

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

## The Quiet Hour

YOUNG  
PEOPLE

## DAVID AND GOLIATH.\*

By Rev. J. W. McMillan, M.A.

Saul clad David with his apparel (Rev. Ver.), v. 38. A certain cobbler in Glasgow during the early years of the last century had a fierce dislike of ministers. At that time one of the ministers in the city was the afterwards famous Edward Irving, whose father had been a tanner. He won the cobbler's heart by being able to talk with him about the materials of his trade. "He's a sensible man, yon," he said, "he kens about leather." There are some people who think that one knows nothing unless he knows the thing they know. To such persons there can be only two ways of doing anything—the wrong way and their way. Such an opinion of our own wisdom is simply a block in the way of our improvement. Far wiser is it to adopt the saying of a great man, "There is no man from whom I cannot learn something."

I have not proved them, v. 39. "Your father and mother proved it; so do not lightly forsake it." This was said of the Bible, and the counsel is sound and full of sense. They found it a light that led them in safe paths, and never once did they go astray when they followed its leading. In their times of trouble they went to its promises for comfort and courage, and never found them to fail. It helped them all through their lives, and when they came to the end of life, they were not afraid even of death, because they trusted in the assurances in "the Book," of a joyful immortality. It will put you straight and keep you straight.

His sling was in his hand, v. 40. It is familiar weapons alone that we can use with confidence and effect. The Bible is the Christian's weapon, and he ought to be thoroughly versed in its use. Dr. Stalker tells of his looking through the papers of a friend who had died. He had been a busy man of the world, occupied with its business, mingling with its company, exposed to its temptations; and had all the while preserved the character of a religious man. The secret of his life lay open when the pages of his Bible were turned. Everywhere appeared marks of long and diligent use. The leaves were well worn, the choice texts underlined, short prayers were written on the margin. It was all plain how no temptation had been able to overcome him, how he had come off more than conqueror. Before the one who is possessed of the Spirit's sword and uses it, no spiritual foe can stand.

He despised him, v. 42. Beware of contempt. It is frightfully common. A terrorist does not seem fonder of chasing cats than humanity does of despising those it considers contemptible. To a follower of Jesus, nobody is to be despised. When the leprous, wretched and loathsome, came to Jesus, he did not say to Peter, "Peter, you go and touch those ugly people." He went to them Himself. He did not use contemptuous names for Caiaphas, or Pilate, or Judas. There is no warrant in the Gospels for such words "dago," "sheeny," "chink," "scab." No persons for whom Christ died, can be so poor, ignorant, foreign, grotesque, or wicked but that we should love them.

I will give thy flesh, v. 44. Hear the boaster! Voltaire said, "Twelve Galilean fishermen built up the Christian religion. You shall see one French philosopher pull it down."

Ingemoll once predicted, "In a few years there will be ten theatres built for every church." The Boxers in China wore to drive the foreign religion into the sea. These, and every similar instance, only show how foolish it is to threaten God. Christianity was never so vigorous and thriving as it is today.

In the name of the Lord of hosts, v. 45. When Dr. Barnardo found eleven boys sleeping in the gutter of a roof one night, he determined to do something for the waifs of London. He was only a poor foreigner, without money or influential friends, but he set to work in the name of God. Before he died there were ninety Rescue Homes under his care. Now, would this have come about if the attempt had been made in any other name than God's? The missiles of salvation are propelled with wonderful force, when they are hurled in the name of God.

## MY TASK.

(By Maud Louise Ray).

To love some one more dearly every day,  
To help wandering child to find his way,  
To ponder o'er a noble thought, and pray  
And smile when evening falls.  
To follow truth as blind men long for light,  
To do my best from dawn of day till night,  
To keep my heart fit for his holy sight,  
And answer when he calls.

—Harper's Magazine.

WHO SHOULD DO PERSONAL  
WORK.

