

no wrath is there can be no great love of love. There may be a thin and harmless amiability.

A nation's one enduring foundation is justice. No wonder Israel tottered to her fall, when judgment was turned to wormwood in the gate. A poor old woman had often sought the ear of Philip of Macedon in respect to certain wrongs of which she complained. The king at last abruptly told her he was at leisure to hear her. "No," she exclaimed. "then you are not at leisure to be a king."

The exposor and opposer of bad men will be hated. It is now as in the ancient days of Israel. There are many who abhor him that speaketh uprightly. Our Lord Himself was bitterly hated by the scribes and Pharisees whom He so roundly rebuked.

Seek ye the Lord. That is the great salvation for individuals and nations. "In God we trust" should be the motto of our time. "Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live."

This is a time for intercessory prayer and unselfish service. An old Roman coin bore the design of an ox standing between a plough and an altar. No symbol could more beautifully represent the attitude of the true servant of Christ,—ready for service and ready for sacrifice—the sacrifice of even life itself. Let us win Canada for God.

God expects and man needs faithful preaching. One of John Wesley's friends was much shocked to hear him preach to a well-groomed congregation on the text: "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers," etc. "Sir," said Wesley's friend, "such a sermon would have been suitable in Billingsgate but it is highly improper here." Wesley replied: "If I had been in Billingsgate, my text should have been, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.'" The minister whom God would make a flaming fire, must be no respecter of persons.

THE LESSON GRADED

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

For Teachers of Bible Classes

Amos was particularly qualified for Home Mission work. Herding his dwarf sheep in the still solitudes, he had close fellowship with God: an essential for effective service anywhere. In the city markets, where he went to sell his wool, he had contact with business life and came into touch with the political movements of his day. His fearless aim was to bring religion down from the clouds into the market-place. Our Home Mission problem in Canada turns largely upon securing Christian integrity and common honesty in civic life amongst our people.

1. *The dirge of national deterioration*, vs. 1-3. In the mad race for wealth in the development of our material resources, commercial and political corruption threaten to prostrate our "virgin" land: and unless there is a vigorous propaganda of a genuine Christianity our country may never rise from its degradation. When men who are poor to-day become rich to-morrow by preying upon the national resources, our population, however much it grows, really shrinks, as from a thousand to a hundred, and a hundred to ten,

in the measurements of true manhood. We can never have a great nation without men great in the cardinal Christian virtues.

2. *The remedy*, vs. 4-15. No one who is true to God can be untrue to his fellows. Fraud and humbug are the fruit of irreligion. When our Home Mission work leads to a sincere seeking of the Lord, it will show itself in seeking the things that make, not for individual aggrandizement, through means unwholesome and unclean, but in seeking the things that most build up sound, high-principled, straightforward nationhood. Any lower aim in our Home Mission work makes Bethel—the house of God—a house of falsehood and perdition, v. 5. In giving our religious cause visibility in well-built, well-manned structures throughout the land, we want to augment the invisible compulsions that shape civic life.

Religion is not simply a "flame" of devotion to God, but a "fire" from God that consumes whatever is unworthy and debasing, v. 6. Particularly is an ethical revival (v. 7) desirable as the outcome of our Home Mission work, for perversions of justice and departures from straight dealing and commercial honesty are in evidence in all parts of the