning, a special demonstration of the power of the Higher Ruler is given, vs. 16-18 (compare Ps. 29: 3, 4). The terrified people intreat Samuel to intercede for them (v. 19), and his gracious answer assures them that a straightforward course will meet with divine favor, vs. 20-22. He ends by promising his prayers (v. 23), and by renewing the exhortation to fidelity (v. 24), and the warning against infidelity, v. 25.

Persuade your class, as potential citizens, to recognize fully the divine sovereignty, not alone over the forces of nature, but over national and individual interests, 1 Cor. 15: 28.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

It is perhaps usually better to teach young children, as one dibbles corn,—drop the seed in as soon as the place is made for it: apply as you go along. This Lesson, however, invites to a different method. Take the story first, and the teachings afterwards.

Samuel steps out; Saul steps in. That is the story in outline.

Review by questions the demand of the people for a king,—why it was made, what the Lord thought of it, what Samuel thought of it, who was chosen as king, how the choice was made, and how confirmed, what sort of start the king made.

Ch. 11 tells of valiant doings of the new king, and of the call of Samuel to the people to Gilgal, and the confirmation of Saul as monarch of Israel.

The Lesson chapter gives Samuel's farewell words, as he yields place to Saul: seek to get the scene before the eyes of the scholars—the vast assemblage, the religious sacrifices (ch. 11: 15), the rejoicings of the day, the lordly young Saul, the patriarchal Samuel, whom all revered.