

v. 7. Go rapidly over the account of the setting aside of Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, all seven of the sons of Jesse; and make as obvious as you can the obscurity of the lad who had to be "fetched", v. 11. Dwell for a little on the unconscious beauty of "the simple life", v. 12. Touch upon the significance of this private anticipatory ceremony of anointing Saul's successor, v. 13.

Show more deliberately how in David's case elements in the background so shaped themselves as to bring the obscure lad conspicuously into the foreground. Sir Henry Havelock, at a time of crisis in India, suddenly revealed qualities that made the whole world talk about him. In previous years of obscurity he developed the qualities that brought this about. So with David. Picture (1) his fidelity and painstaking in tending the nibbling creatures that had been put in his care, (ch. 17 : 15), and illustrate how the insignificances of life become its importances. Laud (2) his courage in defending his sheep, ch. 17 : 34, 35; (3) his cheerfulness, expressed in music, ch. 16 : 18, 23; and especially (4) his religious principle, voiced in the simple Shepherd's Creed of the Twenty-third Psalm. These qualities disclose the secret of a strong influential, conspicuous career, 1 Cor. 16 : 13.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By Rev. E. Douglas Fraser, D.D.

Where the INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY is in use, its cover picture of the head of Michael Angelo's David will make a good beginning. QUARTERLIES and LEAFLETS should be absolutely excluded from use in the class as a substitute for the Bible in the hands of the scholars; but a good look together at this wonderful creation of the great sculptor, will fitly introduce this month of "David" Lessons.

A month of "David" Lessons will be hailed with delight. After Joseph, David is the favorite of the Old Testament characters. Perhaps the announcement of titles for the series of five Lessons might still further whet the appetite of the class. The Shepherd-boy Prince; Giant-Fighting; The People's Favorite; Shielded by a Friend; Sparing His Enemy. There is variety here, and abundant incident.

The first of the series, The Shepherd-boy Prince, presents six scenes. By questions, and by encouraging members of the class to tell the story, make these vivid and memorable.

I. GOD'S PROPHET IN SORROW—Samuel mourning for Saul (v. 1). Recall sufficient of Saul's sad story from the previous Lessons, to show how natural it was for one of God's servants to mourn for Saul's folly, and his fall. It is one of the sure signs of a good man, that he grieves for the wrongdoing of others.

II. A FRESH ERRAND, v. 2. Picture God as sorry, too: for no one in all the universe grieves over the sinner as does God. As the just God, He must punish; but as the God of mercy, He will smite only when He must. (See Ezek. 33 : 11.) But lamenting will not do the Lord's work. When one man fails through going wrong, his task must go to another: that is God's way; for God's work must go on. And so Samuel is sent to the little town of Bethlehem, and to farmer Jesse there, to provide another king in the place of Saul.

III. THE VISIT TO BETHLEHEM, vs. 2-5. Be ready to answer questions about Samuel's fright at the thought of Saul's vengeance. He should have trusted God. Trust kills fear. Bring out the points (they are picturesque): the Lord quieting Samuel's fears by a promise, that, at the right time, he should be shown what to do and whom to choose; Samuel journeying Bethlehem-ward, with the heifer for the sacrifice; the terror of the elders (rulers) of the town, as he comes in sight (see Prov. 28 : 1); the call to the sacrifice (see Exposition for meaning of "sanctify"); the coming of Jesse and his seven sons.

IV. THE SIFTING, vs. 6-10. The pith of the passage is, God's way of choosing: not according to what a person seems to be, but according to what he really is. And what a man really is, is what he is in his heart, Prov. 23 : 7.

V. THE SHEPHERD BOY ON THE HILLS, vs. 11, 12. Anything you may know of sheep and of the Eastern shepherd's life, will be of value here. What outdoor life, and responsibility, and peril, will do for a growing boy; how God speaks to the heart in the silent places: these are points to be impressed.