

courage in Christian's answer: "I must venture; to go back is nothing but death; I will yet go forward."

*His beauty shall be as the olive tree, v. 6.*  
 He who clothes the stern  
 Strength and Beauty rocks with moss and fern and  
 flower, calls His children to  
 graciousness of manner and kindness of heart,

as well as granitic stability of character. Where God reigns in the life, there will be a gentle sympathy with the weak, a courteous attitude to the lowly, a delicate consideration for the feelings of others, and a readiness to serve. The Christian is called to be not only brave and firm, but also winsome and tactful. "A saintly soul is always elegant."

### TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

#### For Teachers of Bible Classes

By Rev. W. H. Smith, Ph.D., Fredericton, N.B.

As this is the only Lesson from Hosea, the general character of the Book and especially the spiritual side of his teaching should be presented. (See Exposition, Connecting Links.) The Lesson chapter is remarkable for its spiritual fervor and highly poetical images and expressions.

Bring out briefly the teaching of ch. 11. The loving care of Jehovah for His people began with the sojourn in Egypt, ch. 11: 1-4. From that time on, throughout their history, God had been caring for them, ch. 11: 5-9. Get the class to see how in all this process the Israelites had been ungrateful. Point out that their history is a record of idolatry, apostasy, ingratitude. In the midst of this dark picture the love of God shines out. In form the Lesson chapter is dialogue, and the theme is repentance and God's attitude toward it.

1. *The repentance of Israel.* Note the prophet's call to repentance and the people's prayer for pardon. The following points are important: (a) The basis of their plea,—Jehovah's readiness to forgive the penitent; (b) no sacrifices offered but contrition of heart; (c) the confession that worldly alliances could not help them; (d) the covenant to forsake idols and trust in Jehovah. These moral and spiritual requirements should be presented in the light of Israel's past history and the whole New Testament doctrine of repentance.

2. *God's response to Israel's cry.* Here also are several important lessons. Dwell upon the following points: (a) the words, "heal"

and "love". Much prominence should be given to the expression "I will". It indicates the attitude of God to the penitent soul, and the readiness of God to pardon when the condition of man's heart makes possible the turning away of God's wrath against sin. For New Testament light, review the parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15: 11-32. (b) The new relation will make possible and actual rich natural blessings. Note how, when men served idols, their wealth became a snare; here it would be a blessing. It is just as true to-day, that only God's approval makes wealth a blessing. (c) Those whom God pardons will grow in strength and beauty of character. (d) The very memory of Israel's idolatry will be loathsome in view of the supreme satisfaction of Israel in God.

This is a good opportunity to press the question of personal decision for Christ. The great work of teachers is to get their scholars to decide to enter into personal covenant relations with Jesus Christ, and to see that it is actually done and that all confess Him before the world. Such questions as, Why am I unsaved? When can God save me? Should I have the assurance I am saved? How can I continue in the spiritual life? should be earnestly and tactfully discussed.

#### For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

By Rev. A. Wylie Mahon, B.D., St. Andrews, N.B.

This closing chapter of Hosea is a very beautiful one. It would be difficult to find anything more beautiful in literature. It recalls the parable of the Prodigal Son. How far is the saying true that the God of the Old Testament is a God of justice and the God of the New Testament a God of love? It is a