

vine-clad hills, formed part of that 'glorious beauty' which made Samaria the 'crown of pride of the drunkards of Ephraim' (see Isa. 28 : 4).

THE LESSON APPLIED

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"Let not him that girdeth on his armour. boast himself as he that putteth it off" (1 Kgs. 20 : 11 : Golden Text).

It no doubt appeared to Benhadad, the king of Syria, that he could easily overcome the king of Samaria, but Benhadad had an enemy in his own camp which did great things for Ahab. Benhadad and his chiefs and soldiers were addicted to the habit of taking strong drink and when the great crises came the drinkers of intoxicating liquor went down unexpectedly before the enemy. That incomparable man, Lloyd George, the Premier of England, warned the folk of the tight little island that drink was, after all, Britain's most formidable foe. That being true, it follows that total abstinence on the part of the whole empire would be now the very best ally we could secure. Why ?

1. Because we need money for the prosecution of this War. All our leaders are exhorting the people to save and invest in the War Loans. In the last analysis, this War may be won through "a well directed cheque." All money spent in drink is money turned aside from the sinews of war. In the year 1913 it was stated at the Pre-Assembly Congress, that the annual burden of drink for Canada was a trifle over \$80,000,000. The immense sum would go a long way toward furnishing those things now so vitally necessary to victory.

2. Because we need man power for the manufacture of munitions. It is a well known fact that in the most critical hour since the Marne there was such a shortage of shells along the front that the Germans, had they known it, could easily have broken through and driven our troops into the sea. Happily they turned against Russia. In that dread hour British labor fell far short of 100 per cent. through drink. Though the need of munitions is not now quite so urgent, it is nevertheless immense and the drink traffic handicaps the output. Dr. Denney says of his own country (and it is equally true of Canada) : "The man who lives in Scotland

and does not know that whiskey means a vast sum of broken time and inferior work is blind."

3. Because we need to conserve our food resources. The War is fast becoming an effort to reach a decision through starvation. Should either side in this strife come to such a pass, then defeat would be certain long before money or munitions were exhausted. It is stated that in the production of spirits there were consumed in Canada in the year ending March 31, 1916, the following :

Barley.....	2,353,273 bushels
Indian corn.....	589,394 "
Rye.....	123,801 "
Oats.....	4,975 "
Molasses.....	14,884,460 pounds

Surely this is a reckless waste that some day may bring us a woeful want. If this empire goes down the wind because of strong drink then indeed will the liquor traffic have added to all past injuries and indignities the climax of a crown of thorns and mockery insufferable.

4. Because we need to conserve our manhood. We need money and munitions and food for the waging of the War, but we need manhood most of all. From the very first it has been realized that the chief factor making for success is the moral reserves of the nation, —those qualities of foresight, patience, perseverance and courage which go to make up the unconquerable soul. It was of the absence of these qualities that Byron was thinking when he said :

"'Tis Greece but living Greece no more."

Do we wish the day to come when posterity shall say of the British empire :

"Shrine of the mighty can it be

That this is all remains of thee ?"

We desire no such day. If ever such a day could come, we should curse it as Job cursed the day of his birth, and yet the drink habit and the drink traffic through the impairment of manhood makes such a day possible. It will never do. This empire and all that this empire espouses at the present