

And when He sent men forth to preach, He imparted to them a power that changed their own lives. Men believed the gospel they preached, because they saw what it had done for them and in them. We can all do something to increase the influence of the gospel. But first we must get linked with Christ, as the machine to the dynamo. Then behind all our efforts will be a force that cannot fail.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, v. 6. One of the greatest of modern preachers had a stained glass window placed in the

robing room of his church. **The Touch that Quickens** The picture was that of Jesus and the man of Galilee "that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech." At the left stands Jesus, His arms stretched out that His fingers may touch the lips of the man who has just been brought to Him. This was the preacher's way of reminding himself and all his successors that the power to speak wisely and strongly comes from God alone.

The day of small things, v. 10. The wide fields of golden harvest began first with a few ripened grains; the snow storm that accumulated the mighty avalanche on **Small Beginnings; Great Endings** the mountain side began with a few fleecy flakes; a few humble fishermen first preached the gospel that is to command the listening ear of all the world;

Geddie arrives in Aneityum alone, and in time all on that island become Christians; Mackay shows his watch to some frightened boys in Formosa, and inaugurates a mission that is destined to sweep thousands into the kingdom. Great movements have their day of small things. It is not the size of the undertaking, but the power that is behind it that is of the greatest moment. The might that moves the world is with every Christian worker.

Who art thou, O great mountain? . . . thou shalt become a plain, v. 7. Within the last century how many mountains that blocked the way of missionary progress have been levelled. There is the mountain of distance.

Levelled Mountains Steamships and railways have made rapid and easy the journey to heathen lands, once so long and wearisome. There is the mountain of approach. At the beginning of modern missions many lands were closed against the missionary. Now almost every country is open, so that he may enter freely and declare his message. There is the mountain of language. Instead of a few translations of the scriptures a century ago, there are now four hundred. Looking at these mountains become plains, who can doubt that every hindrance to God's work will vanish. The joy of success will be theirs who serve Him.

TEACHING HINTS

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

For Teachers of the Older Scholars

It is important to keep the historical background clearly before the class. The foundation of the temple had been laid, but the work had been seriously hindered. Zechariah took a deep interest in urging the completion of the building. It is well to cast a glance at the eight visions, and the special difficulties they had in view. Briefly note Zechariah's parentage and position, ch. 1 : 1; Ezra 5 : 1. The vision of the lesson was given to encourage Zerubbabel in his work. This was a great undertaking, with few workers, limited resources, and half-hearted supporters.

1. Describe the "vision, going into details. Use a sketch or picture. Compare with the

golden candlestick in the tabernacle and those in Solomon's temple. Note the seven lamps, the seven pipes leading to the lamps and the two olive trees.

2. Turn to the interpretation. It symbolized the Jewish nation as the representative of God's kingdom. Its mission was to shine. The object was to teach Zerubbabel to rely upon God. Just as the lamps are not supplied by human hands, but are fed from the olive trees, so Zerubbabel is to learn, "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Had the Jew been eager for great material aid or wealth or power? This was to encourage him to trust in God. He was taught that God's power was equal to his needs, and that he should go forward. In view of this divine help, why should Zerubbabel be discouraged? Who was the moun-