

acquaintances with the past you make by one or two evenings spent in this way every week! When you go out, as you certainly need to do, go to some lecture; visit some refined home, where woman's influence will soften you; connect yourself with some class or society where improvement is the motive. If you wish amusement: go where refinement will surround you, and where conscience will not reprove you; unite yourself with a Christian Association, and enter in its works, and be at the prayer meetings. But do not feel that you can do without God's grace in your heart. All that we have mentioned is only secondary. Here is your armour.

THE BATTLE WITH THE GIANT.

(A TALK WITH THE BOYS.)

BY THE REV. THEO. L. CUYLER, D. D.

About sixteen miles south-west of Jerusalem lies a valley called the Valley of Terebinth. In the Bible it is called the Vale of *Eloth*. It is about a mile wide, and is covered with crops of grain. Through it runs a torrent in the rainy season, and during the dry summer its bed is covered with small pebbles. Just beyond it lies the region once occupied by the ancient Philistines. That was the valley in which the ruddy young David fought the giant of Gath; and out of that brook he probably picked up the five smooth stones which he put into his shepherd's pouch.

There is not a boy in our Sunday-school who does not know the exciting and captivating story of David and Goliath. Every boy has seen the fight almost as plainly as if he had been on the spot when the giant marched out, and defied Israel to a single combat. The monstrous Philistine is over eight feet high, and every inch of his huge bulk is encased in shining brass. His spear is as big as a weaver's beam; the head of it weighs six hundred shekels of iron. His impious challenge is, "I defy the armies of Israel; give me a man that we may fight together." For forty days the blustering giant's challenge goes unaccepted, and the hearts of God's people are growing as weak as water. At length a shepherd's boy steps mo-

destly forth to the front. His name is David, which signifies "the beloved—the darling." There is many a family in which the youngest boy is a David, a "darling."

This brave youth carries a staff in one hand, and in the other a common sling. In those days men were trained to use the sling in battle, and could hit a mark almost as accurately as modern soldiers fire a rifle ball at a target. David was used to a sling. He drops five smooth stones from the brook into the little bag at his side, and goes out to battles with no other armour than the protection of God. A boy who goes into the battle of life with the armour of prayer on, and with God to take care of him, need never be afraid. It is not necessary for me to describe the short and sharp contest which the shepherd boy had with the giant. One quick skilful whirl of the sling, and in a moment the stone is buried in Goliath's forehead, and he stumbles with a heavy thud upon the ground. His ugly head is soon off, and is carried in triumph, while the giant's sword is hung up as a trophy in the Tabernacle.

Now there are a great many spiritual lessons to be learned from this wonderful story of David and Goliath. The Philistine is a type of SIN; and Jesus Christ, the Son of David, slays sin. We read in the Bible that he "spoils the powers" of darkness, and "makes a show of them openly, triumphing over them."

But every boy has giants to fight. These giants have different names, but they all belong to the same family of sin. The devil is the father of them all. One of these monsters has hundreds of dens in all our cities, and sometimes you see his den by the roadside out in the beautiful country, too. Boys! whenever you go by a drinking-saloon all lighted up, and with a row of bottles on the shelves, you see one of these dens. Then say to yourself, "That is a den of death; I will never set my foot inside of it." He is a cruel monster. This giant of strong drink. The doctors call him Alcohol; but the keepers of the dens give him droll names, such as "Gin Cocktail," and "Rum Punch," and "Hot Tom and Jerry." But he is