

to the head of the enemy. Jael, like Deborah and every woman of faith, does not go at all beyond her sphere. She carries out her work of vengeance inside her dwelling, with the arms with which the tent supplied her, and gains the victory there ; for women are also called to face the enemy, though it be in the place and with the special weapons assigned to them by God. The faith of these women shines out in this chapter—Jael does not, like Barak, seek a helper ; she depends entirely on the Lord. The secret of her action lies between herself and God. She handles the weapons belonging to her contracted sphere, as skilfully as a man could have done ; for had her hand trembled in the very least, all would have been compromised. Alone (her husband, her natural protector, being absent), but with the Lord, she—one in heart with all the arrayed armies of Israel—fights under her tent. And Deborah in her song can say of her : “ Blessed *above women* shall Jael, the wife of Heber, the Kenite, be ; blessed shall she be above women *in the tent.*” (v. 24.)

With what feelings of humiliation Barak must have gazed on Jael's victory, seeing a woman thus honoured of God, in a path in which he, though leader and judge, had not wished to walk.

All honour to these women ! God made use of them to *arouse* the children of His people to a sense of their responsibility, for once awakened : “ they destroyed Jabin, king of Canaan.” (v. 24.)

(*To be continued, D, V.*)