

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

By Rev. A. Wylie Mahon, B.D., St. Andrews, N.B.

Make sure that the members of the class know the Commandments by heart, and discuss the statement made by someone that the Decalogue and the Golden Rule have no place in public life. Make it clear, that this code is for all ages and all lands, that it is possible to practise it everywhere. Emphasize the introductory words (vs. 1, 2),—declaring the personal relationship of God to His people, and revealing the loving heart of Him Who gave them this law. Point out that our Lesson to-day contains the Commandments which express our duty to God.

1. *The First Commandment*, v. 3. Bring out that the Hebrews while in Egypt had become familiar with many gods, and that their faith had in some ways perhaps been corrupted. Man must worship some god and these words reveal the only living and true God. Are we so far advanced in civilization that we are free from all danger of breaking this Commandment? Polytheism has no fascination for us, but we are in danger of worshipping the great god self, of serving mammon, of loving something more than we love God. A boy who found that he loved to go to a baseball game on Saturday more than he loved to go to church on Sunday, felt that his life was not quite right.

2. *The Second Commandment*, vs. 4-6. What does this Commandment forbid? Has this anything to do with sculpture and art? Does this forbid the use of pictures as aids to devotion? Have a talk with the class about how the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children materially, physically, mentally, morally, socially and spiritually.

3. *The Third Commandment*, v. 7. What does this mean? Improve this opportunity of warning the scholars against profanity. In some cases swearing becomes a habit and men do it unconsciously. The class will readily admit that it is an awfully degrading habit, that it renders a man unfit for decent society.

4. *The Fourth Commandment*, vs. 8-11. Question the class about the value of the Sabbath to man as a day of rest and wor-

ship,—how it gives us time to get near to God, how it serves as a link between earth and heaven, a type of the eternal day. Make very clear that we cannot forget the Sabbath without losing heavily in our own life.

Emphasize the Golden Text as teaching what true obedience to these Commandments means.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

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

Begin by having the scholars repeat in concert the first four Commandments. Have them also read, verse about, Deut. 5 : 6-15, which repeats the Commandments of the Lesson. After this start, the points to be taken up in the conversation are :

1. *The Preface*, vs. 1, 2. Introduce the teachings of these verses by asking for the great reasons why boys and girls should obey their parents. Bring out these reasons as love and gratitude. Now ask what cause the Israelites had for love and gratitude towards God. The scholars will readily recall the wonderful deliverance from Egypt and see in it a powerful reason why Israel should obey God's Commands.

2. *The First Commandment*, v. 3. Bring out what it means to "have . . . gods," that is, to love and serve them. Remind the scholars that, in ancient times, and now in heathen lands, many gods are loved and served, and emphasize the teaching of this Commandment, that there is only one God whom men should love and serve. Speak of some "gods" which boys and girls are in danger of having. Get the class to see that dress or games, for example, may be put in a higher place than God, and thus be made real "gods."

3. *The Second Commandment*, vs. 4-6. Ask the scholars if they have ever seen an idol. If they have not, tell them about the idols worshiped by the heathen. Bring out how impossible it is for images to be like God,—they cannot see or hear, or love or help. Make clear what is meant by "a jealous God,"—that God loves us so, that He cannot bear us to think or feel wrongly towards Himself. Illustrate from the relation of parent and child.