

2. God helps his servant by imparting wisdom and ability in the fulfilment of trusts. v. 5.

3. God helps his servant by the discipline of responsibility, which trains the ability and the character. v. 5.

4. God helps his servant by bestowing upon him popularity, and permitting him to enjoy praise. v. 6, 7.

5. God helps his servant by the discipline of trial, and the endurance of unmerited hate. v. 9, 10.

6. God helps his servant by delivering him from danger, thus showing divine care. v. 11.

7. God helps his servant by manifesting in him the tokens of the divine presence. v. 12.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

19. *What command did Christ give to his Apostles before his ascension into heaven?*

Before he ascended into heaven, Christ commanded his Apostles, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."—Mark 16, 15, 16.

ENGLISH TEACHER'S NOTES.

BY SARAH GERALDINA STOCK.

In our last lesson we saw David victorious over the Philistine champion. We see him to-day in the first bloom of his success, the popular hero and favourite, and the close and trusted friend of the king's son. But there is a dark picture on the otherwise bright picture—the enmity of King Saul. It is one of the sad illustrations of the depravity of human nature, that the man who owed to David the preservation of his kingdom was, up to the time of his death, David's pitiless and relentless foe.

All young readers of the Bible will be ready to cry out against Saul for his mean and base ingratitude. "I could not have acted so," will probably be the thought of most. But Saul was no uncommon character, no monster of cruelty. No doubt if any one had told him while yet a boy, how he would, in after years, act toward the champion and deliverer of his kingdom, he would have answered like Hazeel (2 Kings 8, 13): "Is thy servant a dog that he should do this thing?"

The first point to be noted, therefore, is this: How came Saul ever to be the persecutor of David? What was the source and cause of his enmity?

He heard David praised more highly than himself and his jealousy was excited. Instead of repressing the evil thought, he

allowed it to take possession of him. He brooded over the matter and represented it to himself in the strongest and most unfavourable light. Ver. 8. He drew his own bitter conclusions from it. He let it grow and strengthen, and he "eyed David from that day forward." Thenceforward nothing done by the latter could be good in his sight. Everything served to feed his jealousy.

There is hardly a passion more fruitful in evil, or more alien to the influences of the Spirit of God, than jealousy. It was this that caused the first murder. Gen. 4, 5, 8. It poisoned the family circle of Jacob, and was nigh bringing his "grey hairs with sorrow to the grave." It crept into the family of Moses. Num. 12, 1, 2, etc. It produced the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, with its terrible results. Num. 16, 3, 13. It was this that delivered the pure and holy Son of God to the scourging and the cross. Mark 15, 10. Solomon calls it "cruel as the grave." Cant. 8, 6. James speaks of it as "devilish." Jas. 3, 15. A boy hears a companion praised, sees him favoured beyond himself. He is angry at heart, he feels a pang of jealousy rising up. He thinks the feeling is not unnatural, not very bad certainly. But little does he know the amount of wrong and misery which is latent in it! It looks like a little weed—not of much account—quite natural it should be there—can't do much harm! Yet if that little weed be allowed to grow it will usurp all the nourishment of the soil, and in time starve and strangle the goodly plants round about it. The only thing to do with jealousy in your own heart is to give it no quarter.

But supposing a boy finds himself the object of some other person's jealousy and enmity—what lesson is there for him in the passage before us? There is,

1. A word of advice. We are told in the Golden Text that "David behaved himself wisely in all his ways." He did not lose his temper, his self-control, his cheerfulness, his faith, or his courage, because of the trials brought upon him by the enmity of Saul. Many would have given up and said, "It is no use to try to do the right thing; every thing I do is wrong in Saul's eyes." Not so David. Let the noxious weed of jealousy grow up ever so strong and deadly in the heart of Saul, he would not let anger, impatience, or disloyalty spring up in his own heart. He would not let the cloud of Saul's enmity shut out from him the sunshine of divine love. Here is an example worth following. To meet enmity with enmity is to make matters worse. A collision between two advancing forces is far more serious than a blow received on a passive surface.