Saved sinners can best help unsaved sinners. Those who, though in Christ, are still weak and faulty, who find no hope or encouragement or worthiness within themselves, and who have learned that Christ is their only hope, are the best messengers of His gospel to their brothers who have not yet laid hold on Christ. The effectiveness of their message lies, not in their worthiness, but in Christ's willingness to save them and help them in spite of their unworthiness. How commonly this truth is missed when the duty of "personal work," or individual soul-winning, is under consideration! Association Men recently published various "reasons" that had been given for not engaging in this supreme form of Christian service. One such was the following, signed "Business Man": "Before I can do active Christian work, particularly what you call personal work, I feel I should be a perfectly sinless man. As I have not yet reached that condition, I cannot accept your statement that I am called upon to do so." This man seems to think, then, that personal work means winning men to yourself, not to Christ; holding up self as a perfect standard. What a fortunate thing it is for him that not every one has made the mistake that he is making! He is enjoying the comforts and blessings of a Christian land because faulty saved sinners for centuries past have led others to Christ, saying: "Don't look at me, but look at the Saviour who, if He can save such a wretch as I, can surely save any one." Is not that a message that we can all pass on?—S. S. Times.

Even if your joys are three-parts pain,  
What of it? They are the growing pains  
Of the soul.

## LIGHT FROM THE EAST.

By Rev. Jas. Ross, D.D.

Coat of Mail—The oldest kind of armor was the tough hide of some animal, wound around the body. This was succeeded by a tunic of coarse cloth, quilted with several layers of flax. Then plates of bosage of metal began to be fastened on the most exposed parts. From this was evolved the tigulated armor, which consisted of small oblong plates of metal, overlapping one another like the scales of a fish, one end fastened to the tunic and the other riveted to the plate below it by a button, which moved in a slit, and thus gave sufficient flexibility. Chain armor of interlinked rings and the solid corselet were later developments.

Sling—A favorite weapon of Syrian shepherds. It was simple, exactly like that made by boys now—two strings of sinew attached to a piece of leather to hold the stone. It was swung two or three times round the head, and the stone was discharged by letting go one end of the string. In war, stones as large as the flat were thrown with terrific force. Great accuracy of aim is still developed among the peasants watching their grain. Two or three together will select, each his bird, from an approaching flock, and throwing all at once, the birds will fall. Smooth stones are chosen because they are least impeded in the air.

FROM A VETERAN PASTOR'S  
PRAYERS.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the tender ties of home... Grant thy grace to parents in rearing their children. Show us thy fatherly love for us by developing in us like in our own breasts and our own habits. Make our homes prophecies of heaven. Generate there the atmosphere of truth, righteousness, and love. Increase the number of homes where the Bible is law, and where that Holy Book is studied as well as revered. Enable and constrain us to hold our home privileges as a trust, and to bend these privileges loyally to thy service. Grant us thy patience and gentleness, and thy wisdom, in dealing with the young. Let no child, from our behavior, come to think that God is selfish, or arbitrary, or unjust. Protect our children from the deadly evil of having false notions of God ingrained into their tender minds by any misconduct or neglect of ours. Constrain and enable us to stand for God in our homes so truthfully and so faithfully that our children shall, early and instinctively, learn to trust and love thee. So cure and overrule our frailties, and so animate us by thy spirit, that no child shall ever be misled by us into false notions or false ways, or be provoked by us into dangerous resentments. Let the unconscious testimony of our daily life so agree with the teaching of thy Word that, in our children's minds, the one shall ever suggest the other.

Rev. W. T. McMullen, D.D., Wood stock, Ont.: "The Christian church was dear because of its grand history and the grand mission upon which it was sent: to preach the gospel to all men. Until this commandment was carried out, the church had not fulfilled its duty. The man who didn't believe in missions couldn't be a Christian. The universal church was also dear because it stood for Christ Himself."

\*S.S. Lesson, August 9, 1906—1 Samuel, 17:38-49. Commit to memory vs. 48, 49. Study 1 Samuel, 17:1 to 18:5. Golden Text—In the Lord put I my trust—Psalm 11:1.