

love Him, Ex. 20 : 5, 6. V. 36 tells of the destruction of the Assyrian army.

Sennacherib himself returned to Nineveh, where, in a revolution, he was slain by his two sons, B.C. 681. Vs. 37, 38.

Light from the East

By Rev. James Ross, D.D., London, Ont.

ANGEL SMOTE—This was in all likelihood an attack of the dreadful Eastern pestilence which rose out of the Serbonian bog, between Palestine and Egypt, near where the Assyrian army lay. The Persian army was decimated here at a later day, and from the miserable diseased population of the villages round its margin, came the terrible disease which depopulated the earth in the days of the Emperor Justinian and his successors. Here the Crusaders also suffered infection. Herod-

otus has preserved an Egyptian version of the occurrence related here. It is to this effect, that when the Egyptian king, deserted by his military caste when Sennacherib invaded his land, had solemnly appealed to his God, and had raised an army of artisans to meet the Assyrian, he found that at Pelusium a vast army of field mice had invaded the camp of his foe one night, and had eaten the quivers, the bow strings and shieldstraps of the Assyrians, so that, as they fled on the morrow, many of them fell. Herodotus says he saw the statue of the king in the temple of Hephaestus with a mouse in his hand. It has been supposed that as the mouse is a well-known symbol of destruction, and even of the plague, this story is only a picturesque way of saying that the army had been destroyed by pestilence.

APPLICATION

By Rev. F. H. Larkin, B.D., Seaforth, Ont.

Whereas thou hast prayed, v. 21. Hezekiah became strong and fearless through prayer. Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees, because in this approach to God the man is linking himself to Omnipotence. Queen Mary feared the prayers of John Knox more than she did all the armies of Scotland ; and she had good reason, for, with a righteous cause and God as the chosen Champion, victory is sure. Prayer is the symbol and means of the most powerful alliance. The soul has sleepless and bitter enemies, and if we are to avoid injury and destruction we must cultivate a close walk with God, who is our Shield and Defender. Rich, indeed, are the rewards and compensations of what Burns called "correspondence with heaven".

The daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee, v. 22. Oliver Cromwell's men had the habit, just before battle, of watching the face of their general ; and then, with a feeling of awe and sublimity, they would whisper to each other, "See ! he has on his battle face." When they saw that set iron face, they felt that defeat was impossible. Holy defiance is the proper sentiment to set over against the threat and bluster of those prin-

cipalities and powers that muster themselves against us. We are not to quail before the mighty foe ; nor need we, if we are on the side of righteousness, for He that is with us is stronger than all that can be against us. The Christian is the soldier of the Overcomer. With such a Leader we can well afford to wear the "battle face", for the Lord is and shall be our Light and our Salvation.

With the sole of my feet. . . dried up all the rivers, v. 25. Nothing is so vicious and unlovely in its actual and practical results as the denial of God. No

A Losing Fight language can express the deathly curse of infidelity. He who scorns to honor and worship God will fall into another form of worship which is most degrading—the worship of self. Close on the heel of this will come a cruel and ruinous insolence—the pride that foredooms destruction, and which has led many a man to enter into open and arrogant conflict with the Almighty. This, however, is bound to be a losing fight. What derision has the unfolding of history poured on the boast of Voltaire, who, speaking of Christianity, said that what twelve men had built up, one man (meaning himself) would pull down ! The dying confession of Celsus, the second century opponent of Christianity, must be the final confession

"Correspondence with Heaven"

"His Battle Face"