

gloriously imprudent : had he failed he would have been thought reckless, but since he succeeded his exploit lives on and he is commended for his initiative. True, he acted independently of his father, but when the rest of the Israelites were hiding in caves in Mount Ephraim we cannot but admire the spirit of Jonathan when he said to his armorbearer, "Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side." Does success vindicate the taking of big chances? How do we view the, Charge of the Light Brigade, or Dr. Jamieson's Raid, or the Gallipoli Expedition?

*Enterprise and Numbers*, v. 6. The two opposing armies expected victory or defeat according to their size and equipment. Jonathan put more confidence in surprise, strategy and boldness. The same lesson is learned here as in the reduction of Gideon's forces from an unwieldy army of thirty-two thousand to a compact fighting unit of three hundred men. Not numbers, but efficiency, inventiveness and courage decide. So Jonathan believed when he said to his armorbearer, "Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised : it may be that the Lord will work for us : for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few."

Two men of the heroism of Jonathan and his armorbearer were better than thousands of safety-first men skulking in caves or resting under pomegranate trees. There were thousands of temperance supporters in the Province of Ontario, but it took a Committee of One Hundred to get speedy results. One whole-hearted man like Paul, Wesley, Livingstone or Carey accomplishes more than thousands who have no special individualism or initiative. There were many good fighters in the Israelites' rest billets, but two men said to each other, "Come, and let us go over."

*The Assistance of a Deputy*, v. 7. Jonathan's armorbearer was a brave man, but he is anonymous. Without him Jonathan's exploit would have been impossible, but the king's son got the credit. It is a wise officer who knows how much he is indebted to his sergeant. It is judicious in a cabinet minister to let the deputy minister do most of the work. The rocks were as sharp for the armor-

bearer to climb as for Jonathan, and the secondary place in the fighting was strenuous enough, but the glory went to the one and not to the other. The armorbearer, however, could console himself that he had a large share in dispersing the Philistines. He had played the game, whoever got the fame. He would have no jealousy toward Jonathan, for he was not working for publicity.

There are certain characteristics essential to be a good deputy, fine qualities of silence, self-suppression, self-effacement. An assistant minister needs gifts and graces all his own. Timothy must not try to take the place of Paul, and Sankey must make his singing secondary to Moody's preaching. It requires more than musical technique, it requires a big soul to play second fiddle and not spoil the harmony. Jonathan's armorbearer did not hold up the raid, asking what decorations were in it for him,—he just did the work.

Perhaps, if the whole truth were known, the servant's attitude is an example to all juniors, assistants, deputies to be loyal to their chiefs. When Jonathan dared his armorbearer to go, this was the reply, "Do all that is in thy heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart."

*The Source of Courage*. Jonathan won fame by a military achievement, but he undertook it in a religious spirit. He looked to God for help. He trusted that God's assistance would be given, and God's presence would more than compensate for the disparity in numbers. When the Philistines called to the two to come up, Jonathan was assured that the Lord had delivered them into the hand of Israel. Jonathan's faith is the explanation of his courage. His human initiative was the outcome of his confidence in divine guidance. The first step in the cultivation of initiative is to gain confidence in God. We complain that we are in a rut, that there is great sameness in methods of religious work. Yet there are many things undiscovered and untried. The field is open to those who have originality and initiative. The need of the world is a challenge to faith to-day. "It may be that the Lord will work for us." Assuredly, he will, if we look to him for guidance.