

15 Then he ⁶ numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he ⁶ numbered all the people, *even* all the children of Israel, *being* seven thousand.

16 And they went out at noon. But Ben-hadad *was* drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him.

17 And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first: and Ben-hadad sent out, and they told him, saying, There are men come out ⁷ of Samaria.

18 And he said, Whether they be come out for peace,

Revised Version—¹ armour; ² a prophet came near unto; ³ and said; ⁴ Omit Even; ⁵ begin the battle; ⁶ mustered; ⁷ from Samaria; ⁸ went out of the city, the young men; ⁹ Omit five words; ¹⁰ Omit the.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Benhadad's Boast, 10-12.
- II. Jehovah's Promise, 13, 14.
- III. Benhadad's Defeat, 15-21.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—Defeat through drunkenness 1 Kgs. 20: 1-12. F.—Defeat through drunkenness, 1 Kgs. 20: 13-21. W.—The terror-smitten king, Dan. 5: 1-9. Th.—They err and stumble, Isa. 28: 1-7. F.—A divine command, Lev. 10: 8-11. S.—A warning, Prov. 20: 1-7. S.—Christian duties, Titus, ch. 2.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 28, 29.

The Question on Missions—12. What further

take them alive; or whether they be come out for war, take them alive.

19 So these ⁹ young men of the princes of the provinces ⁹ came out of the city, and the army which followed them.

20 And they slew every one his man: and the Syrians fled; and Israel pursued them: and Ben-hadad the king of Syria escaped on an horse with ¹⁰ the horsemen.

21 And the king of Israel went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the Syrians with a great slaughter.

Settlement work does the church hope to do? It is proposed to establish similar centres in all the more important cities, in this way helping to meet the needs of those living in the more crowded districts, and also to introduce Settlement methods into country communities.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: 19 (Supplemental Lesson), 245, 246, 99 (Ps. Sol.), 586 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 530.

Special Scripture Reading—1 Cor. 13: 1-13. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 1072, Benhadad Drinking; or, A modern temperance slide, For Question on Missions, S.O.S. 262, Chart. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, Room 626, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, at \$2.00 a dozen.)

Stereograph—For Lesson, Samaria from the North with Its Olive Groves and Encircling Hills (Order from Underwood & Underwood, 417 Fifth Ave., New York City; further particulars, see page 424).

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—About B.C. 900, near the end of Ahab's reign, while Elijah was still living; Samaria.

Lesson Setting—The Lesson describes an episode in the conflict for supremacy which had been going on between Israel and Syria for more than a century. In the reign of Ahab, the king of Syria, Benhadad, invaded Israel with a huge army and laid siege to Samaria, the Israelitish capital. The Syrian king sent an imperious message, demanding of Ahab the surrender of his throne. Ahab basely yielded; but when he sent a second message, declaring that he was coming to strip the houses of Ahab and his officers of all their treasures, he was met with a spirited defiance.

I. Benhadad's Boast, 10-12.

V. 10. The verse contains Benhadad's boastful reply to the message of Ahab (see Connecting Links). *Ben-hadad*; the second of three Syrian kings of this name mentioned in the Bible (compare ch. 15: 18 and 2 Kgs. 13: 24). The name means "Son of Hadad," a Syrian deity. *The gods do so unto me*; that is, destroy him utterly. *If the dust of Samaria*. The great city is pictured as

utterly destroyed and ground to powder. *Suffice for handfuls*. Benhadad declares that his army is so numerous that the dust of the city would not make a handful for each,—a truly Eastern exaggeration.

V. 11. *The king of Israel*; Ahab. *That girdeth on his armour* (Rev. Ver.); to enter upon the fight. *That putteth it off*; after the battle is over and the victory has been won. Ahab's reply is a pithy proverb like the Latin, "Do not sing songs of triumph until the victory is gained," or our, "Praise not the day till the evening;" "Don't sell the skin of your bear till you have caught him."

V. 12. *Ben-hadad . . . was drinking*; at a banquet, confident of success in the siege. *He and the kings*; rather "kinglets," petty princes, vassals of Benhadad, who commanded the thirty-two divisions of his army, v. 1. *Pavilions*; booths or huts made of branches, like those used at the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23: 42), built, during military expeditions, as is still the custom in the Turkish army, to shelter the king and his chief officers. *Set yourselves in array*; all one word in the Hebrew, signifying either: