

Brief biography. Throned. Successful in war. Cruel. At last a defeated tyrant. Three scenes.

1. Celebrating his victories.
2. Feeding royal captives.
3. The defeated tyrant's unsuccessful flight.

II. THE LESSONS.

Note three:

1. To what depths of cruelty it is possible for some to sink themselves.

How came Adoni to be such a tyrant?

(a) Possibly, in part, through parental neglect.

(b) Through neglect of self-discipline.

2. Honored men sometimes fall from palace to prison.

3. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

In Dr. Phillips Brooks' Church, Boston.

How pleasing and impressive the architecture; Greek cross in shape, that dome, fifty feet square, lifted high in air; that magnificent fresco, all add to the wonderful impressions of the interior of this famous church. Our seat was back of the pulpit, in one of a row of chairs back of the chancel. "Hiss—hiss-s!" How unpleasant that hissing sound! What is it? The audience is making response to the prayers and the Creed, and the s and the c sounds are echoed back from the angles and the broken ceiling in painful distinctness, suggestive of the proximity of a spirit of evil, hissing its contempt, Mephistopheles like, at each response by the audience in confession of sin or of belief. The room can scarcely be called an *auditorium*, for the architect would surely have found it difficult to have planned a room more ill fitted for hearing purposes. We sat some twenty-five feet back of where Dr. Brooks stood, and could only with great effort keep the thread of his discourse. This was partly due, however, to Dr. Brooks' marvellously rapid utterance. We have seldom, if ever, heard a man speak more rapidly. He read the entire fifth chapter of Acts in *precisely four minutes*, averaging an utterance of over two hundred words per minute, a rapidity of utterance with which no stenographer could keep pace. Notwithstanding this, the church building is crowded, Sunday after Sunday. Few preachers are more

popular than is Dr. Brooks. And yet we believe it true that not one hearer in ten at any service is able to hear understandingly this preacher's entire discourse. He is a man of commanding personality, a Saul in stature; his movements, his look, his gesture, the sound of his voice, are all eloquent. A man once said of Henry Clay that, to stand off on the outskirts of his great audience, out of hearing, and just to observe his gestures, was to get a better idea of eloquence than to listen to the words of any other orator. The appearance of Dr. Brooks at the reading desk and in the pulpit is a sermon. But what a pity a great multitude cannot also hear his words.

His text this day was—

Let him that stole steal no more.—
Eph. iv: 28.

He said: Not the rich alone can be robbed. Any man who has happiness or reputation or health or life can be robbed. The poor can be robbed. The rich can rob them, and do rob them everywhere.

The first step to secure reformation is to convince a man that he can reform. There are many powers which help in reformation. The will of the man; companionship; the magnetic power of others; the law; appeal to reason, showing the naturalness of right living; but, above all, the grace of God. Each man is bidden to decide. Let him that stole steal no more. This recognizes the power of choice. Do not say you cannot; God says you can. It makes me solemn to think