

erans, who were outnumbered in overwhelming fashion. The prophet's idea was that a minority of one with God is always a majority, v. 13.

3. *A contemptible defeat*, vs. 16-21. The sober handful chose the noon hour to surprise the multitude commanded by officers incapacitated through drink to give orders. Quite unprepared to meet the little handful, whom they thought easily to "take alive," the vast army melted away in panic.

Take as the point of application: Intemperance courts contemptible defeats. Havelock's sober "saints" once saved the situation when other troops were too drunk to fight.

### For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Question the class about Benhadad and his invasion of Israel in the days of Ahab, and bring out what a bully and braggart he was (vs. 3, 5, 6), and note that a man under the influence of strong drink often thinks himself a much greater man than he is. He is boastful then of what he is and what he can do and what he possesses. "When the wine is in the wit is out." What answer did Ahab give to Benhadad's first offensive and humiliating demand? (V. 4.) Although we do not expect much of Ahab we expect something more than this cowardly answer. He seems to have sinned away the last bit of manhood out of his poor soul. What led him to rouse himself up to send back a manlier answer? Note that the Lesson deals with what happened afterwards.

1. *An Exchange of War Messages*, vs. 10-12. What does Benhadad's message mean? This boastful spirit was characteristic of the man who was drinking himself drunk in his pavilion. What was Ahab's answer? What is there in this old proverb which has entered into the common speech of the world which is not true of those who achieve the highest distinctions? There is never any boastful spirit in the greatest of men. A boastful spirit even when putting off the harness reveals a little soul.

2. *Divine Encouragement*, vs. 13, 14. Note that the word "behold" reveals the astonishment of the sacred writer that a prophet should come to Ahab with an encouraging message. Ahab had been the bitter enemy

of the prophets of the Lord. What encouragement did the prophet bring? Bring out that this was to be the Lord's victory, and that it was intended to lead Ahab to recognize God as the Lord. Make clear that all God's dealings with us in life are intended to bring us near to Him.

3. *The Battle*, vs. 15-21. Ask one of the scholars to describe the battle. What was the great weakness of the invaders? What was the great strength of the Israelites? Bring out that drunkenness is demoralizing everywhere and always but especially in war, and refer to the complete prohibition of alcoholic liquors in the Russian army, and the good results. Impress upon the class that what is good in time of war is good in time of peace, that no greater blessing could be conferred upon us than a complete prohibition of the liquor traffic.

### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Who was king of Israel at the time of the Lesson? What king besieged Samaria? What did he first demand of Ahab? How did Ahab treat this demand? What greater demand did Benhadad make? Give Ahab's response. Having got the Lesson setting before the class, by means of some such questions as these, gather up the teachings of the Lesson under the following headings:

1. *The foe defied*, vs. 10, 11. Take up the threat made by Benhadad and Ahab's reply. (See Lesson Explained.)

2. *The attack ordered*, v. 12. Bring out the vivid picture of Benhadad's drunken banquet in his "pavilions" (see Lesson Explained), with his allied kings and other officers, and his answer to Ahab's spirited message, by ordering an immediate assault upon the city. Was a drunken commander likely to give wise orders to his army?

3. *The defence planned*, vs. 13-15. Dwell on the message brought by some prophet from God to Ahab, in spite of that king's having forsaken God for Baal. Make clear the plan proposed, namely, that two hundred and thirty-two young men, attendants on Ahab's chief officers, not themselves warriors, should advance against the enemy, thus tempting Benhadad to break his line in order to capture this small army, so that the way