

in pieces and melting away like the ice in a spring brook. Only ten thousand with which to oppose Midian's vast host! "Another order from our crazy leader," says the old warrior. "We are all to go down to the water and each take his turn and drink! What for, and what next?" Did an army ever go through such a drill-exercise as that? There are Gideon's men at the water, some "lapping" as they "put their hand to their mouth," and others are down upon their knees to drink. And those who bowed down are to go home! Strange! Gideon is a wilder lunatic than ever. Only three hundred, and their weapons to be oily lamps and old pitchers and trumpets! How Midian would laugh if he knew it! Stop! God is in the three hundred. Count again. Gideon's three hundred and God's millions, billions—a countless number! It is a single drop re-enforced by the ocean. It is the finite enlarged by the infinite. What wonder at the result!

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHELPS, HQ.



Draw the banner, and the words on each side of it, but leave the other words to be written during the review of the lesson.

BLACKBOARD SENTENCES.

"God is great."
 "My help cometh from the Lord."
 "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon."
 God with us. Victory!
 Without God. 000,000.
 With God. 1,000,000.

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The True Soldier.*

GIDEON AND HIS ARMY.

Tell that the Israelites were having a sad time again. What caused all their trouble?

Yes, sin; the sin of unbelief. Moses and Joshua had now been dead more than two hundred years, and they had no great captain to help them. Tell of the great army of heathen that came to fight against Israel from Midian and Amalek. The shepherds and farmers went away and hid among the hills, leaving their pleasant homes and rich fields to their enemies. Now God chose a captain for them: Gideon, a good, brave man, who believed in God and obeyed him. When the people heard this, thirty thousand came and joined Gideon's army! They were ready to go and fight the heathen, they thought, but when God said all who were afraid might go home twenty thousand went away. God said ten thousand are still too many. Tell of the drinking test, and show that this proved the selfishness of the nine thousand seven hundred. How many were cowards? Talk of the three hundred brave, unselfish men left, the great army they were to fight, their strange weapons, and the midnight battle. This is a thrilling story, and can be made intensely interesting with the aid of the sounding horns, the flashing lights, and the mighty shouts. Let children help to imagine the joy over the great victory.

JESUS AND HIS ARMY.

Print "The Great Captain," and ask what he needs soldiers for? Speak of the foes in our own land, drunkenness, profanity, Sabbath-breaking, dishonesty, etc., and teach that our Captain needs all the brave, unselfish boys and girls to help fight in his army. What weapons shall they have! Draw a trumpet, or pin up one cut from paper. Teach that the sound of a trumpet calls attention. Jesus' soldiers have something to tell about his power and grace. Tell how the earthen pitchers hid the lights. Ask what light is hidden in the heart of a soldier of Jesus? We are like earthen vessels, but the light will shine out when God calls us to fight. Impress the truth that it is God's power acting through his soldiers that wins battles. Ask how we may know what children belong to the Lord's army, and teach that all who do not must belong to Satan's army. Sing, "Never be afraid."

LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER, 1883.

- SEPT. 2. The death of Samson. Judg. 16. 21-31.
 SEPT. 9. Ruth and Naomi. Ruth 1. 14-22.
 SEPT. 16. A Praying Mother. 1 Sam. 1. 22-28.
 SEPT. 23. The Child Samuel. 1 Sam. 3. 1-19.
 SEPT. 30. Third Quarterly Review.