

much regret, to relinquish the *baton* of office into other hands.

Meanwhile, however, his pen had been by no means idle; one by one five other works were produced.

But now a serious accident befell Mr. Wood. Running hastily down a steep hill upon a dark night in order to catch the last train, with a bag in his left hand and a walking-stick between the fingers of his right, he stumbled and fell over a heap of rubbish which had carelessly been left in the very middle of the pathway, and which was quite invisible in the darkness. Unable to save himself, his whole weight came upon the unfortunate right hand, two fingers of which were both dislocated and broken (one in two places), while almost all the bones of the palm were also fractured. Scarcely alive to the extent of the injury, however, Mr. Wood proceeded on his journey (undertaken to assist a clerical friend), and, although in great pain, contrived to perform the services of the following morning. Naturally the wounded hand suffered still more from the want of immediate attention, and for months afterwards it was completely useless, while never to the end of his life did it regain its old strength and steadiness.

Literary work for some time was now quite out of the question—for Mr. Wood could never dictate to an amanuensis. Among the Christmas books of 1878, however, appeared his long-projected edition of Charles Waterton's famous "Wanderings in South America," comprising a full biography of the celebrated traveller (with whom Mr. Wood had been personally acquainted), the unaltered text of the "Wanderings" themselves, and a comprehensive explanatory index. Thus was the book rendered, as never had it been before, intelligible to the general public, and a second edition was called for almost before the first was fairly published.

Among his later works was, "Horse and Man," a work which embodied the results of a vast amount of practical research and personal investigation, and which was designed principally to point out the evils resulting from the use of bearing-reins and blinkers, and especially from the system of horse-shoeing at the present time in vogue.

Mr. Wood's views upon this latter point were at first received with contempt and ridicule rather than with approval, but this he had fully expected. So much interested opposition had in the first instance to be overcome that he did not at all despair of ultimate success; and by-and-by letters began to reach him—at first very occasionally, afterwards with greater frequency—in which the writers informed him that they had carefully followed out his suggestions, with the result that their shoeless horses, after several months of hard work upon ordinary macadamized roads, were in far better condition than when they had been shod. Such letters were always a source of great pride to him, and he made frequent reference to them in the many lectures which he delivered upon the subject in various parts of the kingdom.

In 1887 appeared the last but one of Mr. Wood's already published works, under the title of "Man and his Handiwork," in which was traced the gradual advance of the human race from savagery to civilization, as shown by the works of their hands. A few months later the long list was completed by the issue, under the auspices of the Religious Tract Society, of the "Handy Natural History," a book intended principally for the use of boys, and giving a pleasant and chatty description of the principal vertebrate animals. A larger and more important work, "The Dominion of Man," is now in the press, and will be published early in the autumn by Messrs. Richard Bentley and Co.

Throughout his literary career of thirty-seven years Mr. Wood was a constant contributor to numerous periodicals, and also, for some time, himself edited "The Boys' Own Magazine."

Partly, no doubt, owing to the serious injury to his hand, before referred to, and partly to the incessant use of the pen, Mr. Wood was visited some years since with threatnings of the dreaded "writer's cramp." He therefore purchased a type writer, which latterly accompanied him even upon his frequent journeys, many of his magazine articles being composed while actually in the railway carriage, with the

strange machine upon his knees. Always perfectly indifferent to any attention which his proceedings might excite, he would work steadily on for hours, quite undisturbed by the curious gaze of his fellow-passengers; and so he contrived, even during his prolonged lecturing tours, to produce the daily tale of MS., although frequently travelling, day after day, from dawn almost till dusk.

As a supplementary profession, this lecturing was not adopted until 1879, although for some fifteen years previously he had occasionally appeared upon the platform.

He usually illustrated his remarks by the aid of colored chalks. These rapid sketches, performed in full view of the audience, no doubt contributed very greatly to the invariable success of his lectures. Was bird, beast, fish, or insect being described, its counterfeit presentment, glowing with brilliant colors, gradually appeared on the great black canvas, every line exact, every point brought out with marvellous fidelity. Was some difficult detail of structure being explained, an accurate sketch made all things clear, and prevented any possible misconception or want of comprehension. Thus eye and ear were taught together, while the interest of the audience was never suffered to flag, and the dry details of classificatory science were never inflicted upon them.

