

8. *How his servants are to spend the interval which elapses before his coming.*

The interval is not to be passed in sleep, and ease, and forgetfulness. Look at the three things Christ has left to his servants, ver. 34.

1. *Authority.* Something depends on the man to whom it is given. Authority is, more or less, representation. The ambassador represents his sovereign, the soldier his country, and both must be careful to maintain the honour of that which they represent. What need, then, to be alive and awake! But most of all authority presupposes the next thing.

2. *Work.* The authority is given for the sake of this. The servant of Christ has no authority to bind, or oppress, or to judge others. But he has authority to work, to do the particular work the Lord intrusts to him, whether with the head, the lips, the hands, or the feet. The youngest servant has a right to give the Master's message, "Come," and to tell the story of the Master, to work with the hand, and run with the feet, for the Master. But he must remember, "to every man his work," not the work of another man. And for all work there is but "a little while."

3. *The post of watcher.* It is the loving child who looks out for the father's return, the faithful servant who watches for the master. Are we ready for Jesus? If so, it will be for us "all joy,"

"All glory, grand, eternal,
When Jesus comes."

BEREAN METHODS.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Notice the place and circumstances of the lesson. . . . Its subject—the coming of the Lord . . . 1. The events to precede his coming vers. 21-25. (1) Deceptions; (2) Troubles; (3) Changes. . . . 2. The manner of his coming, ver. 27. (1) Visible; (2) Glorious; (3) Human. "Son of man." . . . 3. The results of his coming, vers. 28-31. (1) His elect gathered; (2) Sinners destroyed. See Matt. 25. . . . 4. The time of his coming, ver. 32, unknown, even to angels. . . . 5. The preparation for his coming, vers. 33-37. (1) Watchfulness; (2) Prayer; (3) Fidelity; (4) Expectation. . . . The spirit of a Christian as here described. (See Analytical and Biblical Outline.) . . . The duty of watchfulness: (1) Against danger of deception, vers. 21-23; (2) To be prepared for trouble, vers. 24, 25; (3) For the tokens of the Lord's coming, vers. 26, 27; (4) With faith in Christ's word, vers. 28, 29, 31; (5) In the spirit of readiness, vers.

32-37; (6) In the spirit of fidelity, vers. 34, 35. . . . ILLUSTRATIONS. A story by Jean Ingelow, "The Brother's Trust." Two brothers in Venice; one arrested and thrown into prison; the other sought him in vain, but one day received a message: "Go in a gondola to the canal B—, at the corner D—; count nine windows; place a dark lantern shining inward on the ninth window, at midnight; wait one hour between twelve and one, and some night I will meet thee." The brother went, waited—but in vain. Another night, and for weeks and months, each night at the same hour. Just as he was giving up in despair a stone was pushed out of the wall and his brother crept forth. That one hour was the only time when he was not guarded; the lantern shining in his window enabled him to work at the wall; he had dug his way out. The brother's faith, obedience, and perseverance had saved him. So we are to wait and watch for our Brother's coming.

References. FOSTER'S ILLUSTRATIONS. Ver. 33, Poetical, 1077. Ver. 35, Poetical, 2392, 2951. Ver. 37, Poetical, 2968; Prose, 12165. . . . FREEMAN: Night-watches, 743.

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The Lord's Coming.*

TO BE TAUGHT. That God's word shall never pass away. That Christ is coming to take his children. That he wants us to watch for his coming.

1. Talk about the earth, mountains, seas, etc. Speak of the sky with all its wonderful worlds. It seems as if these things must last forever, but Jesus says these shall pass away, but his words shall not pass away. Print on the board, "Christ is coming," and tell that this is one of his words which must come to pass. Tell how the troubles of which Jesus told his disciples in the last lesson came to pass just as he had said. A false prophet appeared who claimed to be Christ; there were wars, and famines, and earthquakes, and finally Jerusalem was besieged by an army and destroyed. The disciples knew that the words of Jesus were true, and we know it, too. So we must watch for his words and believe them.

2. Ask if any child ever had a dear friend go away. How he watched for that friend's return, especially if he was to come back and take the child with him to some beautiful place. Jesus was going away, and he was to leave many behind who loved him, and who would be lonely without him. Jesus did not tell when he was coming. That makes no difference to us, but it does make a difference whether we do what he tells us to do while