

done, the chief executionersaid to theking, that he had never before killed men who showed such bravery and calmness in the face of death. From that time Christ was supreme in Uganda.

Prayer was made, v. 5. When the Emperor Constantine was preparing to have his statue placed with those of his predecessors, the

**The Kneeling
Emperor**

question of its design came up.

The others had been carved in heroic attitudes. Some were represented wrapped in their purple robes, addressing the Senate. Some were in armor, waving swords and cheering the troops in battle. Some were on horseback. But Constantine said, "I shall be represented kneeling. It is thus that I have risen to eminence". And among the statues of the famous conquerors and rulers of the world he that hath eyes to see, knows that none is in a more truly heroic attitude than the kneeling Constantine.

When Herod was about to (Rev. Ver.), v. 6. Why the long suspense? The fruit does not ripen till the harvest time. It is sometimes the

**At the
Darkest Hour**

very last moment, when the

rescue comes. In the earlier days of missions in Turkey, a message was brought to a missionary in Constantinople that the Sultan was sending soldiers to apprehend him on the morrow, and that he was granted this warning, in order to give him a chance to flee. He sent back this answer, "There is a Sultan of the universe whose commands I shall obey, whatever it costs". That night the Sultan of Turkey died, and a more humane successor ascended the throne. Let us never despair of God's relief. It occasionally comes in that darkest hour, which is just before dawn.

He went out, and wist not, v. 9. Was it blind obedience? Faith has better eyes than have our senses. If the flower trembles

**Where God
Leads**

at the prospect of thrusting

itself out of the warm earth into the air which has been all winter the fighting place of frost and snow, it

denies the instinct that makes it a flower. If the chicken declines to burst its shell and venture into the unknown and dangerous region of the sunlit world, it dies. Let us never refuse to go where the hand of duty clearly points, because we cannot see our destination before us. Where God leads, is the only safe path. Where he halts us, is the only secure refuge.

A maid, named Rhoda (Rev. Ver.), v. 13. The humble ones often meet the joy first.

When the triumphal procession of a victorious Roman general approached

**Who See
God Soonest?**

the city, who met it first? I warrant you it was not the senators.

They were keeping their new togas clean in their seats of state in the Senate. The first sight of the long lines of captives, the wagon loads of booty, the strange wild animals intended for the arena, the laurel-wreathed victor in his chariot, with his war-worn and cheering soldiers behind, was the prize of the boys of the street who had run out to meet the show. Zacchæus was willing to climb a tree, in order to get a good look at Jesus. It is not rank or wealth or official position that God is seen of soonest, but meekness and lowliness.

It is his angel, v. 15. An old man once stood up in a prayer meeting, and said, "I am the man who said his prayers for twenty

**How Faith
Grows** years and never expected to see an answer to them. Yet they have been answered."

It is wonderful what even a little faith will do. The man who cried, "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief" (Mark 29:24), had at least enough faith to bring healing to his child. Sometimes our faith remains small, because we do not give it a chance to grow. We forget that a hope may grow to be an expectation, and an expectation a confident waiting, and a waiting a preparation, and a preparation may open into an appropriation. First we wish, then we reach, then we take.

TEACHING HINTS

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

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

Briefly trace the intervening events. Peter

goes to Jerusalem and justifies his conduct in preaching to the Gentiles, and is cordially endorsed by the church, ch. 11:1-18. Note the spread of the kingdom in Phœnicia, Cyprus and Antioch by the first disciples,