

upon him. Bring out how sin blinds the eyes and takes all the finer qualities out of life, and makes man little better than a beast. Dwell upon our responsibility for those whom we are capable of influencing for good. Is it true that murder will out? Yes, sooner or later, here or hereafter. (See Num. 32 : 23.)

3. *The Murderer Sentenced*, vs. 11-15. What was the sentence? (Vs. 11, 12.) Note that it was not a death sentence. Is there anything here to indicate the divine sympathy with those who are opposed to capital punishment? How did Cain receive the sentence? (Vs. 13, 14.) Sin makes a man a coward. Point out how mercy was mingled with judgment (v. 15), and how this is true in the experience of us all; and remind the class of the blood that speaketh better things than that of Abel, Heb. 12 : 24.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

What were the names of the two sons of Adam and Eve? What does "Cain" mean? "Something acquired." What does "Abel" mean? "A breath or vapor." What calling did Cain follow? What calling did Abel follow? (V. 2.) Ask for the name of another famous shepherd in the Old Testament. David, who teaches us that the shepherd's calling may lead him to think often of God who guides His people. Were Cain and Abel both religious? What leads us to believe that they were? What kind of offering did Cain bring? What kind of

offering did Abel bring? Bring out the fact that Abel offered to God the very best he had, v. 4.

Which offering was acceptable to God? What was the matter with Cain's offering? It may be that it was not given so freely or so whole-heartedly as Abel's. But, at any rate, the trouble lay in Cain's heart. Bring that fact out from v. 7. If Cain does that which is right, God will accept him. But if he is doing wrong, sin is lurking for him like a wild beast. Bring out, by questioning, that our religion is acceptable to God only if it has the right spirit behind it. Do we ever join in God's praise when we are planning wrong things or thinking unkind thoughts about some one else?

Cain becomes angry with Abel. Was there any good reason for this? Had Abel done any harm to Cain? What awful thing does Cain do? Trace the downward course from hatred to outward violence, and remind the class of Jesus' teaching that we can become murderers by hating people.

How was Cain's crime found out? It is impossible to hide our wrongdoing from God. Ask some one to read Ps. 139 : 7-12. Even the ground upon which Abel's blood was shed seems to be crying out for vengeance upon Cain. What is the punishment which follows Cain's sin? First, he will never get full returns for his labor; and, second, he is condemned to a life of wandering. Try to imagine Cain's future. Did Cain repent? (Vs. 13, 14.)

EASTERN FARMING

With the help of a stereograph we will take our stand in a field near the modern Turkish town of Mosoul. As you look out through the stereoscope, you see two men stirring the ground with a sort of hoe or hand-plough. Its blade is a thin piece of iron fastened to a long handle. One man holds the handle to guide its movements and the other man pulls the blade over the ground by means of leather cords. Cain's plowing was probably done by scratching and stirring the dirt with a stout stick. It was years before his descendants learned how to melt iron and to pound it into the form of a tool like this rough plow (Gen. 4 : 22). But

they did get hold of the idea in the course of time.

Those stone houses in the distance straight ahead are part of the Turkish town of Mosoul. The Tigris river is flowing southward between the town and the spot where you stand; you get a glimpse of the stream on its way to join the Euphrates farther down-country.

To see the queer farm implements and workers in Cain's old home country use a stereograph entitled, *Farming in the Region Where Cain Tilled the Soil,—Nineveh. Mosoul in the Distance.*