

served because we have been so wicked. If we were good, we might be stronger to resist evils and wrongs from enemies, stronger to defend our country and our homes." Nehemiah prays a few words, asking mercy and help for himself, then takes his life in his hand, to tell the king he wants to go home and help.

Nehemiah was a true patriot. What is that? Teach that a false patriot is one who counts the glory of war as the greatest good.

Teach by contrast: A true patriot holds the best good of the people nearest at heart, loves even the very soil of his country, would freely give all he had, and give up even the chance to seem like a hero, if by giving up he could save and help his people.

To ask that heathen king for leave to go home was to risk his life. Would a true patriot stop at that? To go home was to face greater dangers. Do you think the true patriot stopped at that?

The king, who liked Nehemiah because he was faithful and true, noticed his sad face, and said, "Why are you sad?" "Trouble at home. Our city in ruins, homes destroyed, gates burned." Nehemiah answered bravely, though he confessed afterward he was "sore afraid." "I have been praying," said Nehemiah, "to the God of heaven to help us."

We show how God answered this prayer for help. So Nehemiah came home, secretly visited the ruins by night, and encouraged the people by saying, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore, we his servants will arise and build." After Nehemiah had prayed, he followed up his prayer by courageous work in rebuilding ruins, fighting enemies, and teaching the people that God ruled over all.

LESSON VII. (November 12.)

REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM. Neh. 4. 7-18.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Watch and pray." Matt. 26. 41.

Primary Notes.

INTRODUCTORY.

I will hear what God will speak,
I will listen to his voice,
Jesus' blessing I will seek,
In his love will I rejoice.

Do not allow such words to be sung carelessly, but by reverent manner and earnest word impress that what we sing as well as what we say should be sincere.

The very first thing that Nehemiah did after what we learned of him last week (and have now gone over again) was to go out and look around the city to find out what needed to be done. That is always a good way to begin. Next, he called the people together and set them at work, everyone over against his own house. No one need run



away off to his neighbor's wall to find something to do, when there were broken places just by his own door. Let us remember, too, that we can find enough to do at home in our own hearts, building up what is right and true, without taking time to look at others' faults, which are like broken walls. Each one must build for himself. But there will be trouble, you may depend. There is always some enemy outside or inside to prevent good work, if it can be done. Nehemiah found it so. Two men especially, among the heathen there, Sanballat and Tobiah, set themselves to make trouble. They were very angry, and Sanballat said, "What do these feeble Jews? Will they do it all in a day?" And Tobiah answered as mockingly, "If a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall." But Nehemiah said nothing to them. He only spoke to God about them, and the people went on fast, for "they had a mind to work," and there's nothing better than that. Yet, after all there was

A plot against the builders. When Sanballat, and Tobiah, and many more of the men around there heard that in spite of everything the walls were going up, they made up their minds to stop it. They were not going to have that city built and that temple used for worship. They hated the true God and all his people, and they wanted everything their own way. "Come," they said to each other, "we'll all get together and go up and fight those Jews, and hinder their work." They thought the feeble Jews would be frightened at sight of so many, and it would be easy to stop them, they said, "They shall not know, neither see, till we come and kill them." And some that should have known better said, "Those who have to bear burdens are too weak, and we can't build," and everything seemed discouraging enough; but see

What the builders did. They prayed to God and watched against the enemy. They did all they could and then trusted God to take care of them. They got their spears and swords and shields, and kept them by them, and every one with one hand carried something to fight with, and with