

it?" is a question the unbeliever may well ask himself. If you cannot be a Christian, be a Stoic; if you cannot live in Jerusalem, live in Sparta. To rebel is useless.—Babcock.

It is defeat that tries the general, more than victory. The Romans in their most victorious campaigns almost invariably began with defeats. Wellington's military genius was perfected by encounters with difficulties of an apparently overwhelming character. So the skilled mariner obtains his best experience amidst storms and tempests, which train him to self-reliance and courage. The battle of life, in far the greater number of cases, must be fought up hill.—Selected.

A friend of mine received a letter from a missionary on the west coast of Africa, in which some serpent eggs were contained. He laid them carefully aside; but one day discovered, to his dismay, that the heat of the drawer had hatched them into serpents, and there was a heap of crawling things before his eyes. So despondency is a serpent's egg, which, if we are not careful, will hatch in our hearts into a serpent itself and poison us with its venomous bite.—Taylor.

It is interesting to find that the serpent which Moses had made is mentioned as late as the time of Hezekiah. The people of his time burnt incense to it, and as it thus became a danger to the spiritual and imageless worship of God, that king, in one of his re-

forms, broke it in pieces. In the course of time, what had once been a good thing, had become a dangerous and misleading thing. Once the symbol of faith, it became the symbol of idolatry, and, venerable as it was, it had to be destroyed, 2 Kings 18 : 4.

Light from the East

SERPENTS—Poisonous snakes were common in ancient Egypt and along the edge of the desert by which it was surrounded. The African cobra, called on the monuments the Uraeus or royal snake, appears often in symbolic ornamentation, and, with its hood expanded threatening all the king's enemies, it was the chief jewel on the front of Pharaoh's crown. All through the desert of the Exodus this snake is still found, and because it glides into tents at night, and strikes without warning or provocation, and because its bite is almost certain death, it is much dreaded. Probably it was the cobra which attacked the Israelites and that it is called "fiery" on account of the burning pain of its bite or its bright metallic sparkle. When an Arab is bitten by one of them, his companions immediately cut off the part affected if that is possible. It is not rare in that region to see a man with only one leg and the pitiful, shrunken stump and protruding bone of the other, testifying to the deadly venom of the cobra and the rude but kindly surgery which saved his life.

TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

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

For Bible Class Teachers

AN ANALYSIS

What is recorded in this lesson occurred at the southernmost borders of Canaan, about twenty Roman miles from Hebron. The outstanding features of the narrative which may be profitably impressed on the minds of pupils are:

1. *Israel attacked and victorious.* The details of the combat are not given. (a) The attack was made by the army of the Canaanitish King of Arad. He had learned something of the movements of Israel in the south-eastern border of Edom and sought to check their progress northward. They

were nearing the land of promise and trials become intensified as they approach it. Thus it is that we must fight the good fight of faith unto the end in order to enter the heavenly Canaan. (b) Success at first attended the assailants of Israel, but in the end they paid dear for their partial victory. The enemy having captured some prisoners, the Lord's host turned to Him for help and they were not disappointed. He is a present help in time of need. When we by the exercise of faith do our part God will not fail us. (c) As the hearer of prayer (Ps. 65 : 2), "He hearkened to the voice of Israel," and wrought judgments in their behalf. He caused the country and cities of their enemies to be named Hormah, utter destruction, v. 3. In times of deepest danger