

placed on a good financial standing. The Gospel brings not only pardon, but help to a better life.

"For I was the king's cupbearer." This was a position of highest honor and trust. God gave his best. It is a mistake to suppose that a dull and second-rate man is good enough for the heathen. The worst oft need the very best we have. The most darkened and degraded souls need the best thinking.

When our blessed Lord was presenting his Gospel to a fallen Samaritan woman he uttered in her ears the most august philosophical thesis to be found in any tongue, "God is a Spirit." Missions have had their grandest successes when England's best scholars, like Bishop Paterson and Bishop Selwyn, have devoted their splendid talents to the conversion of the fiercest and lowest savages of Micronesia and New Zealand. It would be a sad day for Canadian Christians if they should ever deserve Nehemiah's reproach: "Their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord." Christianity will advance over the Church with swift strides when the churches are ready to send their best men and the best men are ready to go.

*Golden Text.* There was once a good woman who was well known among her circle for her simple faith and her great calmness in the midst of many trials. Another woman living at a distance, hearing of her, said, "I must go and learn the secret of her happiness." She went, and, accosting her, said, "Are you the woman with the great faith?" "No," she replied; "I am not the woman with the great faith, but I am the woman with a little faith in the great God."—*Sermon Notes.*

### The Teachers' Meeting.

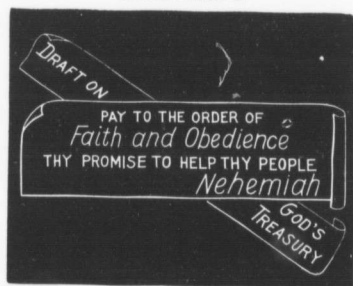
In the study of this lesson do not fail to read the entire Book of Nehemiah; urge the scholars on the Sunday before the lesson to read the book, and to bring to the class their estimate of Nehemiah's character, its traits, etc.... Show on the map the location of Shushan, Judaea, etc., and Nehemiah's journey.... The "Thoughts for Young People" will suggest a line of treatment, presenting Nehemiah as an example in character. An interesting story could be told of his work, and the characteristics which he showed in it.... Another plan might be made on the basis of Nehemiah's "seven hindrances," and how he overcame them: (1) The distance—one thousand two hundred miles; (2) The poverty of the Jews; (3) Their discouraged, apathetic spirit; (4) Their miserable class-strife—nobles against common people; (5) The extent of the work; (6) The opposition of the enemies; (7) The general laxity of obedience to the law of God. Show how God's workers encounter the same hin-

drances now.... Still another plan is to take up the Golden Text of the lesson and consider God as the Helper of his people: (1) The difficulties amid which Nehemiah prayed for help; (2) The purpose for which he asked help; (3) The character of the divine Helper; (4) The character of the help given.

### References.

FREEMAN. Ver. 1: The month Chisleu, 377. Ver. 11: The royal cupbearer, 378.... FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Poetical, 3823; Prose, 11870-11873, 5989, 5991, 5972, 11873, 5818. Ver. 3: Prose, 2711. Ver. 6: Prose, 927, 4592, 4562, 4545, 4537, 5309, 5315.

### Blackboard.



Draw the design on the board, or cut a large sheet of white paper in the same proportions, and fasten it on the board after having written the words on it as in the design. Have one of the teachers or scholars explain to the school what is meant by a bank draft. Speak of what a fine thing it would be if one of us could have the privilege of drawing a draft on some great bank every day, if needed, with the assurance that the draft would always be paid. How rich we should be! There is a treasury of untold wealth, more precious than gold, on which the Christian may make drafts with the knowledge that they will never be protested, because God's "promise to pay" is true, and his promises are always kept. It was on this treasury that Nehemiah drew for help. He was a man of wealth and position; he might have felt sorry for the poor Jews at Jerusalem; he might have wept a few tears over them; and perhaps have made a pathetic address on some suitable occasion, and urged some one else to do something to help them; he might even have started a subscription list with a liberal sum himself, and felt as though he had done his duty; or he might have got the women together, and had them give some sort of an entertainment. But he did none of these things. He went