

reached its culminating point. They cannot be brought to repentance. Hence "the Lord hath sworn by himself. I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces." The very glory bestowed by God upon his people is turned by their self-indulgence, intemperance and hypocrisy into an abominable sham against which he denounces his awful judgment. "Therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein." (V. 8.) Its day of grace is past. Repentance, reformation, God's infinite compassion, have been despised, and "now they are hid from their eyes." (Luke 19: 41-44).

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY.

1. Mention the birth place and date of Amos.
2. Describe his occupation and manner of life.
3. Compare him in these respects with other men mentioned in the Bible.
4. Account for peculiarities of his style.
5. Indicate the nature of the special sins he dealt with.
6. What was the first lesson he delivered to those he sought to bring to repentance?
7. What does this method of teaching suggest regarding God's character and government?
8. Mention the second and sterner method of instruction followed by Amos.
9. What was to be the issue of all, and why?
10. Seeing the word of God is always true why did he sometimes swear by himself?
11. Give instances of this in the Old and New Testaments.
12. Enforce the practical lessons contained in the instances recorded in Heb. 6: 17, 18, by applying them to the members of your class.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS.

1. The Lord often calls his eminent messengers from the ranks of the humble. Moses was the son of a godly man and woman enslaved by Pharaoh. David and Amos were shepherds. Peter and Andrew and other apostles were fishermen. Jesus himself appeared among men, not as a prince but as a carpenter. By his spirit dwelling in them he qualified the woman of Samaria and the maniac of Gadara to be his successful messengers.

It is so still. Dr. Livingstone, Dr. John Cairns, and many other distinguished ministers and servants of God rose from the ranks.

2. Wicked rulers are a terrible calamity and curse to any nation. Their example descends and speedily corrupts the people. Their sin bringing judgment upon all.

3. Conversely, godly rulers, like Queen Victoria, are among the greatest blessings that nations can enjoy. How needful, therefore, to pray for kings and all who bear rule over their fellows.

4. There is a law of progress in sin which ends in temporal and eternal ruin. "The wages of sin is death."

5. Men gradually but inevitably grow incorrigible and helpless by the indulgence of sinful appetites. The habitual use of stimulants and narcotics by persons in the enjoyment of normal health is indefensible from the standpoint of science, ethics and scripture.

6. The undeniable and awful ruin wrought by intemperance among all classes of citizens is God's loud call to his people, by all legitimate means and efforts, to put down the traffic fruitful of such results. Law, and moral suasion, and the gospel of the grace of God should be used for this purpose.

Sunday schools, public schools, colleges, and pulpits, should persist in educating the public mind and conscience in the right direction until our land is delivered from the scourge of intemperance.

THE BLACKBOARD.

SINFUL INDULGENCE

Wastes Money and Time
Wrecks Body, Mind, and Soul
Wrongs Man and GOD