

to it a thoughtful, reverent, earnest spirit.

Eliab, v. 6. The finest looking is not always the best. Like a splendid casket containing a stone of trifling value, bodily height and

symmetry and coloring that ex-
 "Handsome Is That Handsome
 Does" cite the admiration of all, may
 hide a weak and inefficient soul.

On the other hand, the greatest souls have often dwelt in bodies of very ordinary, or even insignificant appearance. Kant, the great German philosopher, weighed less than one hundred pounds, the Emperor Napoleon was about five feet high, Queen Victoria was even shorter, the poet Byron had a small head, Socrates, the prince of teachers, was ugly. Don't be too anxious to look the part. If you can live up to it, you will do.

This is he, v. 12. David is a type of Christ. He, too, stood forth as God's chosen Prince. By His mighty words and deeds He proved

Sketch and
 Picture

Himself to be God's choice. David, with all his greatness, presented a blurred and imperfect sketch of the ideal king: in Jesus his portrait is seen perfect in every feature. By the royal powers of peace, humility, goodwill, pity, service, sacrifice, He has established His sway in the hearts of men.

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

By Rev. John H. MacVicar, B.A.

Samuel, in the light of the Golden Text, has to learn a lesson of standing importance: not to base final judgments on outward appearances:

1. *In regard to what is conspicuous*, vs. 1-5. Samuel could not put big Saul out of mind. His huge bulk kept haunting the prophet's imagination. He "mourned" for him, v. 1. The experiment in kingcraft had now gone far enough to show how short Saul (with all his stature) really fell of an ideal monarch. There was something very likeable about him, all the same, as there generally is about the most wayward of people, if you have only eyes to see it.

Saul had missed his "second chance".

Lesson Points

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D.

It is not wrong to mourn: it is wrong to leave God's work undone. v. 1.

Samuel feared Saul because his hold on God had weakened. v. 2.

God fits our tasks to our strength, our dangers to our courage. v. 3.

The future may be dark; the next step is always plain. v. 4.

"Conscience does make cowards of us all." v. 4.

Not how we look, but what we are, should be our first concern. v. 6.

A vigorous body without a noble soul is like a strong safe with nothing in it worth locking up. v. 7.

We are fitted for God's service, not by the strength of our own arm, but by leaning on God's. vs. 8-10.

There is a whole life-time of service for those who begin young to serve God. v. 11.

As the acorn contains the promise of the oak, God sees in what we are the promise of what we may become. v. 12.

Before we can do work for God we must receive power from God. v. 13.

TEACHING HINTS

(Compare ch. 13: 9-14 with last Lesson, ch. 15.) That is always a serious "miss", Luke 19: 26. He must make way for a man of smaller bulk, but of greater competence, v. 1. Misuse what gifts you have, and you may forfeit both your gifts and your power to use them. Your opportunities may pass to somebody else, Matt. 25: 28, 29. When it became plain that Saul must be set aside, his personality still loomed so conspicuously in Samuel's eyes, that he saw no plan by which to proceed safely (v. 2); but one was indicated (vs. 2, 3), and effectively pursued, vs. 4, 5. Make the point very distinct that men can become great only as they act greatly,—only as their inner worth mints itself in outward performances of conspicuous competency, 1 Cor. 4: 2, 8.

2. *In regard to what is inconspicuous*, vs. 6-13. In the process of selecting a better king than Saul, Samuel was taught to judge, not by physical fitness, but by moral fitness.