

Dominion. All that is sublime in our Canadian works of nature constitutes a call back to an honest life in God, v. 8.

Vital religion alone can protect us against universal spoliation (v. 9), contempt (v. 10), oppression of the poor (v. 11) and bribery, v. 12. Worship is "worth-ship," and our worship is a farce if it is rendered worthless by rotten character, vs. 13-15.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Remind the class that, although God's chosen people in Old Testament times were not interested in Foreign Missions, they were interested in Home Missions. Home missionaries were at work most of the time amongst them. Note that some good people to-day are more deeply interested in Home Missions than in Foreign Missions. Is it true that the light that shines farthest shines brightest at home? Bring out that Home Missions and Foreign Missions are one, that there is no distinction of this kind in the New Testament, and that it is difficult in Canada to-day, where people from every nation under the sun are making a home, to tell where Home Missions end and Foreign Missions begin. Our Lesson is a Home Missionary one.

1. *The Home Mission Field.* Question out the moral and religious condition of the kingdom of Israel at this time,—the injustice (v. 7), the graft and dishonesty and oppression of the poor, the luxury of those who have grown rich at the expense of the poor (vs. 11, 12), the intemperance and vice which were eating like a canker into the very heart of the national life, ch. 6 : 3-6. What is there in our land to-day of these evils which were the besetting sins of Israel? The idle rich who were destroying themselves through luxury and vice, while at the same time they were crushing the life out of the poor working classes, were the people to whom God sent a home missionary. We have to a large extent neglected this class, and have sent our missionaries to new settlements and to communities which are not prepared themselves to support religious services. Impress upon the class that Home Missions are a patriotic, as well as religious, duty, for the centre of population in Canada is steadily

advancing westward, and that the future of our country depends upon the kind of West we are now making.

2. *The Home Missionary.* Who was Amos? (See ch. 7 : 14.) Note that when God wanted a man to do hard work he went to the country for him. Refer to Dr. Hillis' statement that eighty-five per cent. of the leading men in New York city come from rural sections, while seventeen out of the twenty-three presidents of the United States also came from the country. Why does the country furnish so many of our ministers and missionaries? What were the characteristics of this missionary whom God found in the country and sent to preach to the Israelites? Teach the class that we are all missionaries, that there is something which God has sent us into the world to do. May the prayer of each of us be :

"Open Thou mine eyes to see,
All the work Thou hast for me."

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

"A Home Missionary Lesson," the Lesson for to-day is called. The teacher may, therefore, begin the conversation of the class period by referring to the numerous Home Mission fields of our church, stretching, like a mighty chain, from ocean to ocean, and the kind of work which our home missionaries are doing. After this introduction, let the teaching centre about Amos as an old time home missionary. The following outline may be helpful.

1. *Who was Amos, and where was his home?* The prophet's occupation,—that of a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore fruit; his home,—at Tekoa (have this place pointed out on the map) in the Southern kingdom of Judah; and his call of God to be a prophet to the Northern kingdom of Israel,—all these points should be brought out by questioning.

2. *What lamentation did Amos utter over Israel (vs. 1-3)?* Bring out the meaning of these verses (see Lesson Explained), showing how they referred to the downfall of Israel, which should never rise again to be a kingdom.

3. *Why were the people of Israel in so great peril (vs. 4-9)?* Take up these verses in detail, bringing out the contrast between the worship set up by Jeroboam (see Lesson Ex-