Two successive winters—those of 1883-4 and 1884-5—Mr. Wood spent in the United States, and there he delivered his lectures in almost all the principal towns.

During the last few years of his life, Mr. Wood resided at St. Peter's, near Margate, in the neighborhood of which, nearly thirty years previously, most of the investigations for his "Common Objects of the Sea Shore" had been carried on. He now became a constant visitor to the menagerie of that town, where he was on very friendly terms with the lions and tigers, whose favor he secured by the simple expedient of presenting them with paper balls on which a few drops of lavender water had been sprinkled. Over these the animals in question used to become almost wild with delight, holding the balls close to their nostrils, eagerly sniffing in the fascinating odor, and showing their pleasure by loud and prolonged purring. Before very long they came to know the donor perfectly well by sight, and, recognizing him in the distance, would herald his approach with mighty roarings and with antics expressive of the utmost excitement. And they would freely allow him to stroke or handle them, or to pull out and inspect their claws, just as, twenty years previously, he had done with the lions and tigers of the Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park.

All animals, however, instinctively "took to" Mr. Wood, and during most of his meals a favorite cat sat upon his shoulder, and another usually lay coiled up by his side while at work. Outside his window, too, was generally a company of small birds which he regularly fed with porridge, bread-crumbs, and small scraps of meat every morning, and which always became very clamorous and importunate as eight o'clock approached. And, finally, living creatures of various kinds—toads, frogs, hedgehogs, snakes, chameleons, lizards, scorpions even—were always to be seen on or near his table, where he could watch them as he worked without fear of alarming them.

In private life Mr. Wood was always one of the most delightful of companions, full of humor and anecdote, and ready to talk upon any topic which might present itself—that of politics alone excepted. Upon party questions no one could persuade him to say a word. He impartially read the newspapers of either side, but invariably kept his opinions to himself.

No doubt the constant wear and tear of Mr. Wood's laborious life prepared the way for the attack which carried him off. Bodily weariness seemed to be forgotten when once he had his audience before him and his drawing-chalks in his hand, and every sentence showed the deep interest which he took in his subject, every hearer felt that it was a real pleasure to him to speak upon it. But the ceaseless strain did its fatal work, and we cannot but feel that if Mr. Wood had worked less hard, less incessantly, we should have had him with us still.—*From the Sunday Magazine.*

SUNDAY-SCHOOL MUSIC.

To conduct properly the music in the Sabbath-school something more is needed besides a good and cultivated voice. The command is to worship in spirit and in truth. To conduct the songs of the sanctuary so that good may result, he must be a child of God in order to sing in spirit and truth. Let the leader realize his responsibility; let school and director pray over the work, remembering that an influence either for weal or woe is to be shown by the work. Try this plan; see if success will not crown your efforts. God will bless the work and use it as a divine method in truth.

STEP BY STEP.

"Step by step he leads his victim
To the verge of dread despair,
Hurls him o'er the brink of ruin,
Laughs, and leaves him helpless there.
Widowed hearts and homes, deserted,
Helpless children orphans made—
What a picture! God of mercy,
Let this cruel tide be stayed!"

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From International Question Book.)

LESSON IV.—JULY 28.

ISRAEL ASKING FOR A KING.—1 Sam. 8: 1-20.

COMMIT VERSES 4, 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us.—1 Sam. 8:19.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

We should seek to know God's will rather than insist on our own.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Sam. 8: 1-22.
T. Deut. 17: 14-20.
W. 1 Kings 12: 1-15.
Th. Acts 13: 16-33.
F. Ps. 106: 1-15.
Sa. Ps. 118: 1-16.
Su. Matt. 23: 29-39.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

