

He was Monarch of all Israel, beloved by a grateful people, and honored by the friendship of the neighboring princes. His first duty was a sacred one—to bring the ark of God from Gibeah, where it had remained for some time in the house of Ammadab, to place it in the Royal City, where all the prescribed services might be strictly attended to. In the course of its removal, a circumstance occurred that cast a dark shade of disappointment and fear over the minds of David and his people. This was the sudden death of Uzzah, for putting forth his hand to touch the ark, forgetful of its sacred character. This event filled the people with so much fear and awe that they did not proceed with their intention of taking the ark to the capital, but, turning aside, left it in the house of Obed-edom. It was a good day for the house of Obed-edom. The ark brought a blessing with it, and the three months it abode there, was a time much to be remembered. David hearing this, again desired it should be brought into the city, and celebrated its entrance by religious songs and dances. It was probably these circumstances that suggested to David the idea of building a house to be consecrated to the worship of God, where all the vessels and sacred tokens of the presence of God might be placed in security. On making his intention known, he receives a message from God, approving of the design, but, nevertheless, declaring it was reserved for David's son, the honor of building a house for God. David at once acquiesced in the appointment; and although he now knew he should never see the edifice, he set himself diligently to make all needful preparation.

David's attention about this time was directed to another duty no less sacred. The memory of his friend Jonathan must often have been present with him; and now he recalls the solemn promise he had made, to show kindness to any one of the house of Jonathan, for his father's sake. Jonathan had left a son, whose sad tale of suffering must have pleaded with additional force in his behalf. He was five years old when the tidings came from Jezreel that Saul and Jonathan were no more. The child's nurse, fearful her charge might be involved in the general calamity, hastily fled with him; but stumbling in her haste, the child received an

injury which rendered him lame in both his feet. Mophibosheth appears to have been about 20 years of age when he came to reside with David—having been hitherto kept in strict retirement, probably from a mistaken fear of David: he is now brought to court, lands and property bestowed upon him, and every arrangement made that could contribute to his comfort, and alleviate his misfortunes.

This period of David's history is that of his highest prosperity and happiness; he had trusted the Lord in the darkness, and now when God had made him great, and given unto him even more than he had promised,—for a time David continued his dependence and trust in God, as implicitly as ever: but the full cup is difficult to carry—and David leaving the simple path of duty, was yet to be pierced through by many sorrows.

(To be continued.)

### A Friendly Hint to Children and Parents in Montreal.

FRANKLIN said "*time is money*,"—if well employed, it may produce money, or what is better. Do any ask what is better than money? *Knowledge* of our duty to God and to each other is of more real value than all the gold in California. And some of this good article can be obtained every day.

Dear children, I shall not have opportunity to speak to you any more for some months—perhaps never. If I go over the Atlantic, as I hope to do in the course of next month, I may never return to Canada. If I should return, I may not find all the children of the city. When I returned three years ago from Europe, I found that the cholera had taken twenty of the dear children from the Bethel school, and some have been taken since; therefore, all children, as well as adults, are entreated to prepare to meet their God.

One word to *parents*, I feel a great concern for all children, especially for the children of Canada. I have devoted forty-four years to charitable designs. I have collected thousands of dollars and many thousands of books for the destitute of this colony. I have been enabled to give some hundreds of dollars from what was left me by a deceased brother, and