

tilize the fields of Egypt, if the Tiber overflowed its banks at Rome, if there was an earthquake, or a famine or a calamity of any kind, at once the cry went forth, "The Christians to the lions!" In those days many a man as faithful and God-fearing as Daniel, was thrown to the lions and found no deliverance. And though, by His providence, God often keeps His people safe in the midst of bodily danger, it is not the common rule of His working to deliver them

by miraculous interference. A few times only in the history of the race he has done this, to help the weak faith of men and make it easier for them to believe in His existence and His power.

And yet it is still true that no manner of hurt is ever found on those who trust in God. Pain, sorrow, danger, a cruel and violent death, any of these things or all of them, they may have to bear. But none of these things can do them any manner of hurt.

TEACHING HINTS

Again one of the familiar stories.

Perhaps a good way of beginning the lesson would be to call up some of the memorable deliverances of the Bible. Moses, Joseph, David are sure to be mentioned from the Old Testament; and in the New Testament, a long list. This brings in the Golden Text, which should be written on the board and kept in sight during the whole lesson.

The lesson turns upon two D's.

1. DUTY.

It was by doing his duty to God and to men that Daniel had attained such a high place in the State. (Recall this from previous lessons.) He was a living example of the word of the Lord, "Them that honour me I will honour." (Dan. 2:30.)

His day of severest trial now comes. What has brought it on? Simply the doing of his duty, which brought honour and thereby roused envy. In the face of certain commit-

tal to the den of lions, what does Daniel do?

Again, simply his daily duty. He prays as he is wont. The act is sublime, just because it is so common-place. The common-place, when heroically done, is heroic. "I ought," said Daniel to himself. That was all.

2. DELIVERANCE. The king cuts a poor figure. He is tied hand and foot by his own hasty and wicked decree. How mean he must have felt (if kings ever feel mean, as other mortals do) when he said to Daniel (v. 16), "Thy God, he will deliver thee." What a night of it he had, and how ludicrous the "lamentable voice" with which he cried to Daniel when the morning came.

And the deliverance, how dignified! how complete! A picture of a great artist has Daniel asleep with one of the lions for his pillow. Without even a scratch Daniel comes forth. "No manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."

TOPICS FOR BRIEF PAPERS

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous. Only one topic should be given to each scholar. Sometimes all may be asked to take the same topic. The papers to be read out in the class.)

1. Envy.
2. Daniel as an example of steadfastness to duty.
3. How God keeps watch over His own.

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

DECREE MADE
DUTY DONE
DEATH FACED
DELIVERANCE SENT