

abyss of demons from which all iniquity comes.

TALLER—All primitive peoples are impressed with anything unusual in bodily formation. A man a head taller than all others, would be a marked man even among us; and would seem to be divinely marked

off for leadership, at a time when personal prowess counted for so much. The story of Og (Deut. 3: 11) seems to indicate that gigantic stature and great personal strength were qualifications for being a king in the nations around Israel.

APPLICATION

Arise, go seek the asses, ch. 9: 3. Two trains may leave the railway station, one after the other and proceed for a little way along the same track. But when a certain point is reached, a switch is turned that sends them in widely divergent directions. It is said that the flight of birds from north to south led to a change in the course of Columbus' ships, which resulted in the settlement of the southern portion of the Western Continent by Latin and Roman Catholic races, the northern half being left for Protestant nations. Saul setting out in search of his father's asses, found a kingdom. Thus, by seeming trifles, the providence of God now here, and again there, turns us aside from foolish and sinful ways, to walk in paths of wisdom and righteousness.

Mizpeh, v. 17. Let us give ourselves to the spell of things which carry sacred suggestions. A shopkeeper in Brighton, England, used to have a portrait of Frederick Robertson, the famous preacher of that town in the first half of last century, hanging in the room behind his shop. Whenever he felt tempted to do anything mean or tricky, he would rush out and look at the picture. "Then", he said, "it became impossible for me to do anything dishonorable." Happy are they who have on the walls of memory beautiful pictures of goodness and truth that inspire them to noble living.

Out of Egypt, v. 18. It is a mean soul that is ashamed, when success and prosperity have come, to be reminded of humble beginnings. No true man will despise the occupation, however lowly, that gave him his start on the upward road. A general was once twitted with having been a drummer boy. "Well", he replied, "didn't I drum well?" An obscure past may be a great

source of strength. It may confirm in us the virtues that rescued us from its poverty and grinding toil. And it will serve to keep us sympathetic with those less fortunate than we; it will prevent our growing proud and arrogant.

Rejected your God, v. 19. The real meaning of our actions is seen in the spirit which prompts them. It was a trifling thing in itself for the herald of a medieval king to throw his glove on the floor. It was only a glove that he threw. It had been a glove when on his hand. It remained a glove as it lay on the floor. But the throwing of it down meant defiance, and the consequence might be a long and bloody war, with its train of suffering and death. So, it may be some apparently insignificant act, some choice carelessly made, that declares our rejection of God and revolt against His laws.

Saul was taken, v. 21. Thus the process of divine election for some particular service moves towards and settles on each of us.

God's choice is like the dove which alighted on Jesus at His baptism; it flies over and past our neighbors and friends, until it designates us as the divinely chosen. It chooses one to be a missionary, another a minister, another a choir-singer, another a Sunday School teacher, another a philanthropist, another an example, another a sunbeam in a darkened home,—oh! there is no end to the variety of the divine election.

God save the king, v. 24. When Napoleon escaped from Elba, he was met by an array of his old battalions, sent to recapture him.

He walked out unarmed before them, when they flung down their muskets, shouting, "Vive L'Empereur!" If human hearts are capable of such loyalty and devotion to an earthly leader, how we should love and serve our Lord and King! With what eager joy will

The Spirit
Behind

On Memory's
Walls

Drummer Boy
to General