1. The elders of Israel: the heads of families and leading persons, forming a kind of legislature. 5. Sons walk not in thy ways: they took bribes and perverted justice (v. 3). 6. The thing displeased Samuel: it was not wrong to have a king (Deut. 17: 14-20), but the request was a sin upon his administration, a rejection of God, a refusal to be as noble and holy a nation as God would have them to be. Why did they desire a king? (1) To be like other nations. (2) To have a visible leader for war (v. 2). (3) To give unity to the nation. (4) Samuel would not long be able to rule them, and his sons were not fit for the place. 7. They have not rejected thee, chiefly, but they have rejected me: in rejecting Samuel. How? (1) They did not ask what was best, but were determined to have their own way. (2) They were unwilling to be such a nation as God thought best. (3) They wanted success without obedience, and hoped they could have it by a king. (4) They distrusted God as their invisible leader. (5) Their motive was bad,—to be like other nations. 9. I haveken unto their voice: grant their request. For so sinful a people a king was the best, as a punishment for their not being more worthy. 11. This will be the manner of the king: (1) He would bring in luxury at the people's expense. (2) He would limit their freedom. (3) He would impose high taxes and drain the wealth of the people.

SUBJECT: REJECTING OUR SAVIOUR AND GOD.

QUESTIONS.

I. WHY THE ISRAELITES REJECTED GOD (vs. 4, 5, 20).—Who came to Samuel with a message? Who were the elders? Where did they find Samuel? What was their request? What circumstances probably led them to ask for a king at this time? (11: 1-3; 12: 12.) What was the first reason given? How old was Samuel? What was the second reason? How did Samuel's sons behave? (v. 3.) How did it come that Samuel had such bad sons? What does Paul say of the love of money? (1 Tim. 6: 10.) What is a bribe? What sins arise from covetousness? What was the third reason for asking a king? What was the fourth reason?

II. HOW THEY REJECTED GOD (vs. 6-9).—How did the request of the elders affect Samuel? Why was he displeased? What had he done for the people? (12: 1-5, 23.) Were they ungrateful? What did Samuel do in this trial? What does his example teach us? (James 5: 13.) What answer did he receive from God? How was the course of the Israelites a rejection of God? Was it wrong to have a king? (Deut. 17: 14.) Who had been the king of Israel hitherto? (12: 12.) What had he done for them? (12: 8-15.) Had he ever failed them when they had been obedient and loyal? How was the request of the people a distrust of God? Who is our rightful king? What is it for us to reject him? In what ways is it done? What has he done for us?

III. THE EFFECTS OF REJECTING GOD (vs. 10-19).—What further warning did Samuel give the people? What would be the manner of the king? How would he bring in luxury, and tend to war? How would he restrict their liberty? How would he impose high taxes? Give an example only a century later. (1 Kings 10: 16-20; 12: 1-14.) Why did God answer such a prayer? Would it have been better if they had been good enough to have their prayer denied? (Ps. 106: 15.) Is it wise for us always to pray Thy will be done? What evils now come to those who reject God?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. The best of men sometimes have bad children.
II. We often earnestly desire things not best for us to have.

III. There may be sin and folly as well as danger in the desire to be like other people.

LESSON V.—AUGUST 1.

SAUL CHOSEN OF THE LORD.—1 Sam. 9: 15-27.

COMMIT VERSES 15, 16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.—Prov. 8: 15.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God guides us to the kingdom to which he calls us.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Sam. 9: 1-11.
T. 1 Sam. 9: 15-27.
W. 1 Sam. 10: 1-16.
Th. 1 Sam. 10: 17-25.
F. 1 Sam. 11: 1-15.
Sa. Ps. 2: 1-12.
Su. Ps. 72: 1-20.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

We find a double leading by God. In the verses previous to the lesson, Saul is sent out to seek some strayed asses, and is unconsciously led to Ramah and to Samuel. 15. Now the Lord etc.: here Samuel is guided to Saul, and the choice of him as king. 16. Save my people, etc.: this shows that the Philistines were gathering for an attack upon Israel, and this was probably one reason why the people were so anxious for a king. 18. The seer: one who sees: a prophet. 19. The high place: a hill where sacrifices were offered, there being no central place of worship. 20. On whom is all the desire of Israel: not that all Israel desired him, but to him would come all that was most desirable in Israel,—the kingly power and wealth. 31. Benjaminite of the smallest of the tribes: at the numbering, in Moses' time, it was next to the smallest (Num. 1: 37), and it had lately been almost extinguished (Judg. 20: 46). 22. The parlor: the priest's chamber. About thirty persons: in the chamber. The leaders: the rest of the people worshipped outside. 23. Samuel said, etc.: this was to show Saul that his coming had been foreseen and prepared for. 25. Communed with Saul: on the state of the country and the duties of a king. Upon the top of the house: the most comfortable place in summer was the flat roofs of the houses. 26. The spring: the dawn, the day-spring. Samuel called Saul to the top of the house: not to the top, but upon the top, where Saul had been sleeping.

