

permitted such suffering to call forth the generous sympathy of mankind, and not to provoke its contempt.

Thou shalt bring in the fruits, v. 10. All over our goodly land, barns are bursting with the harvest now safely garnered. From a

**The Best
Harvest**

bountiful heaven have come, during all the summer days, the sunshine and the showers that have caused the grain and the roots to grow and ripen into a rich reward for the labors of the spring. The harvest, according to the divine promise, has followed the seed-time. There is joy in all hearts over the plenty that has crowned the year. But there is a far more blessed harvest that brings a deeper and more enduring gladness. It is reaped by all those who accept the invitation of Jesus, as Mephibosheth did that of David. This harvest consists in pardon and peace with God, a character reflecting that of the Perfect Man, and heaven at last. Who would not have these fruits? They are free to all through simple faith in Jesus Christ.

Lame on both his feet, v. 13. In many modern cities, playgrounds are set apart for children. Here, with the green grass beneath

It Pays

their feet little ones from the stuffy homes in the crowded streets may play and grow strong. No money, surely, is better spent

in any city than the money that provides these spaces for play. And, in smaller ways, the deeds that will bring us the richest returns of joy are those that help less fortunate ones than ourselves to a happier life.

Lesson Points

A loving heart will find ways of expressing itself in kind deeds. v. 1.

"Affliction's sons are brothers in distress,
A brother to relieve, how exquisite the bliss." v. 3.

Our salvation begins, not in our seeking God, but in God's sending for us. v. 5.

When we obey the gospel "Come", we are sure to receive a gracious "Welcome". v. 6.

Hurts may come to those whom God protects, but harm, never. v. 7.

There is provision in the gospel feast for every need of our souls. v. 7.

"The man who has a thousand friends

Has not a friend to spare ;

But he who has one enemy

Will meet him everywhere." v. 7.

Sacrifice is the proof of love. v. 9.

A warm heart needs a cool head to direct its impulses, else these may do more harm than good. v. 10.

The sons of God should bear the likeness of their heavenly Father. v. 11.

Grace is an ever-flowing stream ; we may drink of it daily, and be refreshed. v. 13.

TEACHING HINTS

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

For Teachers of the Older Scholars and Bible Classes

Chs. 8 and 9 (the Lesson for to-day) present a striking and instructive contrast. In ch. 8, David is the stern warrior crushing his foes by force of arms : in ch. 9, he is the faithful and loyal friend eager to show kindness to the family of the beloved Jonathan. The Lesson ought to convince the class that kindness is a mark of a robust character.

1. *The search for an object of kindness*, vs. 1-4. The rough soldier who had shed too much blood to be allowed to carry out his desire to build a temple, appears here in the light of tender gentleness. Thinking of his

dead friend, Jonathan, he inquires about his family, v. 1. A servant of Saul is discovered, who speaks of a lame son of Jonathan still surviving (v. 3), and declares his whereabouts, v. 4. Make vivid Mephibosheth's personality, ch. 4 : 4. Picture the five-year-old lad at play, mimicking his absent warrior-father, and dealing death-blows with his wooden sword to imaginary Philistines that throng his playground. A breathless messenger arrives. The nurse in panic seizes the child. She trips, and the poor boy is maimed for life, disqualified for the position of either a priest (Lev. 21 : 17, 18) or a king, 2 Sam. 14 : 25. The Jewish ideal, like the Greek, despised physical blemishes. All the more to David's credit is this continued search for such an object of kindness. Reli-