

why it was sent, etc. Another might tell where Elijah stayed, why he was obliged to hide, and how long he remained hidden. Call upon another to describe the meeting between Ahab and Elijah, and let another tell of the scene on Mount Carmel. The teacher may need to help the children in bringing out the important points, but such a course will stimulate interest and attention on the part of the children. To be taught: 1.) That losing faith in God makes us afraid. 2.) That God remembers us when we forget him. 3.) That God never leaves his children alone.

1. Tell the story of Ahab's return to his home after the scene on Mount Carmel. There is room for vivid word-picturing here—Ahab's shame over the defeat of Baal's prophet; Jezebel's rage; the threatening message to Elijah; the sudden fear and flight, and the prayer for death. Elijah had forgotten that God is stronger than all kings and queens, and that he will carry out his purposes, no matter who may oppose. Teach that God takes care of those who are trying to obey him, and the child who is obedient need never fear any thing.



2. Teach that God did not forget Elijah, and that he never forgets us, even though we forget him. Show some of the ways in which God proved his thought for Elijah: First, he sent him sweet sleep. Then an angel came and touched him, and told him to get up and eat. There was food ready for him to eat, and water to drink. Then Elijah rested again, and

again the angel fed him, and his strength came back to him. Show that God shows his care for us in giving food and sleep and good friends, even when we do not care for him, and that such a Friend deserves our love.

3. Let children name the proofs that God thought about Elijah, and print them on the board, one above the other. Tell them that there is still another. Print above the others, "God spoke to Elijah." Tell the story, and ask if God ever speaks to his children now. Tell of ways in which God speaks, and teach that as he did not leave Elijah alone, so he never leaves his children alone now. "I only am left," Elijah said. God said, "No, there are seven thousand who worship me." Teach that faith in God makes us full of hope and courage.

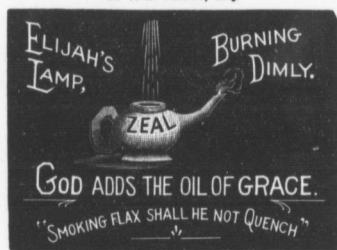
#### Lesson Word-Pictures.

A rough, wild land, and the lonely sky shuts down drearily on this lonely land. No one man can be seen, weary, disheartened, a hunted life. The fugitive wanders carelessly about. The heat may oppress him. There is a juniper-tree. He will crawl into its shade. He is hungry. He is thirsty. Would that he might lie down and never rise again! He sleeps, and lo, an angel bends over the poor wanderer and touches

him. He shows him food, "a cake baked on the coals." He shows him water, "a cruse at his head." It comes again, that pitying angel-face, that soft angel-touch. From that hour of courage and hope, he journeys to Horeb. He steals into a shadowy, silent cave, his home in the wild mountain-region. But the word of the Lord summons him: "Go forth and stand upon the mount before the Lord." And now what a wind! It howls through the gorges. It breaks the trees of the forest. It crashes over the mountain-summit. It rends "in pieces the rocks before the Lord." Is not God in that mighty wind? He is not there, and it dies away. And now an earthquake. It rumbles and shakes and shatters and roars. Is not God in that strong earthquake? He is not there, and it dies away. And now a fire, flaming and dazzling. Is not this his glory? It fades away, for he is not here. It is still around Horeb. A great, awful hush has come over wind, earthquake, and fire. Not a leaf seems to stir or gentled wind to blow, but it is a solemn pause, absolute silence. Suddenly, through it all, sounds a voice, so soft a voice, "a still small voice!" It reaches the ear and the soul of the prophet. "It is God!" he says. He covers his face with his mantle. In awe, he stands "in the entering in of the cave."

#### Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



EXPLANATION. Elijah's zeal, which heretofore has been burning brightly, now becomes faint and dim. He becomes discouraged and weak, just as you and I do every once in a while. But God is a God of mercy and great love. He will fill our feeble lamps with the oil of grace, and he will feed and strengthen you and me just as willingly as he did Elijah. "A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench." Listen for the still small voice that will direct us, each one, in the path of duty.

B. C. 900.]

#### LESSON IX. THE STORY OF NABOTH.

[Aug. 30.]

1 Kings 21. 4-19. [Commit to memory verses 17-19.]



4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Na'both the Jez're-el-ite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

5 But Jez'e-bel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

6 And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Na'both the Jez're-el-ite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.

7 And Jez'e-bel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Isra-el? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Na'both the Jez're-el-ite.

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city dwelling with Na'both.

9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Na'-both on high among the people:

10 And set two men, sons of Be'l-i'al, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

11 And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jez'e-bel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto him:

12 They proclaimed a fast, and set Na'-both on high among the people.

13 And there came in two men, children of Be'l-i'al, and sat before him: and the men of Be'l-i'al witnessed against him, even against Na'both, in the presence of the people, saying, Na'both did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

14 Then they sent to Jez'e-bel, saying, Na'both is stoned, and is dead.

15 And it came to pass, when Jez'e-bel heard that Na'both was stoned, and was dead, that Jez'e-bel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Na'both the Jez're-el-ite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Na'both is not alive, but dead.