

*So do they also unto thee*, v. 8. Strange, is it not, that those who toil unselfishly for the public good, often receive ingratitude and misrepresentation as their reward. It should be a comfort to such to remember that they are in good company. It was thus, as God reminds Samuel, that all His faithfulness with His people had been received. It was thus with God's own Son, when He dwelt among men. The people whom He came from heaven to save, nailed Him to the cross of shame.

*Hearken unto the voice*, v. 9. God gives us freedom of choice, but we shall have to give an account at the bar of conscience and of God of the choices we make. The noblest use to which we can put this godlike power, is to surrender ourselves to the service of Him who gave it to us.

"Our wills are ours, we know not how;  
Our wills are ours, to make them Thine."

## POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

### By The Associate Editor

Our name we inherit, but our character we must make. v. 2.

Gold should be used for God, not worshipped as God. v. 3.

Evils in the state require a change of spirit, rather than a change of government. v. 5.

The will of God, and not our feelings, should rule our conduct. v. 6.

The greater our mercies, the more weighty are our obligations. v. 8.

God's warnings are beacon lights to prevent the shipwreck of our souls. v. 9.

When the message has been delivered, the responsibility of the messenger ends and that of the hearer begins. v. 10.

If David's visible deeds are greater or more dazzling than Samuel's, still there can be no doubt that David's place of glory would have been impossible without Samuel's less conspicuous, but far more influential career; so that all the greatness of which the following century boasts goes back to him as its real author.—Ewald.

There seems to have been no effort on the part of the people to spare Samuel's

*Howbeit, yet protest solemnly unto them*, v. 9. Fair warning, is God's invariable rule. If woe befalls us for our transgressions, we can never say, "I did not know"; for conscience within us, and God's written word, as well as what we see with our own eyes all about us of the outcome of sin, afford warning that none but a blind man or a fool can fail to see. It will add, not take away from, the weight of punishment, when it falls, to remember that fair warning was given.

*Samuel told all the words of the Lord*, v. 10. We should be glad if we have a pastor, or teacher, or friend, who is kind enough and brave enough to tell us all the words of the Lord, whether they are pleasing to us or not. We need plain warnings and stern rebukes, as well as gracious promises and sweet encouragements, and to the former as well as to the latter should we listen with attentive ears and obedient hearts.

feelings. He must have been already well-nigh heart-broken at the evil conduct of his sons, and it was the last drop in a bitter cup to be informed by the unfeeling elders, that he had outlived his usefulness. The spirit of Christianity requires fineness of feeling and courteous consideration of others, and especially of the aged and sorrowing.—Dr. G. B. Wilson.

The supreme test of character is disappointment and apparent failure. When the flowing stream is with us and our plans are ripening into fruition, it is easy enough to be at our best. But what we really are does not appear under such conditions. Let the tide turn against us; let men avert their faces and refuse our counsels; let us be driven to stand on the defence against the world in arms; then our true metal is approved.—F. B. Meyer.

They who have steeped their souls in prayer  
Can every anguish calmly bear;  
They who have learnt to pray aright,  
From pain's dark well draw up delight.  
—Houghton.

Kitto relates that when the English and Dutch were competing for power and influ-