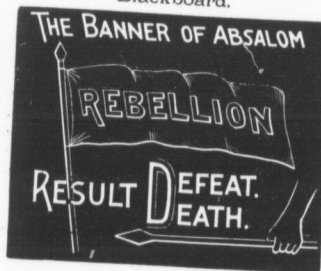


through this valley of bitterness. The end of wrongdoing is always bitterness to ourselves and to those who love us.

*Specific application.* The lesson is evident. Be anxious about the eternal things, and let not our time be so taken up with things of this earth that we lose the things of heaven. Remember that there are but two ways in which to walk, and that "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish." Let us, then, build our hopes upon the solid foundation—the promises of God. And, finally, let us remember that in the way in which we are tempted to walk by the spirit of evil within and without there is sorrow and suffering, and the end thereof is bitterness itself.

### Blackboard.



### TWO WAYS.

W<sup>AY</sup> OF THE W<sup>AY</sup> OF THE  
ISE ICKED  
FULL OF  
LIGHT | DARKNESS  
LEADING TO  
LIFE. | DEATH.

THE WORD OF THE LORD IS SURE.

### The Teachers' Meeting.

Draw the map, showing Hebron, Jerusalem, Jordan Valley, Mahanaim. Indicate the journey of David, and tell the story, and mark the supposed place of the battle. . . . A word-picture: (1) Of Absalom's death in the thicket; (2) Of David's watching at the gate; (3) Of the messengers and David's sorrow. . . . Draw out the practical lessons

of two aspects of the lesson, first, concerning Absalom, and, secondly, concerning David. Show how Absalom's fate illustrates the career of the fast young man of to-day, and how David's sorrow illustrates parental love. . . . Do not forget to show the Christ in the lesson. If David loved his son, God loves his children still more. But David could not save Absalom, though he was willing to die for him. Our Saviour saves us by dying for us.

*Illustrative Notes* gives the following terse and suggestive outline: 1. Notice Absalom's opportunities and advantages: (a) Princely position; (b) Personal attractiveness; (c) Agreeable manners; (d) The example of wise and good men. 2. Notice the cause of his failure: (a) Neglected early training—father too busy—mother a heathen (similar cases, Nero, Lord Byron); (b) Princely position; (c) Ungoverned passions, as in Amnon's murder; (d) Lust of power, ambition for office ruins many; (e) Utter lack of moral principle. In spite of appearances principle leads to success as lack of it dooms to failure.

### OPTIONAL HYMNS.

#### No. 1.

Father, I stretch my hands to thee.  
Weary of earth.  
Is this thy time of trouble?  
I need thee every hour.  
Must Jesus bear the cross alone?

#### No. 2.

The great Physician.  
The rock that is higher than I.  
Tell it to Jesus.  
The Lord he is my strength.  
Go tell it to Jesus.

### References.

FREEMAN. Ver. 24: Double gates, 282. Ver. 26: The watchman; the porter, 283. Ver. 33: The chamber over the gate, 284.

### Thoughts for the Quiet Hour.

— Good men should seek opportunities of doing good. For the most proper objects of our kindness and charity are such as will not be frequently met with without inquiry. The most necessitous are the least clamorous.—*Henry*.

— What is love? Two souls and one body. Friendship? Two bodies and one soul.—*Roux*.

— Good men in this world are in the midst of danger. All trees are set in the wind; but the tallest endure the greatest violence of the tempest, —*Jeremy Taylor*.

— As the clouds of guilt and sorrow are blotted out from the firmament of a man's prospect the sun of his joy will arise.—*South*.