

The barges shivered. Still the water continued to rise. Suddenly the water between the barges bubbled, and, with a gurgling, swishing sound, the obstruction was removed. The old engineer had accomplished his task. But he was only an assistant. He summoned the mighty elemental forces of nature to his aid and together they proved irresistible. Linked with God, lives buried in sin and bound by evil habits can be lifted up. Engaged in spiritual tasks let us never say, "Impossible."

Inverness, N.S.

The Greatest Sin

By Esther Miller

It was King Saul's coronation day, and all Israel was rejoicing,—lifted up in their pride and self-will and the triumph of their disobedience. Then suddenly came a warning. In the midst of the clear, unclouded harvest season, when storms were unknown, the heavens grew black, lightning rent the darkness, the thunder crashed, and the rain descended in a downpour. Israel came to Samuel, their prophet, like repentant children. They confessed their sin in demanding a King, and besought Samuel to intercede for them with the offended Jehovah.

Samuel's reply is one to be pondered by every Sunday School teacher. After comforting the people with assurances of God's faithfulness, he said: "As for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you."

Evidently the mere thought of neglecting to intercede for disobedient Israel had never crossed Samuel's mind. When it was suggested to him, he called it a "sin against the Lord", and put it aside as inconceivable.

Is it any less a sin for the Sunday School teacher to neglect praying for his pupils,—wayward or disobedient or unlovable as those pupils often are? To be careless in the preparation of the lesson, to arrive late on Sunday afternoon, to be remiss in any of the minor duties which devolve upon the Sunday School teacher—these are serious faults. But to cease praying for the children under him—that is the great sin, the "sin against the Lord".

Well for the Sunday School teacher, and well for his class, if he can truly say from his heart, the solemn words of Samuel, "As for me"—a teacher—"God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you"—my pupils!

Orillia, Ont.

Opportunity

By Rev. J. H. Turnbull. B.A.

Opportunity comes to us all, and is therefore of interest to us all. Some lives are in this, as in other respects, more richly endowed than others, but no life is entirely destitute. Literally, the word refers to what is just opposite the harbor, and suggests the vessel coming in from the deep sea. For a long time she has been on her monotonous and uncertain way, but now the object of her voyage is near. The harbor entrance is sighted, and yonder, within its peaceful shelter, lies the city with its wharves and storehouses. Success is not quite attained, but the way to it seems clear and open. The difficulties and uncertainties of the voyage are practically past.

In life, to carry out the figure, we may say that we cruise before many a harbor. There may be seasons of monotony and uncertainty, but one day we shall surely lift up our eyes and see the harbor straight before us. Indeed we shall probably come within sight of many ports, and perhaps will wisely choose to pass some by, since we have more important business to transact farther on.

Life is prodigal of her gifts in every department. For the one plant or animal that survives, the hundreds or thousands are called into existence. The development and maturity of one must come through the sacrifice of many. So with opportunity. To attempt to preserve and perpetuate every opportunity is to lose all. If the traveler on a journey attempts to follow, even for a little, every way that opens into his, he will never get ahead. If the vessel having any special mission, attempts to enter into every harbor, the special business will surely suffer.

There are, therefore, many opportunities that must be neglected by the life that would succeed. This is only another way of saying that our way must be purposely narrowed