

aware of one part of the duties of his office; more important still, the head of a people like Israel, surrounded by warlike enemies ever ready to attack them, must be a warrior, a brave, successful General, and such David was. To this the tribes refer in verse 2: "Thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel, and the Lord was with thee," the deliverances he had wrought for the people before the blind hatred of Saul drove him into Exile were recalled. But he was fitted for his position, also by *adversity*, driven hither and thither in constant peril of his life, hiding in woods, and caves, dwelling first in one foreign city, then in another, and in peril from those whose protection he was obliged to seek, he learned the lesson he never quite forgot, of dependence upon God and trust in Him. In fact every step of his life from that moment of anointing, not only led him nearer to the throne, but fitted him more fully for its responsibilities.

On the *second* topic show how his first act after the news of the death of Saul, was to enquire of the Lord what he should do; he would not take a step toward the realization of what he knew was God's purpose concerning him without being sure that he had the Divine approval. So teach your scholars; we should always wait God's time and God's leading, "he goes the fastest who takes God's time." Point out two special events which showed the character of David, the murder of Abner by Joab, a crime which drew from him a terrible curse upon the murderer, and which he never forgot or forgave. The other was like unto it, the murder of Ishbosheth; the captains who slew him thought that David would reward them for their treason in thus putting away his rival to the throne; but they met, as did the Amalekite who pretended to have slain Saul, with death themselves, with all the additions of ignominy. His reign in Hebron was evidently a peaceful and prosperous one, apart from his war with the house of Saul, and there is little doubt that the rest of the tribes were attracted partly by this fact.

On the *third* topic so full explanations have been given that we need only press the teacher to dwell upon the religious element in this great national ceremony. Happy the ruler, happy the people whose solemn covenant is by their choice before the Lord. In that immense gathering the soul that would most deeply feel the solemnity and importance of the event would be David's, and only because he trusted in the mighty God of Jacob could he take the responsibility.

On the *fourth* topic show that when the Lord is with His servants, all obstacles are overcome, and enemies are as chaff before the wind.

INCIDENTAL TRUTHS AND TEACHINGS.

God has a will and purpose concerning nations.

God's discipline is the stepping-stone to honour.

Happy they who can patiently wait God's time.

Happy also they who can recognize in prosperity the hand of God.

Religion should mix with our politics as a living power.

The world will often do honour to God's people for their religious character.*

When the Church of God is united, the world will be conquered for Christ.

Have your scholars chosen Jesus for their King?

Main Lesson.—"In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy path—Prov. 3: 6; Exodus 13: 21; 33: 14, 15; 1 Chron. 28: 9; Psa. 32: 8; Isa. 58: 11; 63: 9.

THE SPOT IN HIS ARMOUR.

BY MRS. M. E. BANGSTER.

I have read of a knight
Whose armour bright
Was strong to resist the foe,
There was only one spot
Like a wee little dot
Where an arrow might lay him low.

Only one place
When, in battle or chase,
He feared that a fatal dart
Might, entering in,
Its dark way win,
And smite, like death, to his heart.

So often he rode
When the red sun glowed
On the steel blue flash of the spears,
And like fiery Mars
Without wound or scars,
Went on through the splendid years.

Till alas, one day,
On its poisoned way
An arrow of hate was sped;
And it found the flaw,
By a subtle law,
And the champion knight fell dead.

I know a boy
With a look of joy
And truth on his open brow.
I hope he will stand
At his Lord's right hand,
For the Lord hath need of him now.

There are hosts of sin
That are trying to win
On the crowded field of life.
The hopes we prize,
And the light of our eyes
In a stubborn and baleful strife.

And our dear young knight,
With his face to the right,
In armour of proof is clad;
His weapons ring
With the strength of the King,
And his soul is alert and glad.

But one little spot,
Alas, it is not
Safe from the enemy's dart!
If it enter there,
Nor is turned by prayer,
It shall strike to the brave knight's heart.

Like a lightning rust,
Like a clouding dust,
Is the sin that doth most beset.
In the hour of pride,
By the tempter tried,
That sin we are prone to forget.

My precious boy
With the look of joy,
And the blazing courage of youth,
Pray God to-day
That no flaw may stay
In your heaven-forged armour of truth.

*Witness the intense interest in General Gordon to-day.