

2. Tell about the visit which some of the Jews made to Nehemiah, and the sad story they told about the broken-down walls of their beloved city, and its gates burned with fire. Show that Nehemiah had a true love for God, and so any wrong done to God's house troubled him. Teach from this example that real love for God will make us sensitive to any slight put upon him. To disobey God is to slight him; to choose our way before his is to slight him. Let us be careful how we treat God.



3. Tell what Nehemiah did as soon as he heard about this trouble. Read verse 4. Ask if this was the best thing to do? Tell that Nehemiah did not know how he could help, and yet he wanted to help. Nobody could tell him what to do but God. Call for Golden Text, and tell what the last clause means. Tell some simple story illustrative of the way in which God enlightens the mind in answer to prayer, and teach that he will do it for a child as soon as for a wise man. Let this lesson strongly impress the wisdom of going straight to God in any time of trouble and waiting to see what he tells us to do, and then obeying his voice!

#### Lesson Word-Pictures.

Who are these approaching Nehemiah, "in Shyshan the palace" of the king? They are Jews, and among them is Hanani. What a sad story they tell! It is about a ruin-heap far away, Jerusalem, the beloved. How humbled are her once goodly walls! How black and fire-ravaged her once strong gates! What a feeble remnant straying over those walls and stealing through the blackened gate-ways! One word from the great Persian king would lift prostrate Zion out of her ash-heaps; and Nehemiah is the king's cup-bearer. Will Nehemiah speak to him? Not yet. To a higher King he must go first. In some isolated room, there he weeps and fasts. There in thought he goes over the ruins of Jerusalem, from street to street choked with rubbish, from gate-way to gate-way subdued by the fire, with bowed head and clasped hands confessing Israel's sin and begging forgiveness. Will not God give him power to plead with Artaxerxes? From the presence of God he goes to the presence of the king, and there holds out the golden goblet that Artaxerxes loves.

#### LESSONS FOR MARCH, 1886.

- MARCH 7. Reading the Law. Neh. 8. 1-12.  
 MARCH 14. Esther's Petition. Esther 4. 10-17, and 5, 1-3.  
 MARCH 21. Messiah's Messenger. Mal. 3. 1-6, and 4. 1-6.  
 MARCH 28. First Quarterly Review.

#### At Home.

... The Sunday-school of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, of Cincinnati, Ohio, prints a full programme for every session, introducing a variety of exercises. Thus, in the "Order of Service" for one Sunday—which is a sample of several before us—we find an essay by one of the older scholars, a vocal solo, a recitation by a boy, the lesson-story told by a little girl, an address by one of the teachers, with songs by the different departments. Yet the study of the lesson is not neglected, for it occupies a prominent place in the center of the programme.

#### New Scottish Books.

From the enterprising Edinburgh House of Oiliphant, Anderson & Ferrier we have received the following new books:—

*Katie, An Edinburgh Lassie.* By ROBINA F. HARDY.

Many of our readers will remember that capital boy's book, *Jock Halliday*. This is a companion story by the same author and in the same vein of blended pathos and humour. The transformation of wee Katie from a wild, young "hempie," to a self-reliant, sensible girl, through some pretty rough discipline, is well told. The awful results of intemperance are strikingly set forth. The picturesque and, in its way, poetic lowland dialect adds much to the interest of the story. The book is elegantly printed and bound.

*Archie, and Other Stories.* By the same author. Exhibits equal literary and dramatic ability. Archie's self-abnegation in giving up a cherished profession at the call of duty, is well rewarded, even in this life. Very tender and touching is the story, "Only a Lassie," illustrating the Scripture, "a little child shall lead them." These are books for both young and old.

*Bible Promises.* By the Rev. RICHARD NEWTON. Pp. 188. Same publishers.

This is a series of Sermons to children, by the American divine, who has such a special ability for making religious truth interesting and instructive to young people. The book abounds largely in anecdotes illustrating Scripture truth. These are attractive to readers of all ages.

*True Nobles and Heroes, and Other Stories.* By DAVID HARRIS, F.S.S. Same publishers.

This is a series of true stories illustrating moral heroism, among both lofty and lowly. A good book for libraries. The above are all beautifully illustrated, and are suitable for birthday and Christmas presents.

*Across Her Path.* By ANNIE S. SWAN. Flexible cover. Pp. 192. Same house.

We have before reviewed with high commendation "*Aldersyde*," "*Carlowrie*," "*Ursula Vivian*," and other stories by this author. The first of these, it will be remembered, so pleased the veteran statesman, Mr. Gladstone, that he wrote the author a letter of congratulation—an honour of which the greatest writer might be proud. That letter is here given in *fac simile*. The present volume exhibits the same acute perception, the same graphic delineation, the same high moral purpose, and the same skilful use of the Scottish vernacular, though the lowland dialect is less used than in the other books.