

long reign of forty years come to an end—was called man after God's own heart—loved and served God much—yet guilty of great sin. But having repented (Ps. li.) was pardoned. Was very anxious to build a temple for God—not allowed to do so, because had shed much blood. So spends last days in giving good advice to Solomon, a lad about eighteen. What does he urge upon him? (a) *To study God's Word.* What must he seek for and keep? (Verse 8.) Not merely what is written in the Law of Moses, but would learn God's will day by day. (b) *To serve God perfectly.* David had served God, but had fallen into grievous sin—wants his son to avoid his errors, and give whole heart to God. Reminds him how God searches even the thoughts. Then he will have a happy and prosperous life. (c) *To honour God's House.* David has done all he can—has made the plan—collected the materials—arranged the order of Priests, Levites, and services. Now Solomon must carry it out—need have no anxiety—God will be with him (verse 20) and enable him to finish it.

II. A WISE SON. (Read 2 Chron. i. 1-12.) The king dead—David—shepherd, psalmist, prophet, king—the new king reigns. All in his

favour. Country prosperous and at peace. Is himself young, vigorous, popular. People contented—willing to obey him. Notice two things:—(a) *He begins well.* Old proverb says, "Well begun, half done." What is his first act? He dedicates himself to God. Assembles all the people at Gibeon. What was there? Moses' tabernacle with the brazen altar. What does he offer? This a public acknowledgment of God. Shows the people whom he intends to serve. Desires them to join in public worship of God. (b) *Seeks wisdom.* Public worship not enough—must be devotion of heart to God. Question on the dream. What offer does God make him? What does he choose? Why does Solomon choose wisdom? Feels his own insufficiency. David was great and wise—he is young and ignorant, and with great responsibility. His prayer heard—he receives all he asks, and more—wisdom, riches, honour—everything to help the young king. What a happy and useful life lies before him! Alas! know how afterward he fell away from God. Love of pleasure was his ruin. Still, so far, all is well, and his second act was to build a great Temple for God's House.

TEXT. *The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom.—Quiver.*

THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Editor of THE MONTHLY:

SIR,—It seems to me there is something very inconsistent in the Teachers' Association recommending a change in the time of holding the Convention, from the second week in August to the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday before Good Friday.

Those who voted for the change

either believe in the "Christian year" or they do not. If they believe in it, how can they propose to hold a convention on the days specially set apart to commemorate the sufferings of our blessed Lord? If they do not believe in the Christian year, they ought to be satisfied with a secular holiday. Those who are inclined to ignore or scoff at religious seasons