SUBJECT: ENTERING UPON THE KINGDOM.

QUESTIONS.

I. GOD'S GUIDANCE TO THE KINGDOM (vs. 15-21).—Who was Saul? (v. 1.) What was his appearance? (v. 2.) Relate the story of the way he was led to Samuel. (3-14.) How was Samuel guided to make such a choice of Saul? (vs. 15-17.) Where did they meet? What did Samuel tell Saul about his father's asses? What did he hint about Saul's future? Meaning of "all the desire of Israel"? How did Saul receive this honor? Did this show a right spirit?

What are we taught here about God's guiding providence? How is this a comfort and help to us? Does God guide us by means of little things? What does Jesus say about the way to greater things? (Luke 16: 10; Matt. 25: 29.)

II. THE NOMINATION OF SAUL FOR KING (vs. 22-27).—To what place was Samuel going? What place did he give Saul at the feast? How many were there? In what place did Samuel talk over the affairs of the nation with him? What did Samuel do to Saul on his way home? (10: 1.) How was Saul prepared for his work? (10: 3-10.) What qualities had Saul that fitted him to be king?

Does God prepare us for whatever work he has for us to do? Has he placed each of us in the world for some special work? Are there great possibilities of good in each of us?

III. THE ELECTION OF SAUL (10: 17-27). How was Saul chosen king of the people? In what place? Was the feeling unanimous for him?

IV. THE REAL INAUGURATION OF SAUL (11: 1-15).—What enemy made an attack upon a city of Israel? Tell the story. How did Saul summon the people? What was the issue of the contest? What was the effect upon the people? (vs. 12-15.)

V. NEW TESTAMENT LIGHT.—Who is our rightful king? (Matt. 4: 10; 6: 9-10; Luke 10: 27; Rev. 4: 11; 1 Tim. 1: 17.) How should we choose and acknowledge him as our king? (John 12: 26; Rev. 3: 20; 22: 14.) To what kingdom are we called? (Rev. 1: 6; 3: 21; 5: 9-10; Luke 22: 29, 30.) How are we prepared for it? (Heb. 13: 20, 21; John 16: 13; Rom. 8: 14; Heb. 10: 15, 16.)

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. God's guiding providence is over all.
II. The smallest things rightly used may lead to the largest issues. Saul sought for stray asses and found a kingdom.
III. There is scarcely a limit to the possibilities of our lives.
IV. If God has a work for us to do, his Spirit will prepare us for it.

LESSON CALENDAR.

(Third Quarter, 1889.)

- July 7.—Samuel called of God.—1 Sam. 3: 1-14.
- July 14.—The Sorrowful death of Eli.—1 Sam. 4: 1-18.
- July 21.—Samuel the Reformer.—1 Sam. 7: 1-12.
- July 28.—Israel Asking for a King.—1 Sam. 8: 1-20.
- Aug. 4.—Saul Chosen of the Lord.—1 Sam. 9: 15-27.
- Aug. 11.—Samuel's Farewell Address.—1 Sam. 12: 1-15.
- Aug. 18.—Saul Rejected by the Lord.—1 Sam. 15: 10-23.
- Aug. 25.—The Anointing of David.—1 Sam. 16: 1-13.
- Sept. 1.—David and Goliath.—1 Sam. 17: 32-51.
- Sept. 8.—David and Jonathan.—1 Sam. 20: 1-13.
- Sept. 15.—David sparing Saul.—1 Sam. 21: 4-17.
- Sept. 22.—Death of Saul and his Sons.—1 Sam. 31: 1-13.
- Sept. 29.—Review and Temperance.—1 Sam. 25: 23-31 and 35-38.