

Jehu's False Zeal.

2 Kings x. 15-31.

JEHU was a very daring and courageous man. He was determined and energetic—and our lesson tells us he was very zealous also. But—ah, that little word “but!” how it spoils all the record—his was a *false* zeal. A false coin is useless; nay, more than that, a man or boy who tries to pass a false coin, knowing it to be such, is liable to be punished. So Jehu's zeal was false, and it led to trouble. If you read from *vs.* 18-28 you will find an account of how he slew all the Priests of Baal. What an awful scene! Jehu pretends to worship Baal—gets up a festival—brings together all Baal's worshippers in their vestments into his temple—has them all slain, and the images in the inner temple broken down. As he was about to perform this deed, he asked another man to go with him. He said, “Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord.” *v.* 16. He was right in calling it zeal, but he was wrong in calling it “zeal for the Lord.” He destroyed Baal-worship, but he allowed calf-worship. He said, “Come and see my zeal,” yet he “took no heed to walk in God's law.” Have you ever seen a large, good looking apple? Only one black speck outside—yet inside it was rotten and wormy. Jehu's zeal was like that. He was wrong in his heart. He had no real religion at all!

But what was the result of all this? Did God like Jehu's kind of zeal? What a chance Jehu had! But see *v.* 32. God allowed the country to be “cut short” even in his day.

Now let us leave Jehu and look at ourselves.

It is good to be zealous in a good cause (*Gal.* iv. 18). Jesus likes to see you zealous in good works. He was very zealous. See how He showed His zeal for God and for His house of worship, in *John* ii. 13-17. He allowed nothing unclean to remain. How unlike Jehu, who left so much that was bad. Have you got *true* zeal for the Lord? Let us, dear children, try to be more zealous for God and for everything that belongs to His service. Let us aim to be like Christ, and like His disciples in these things, and ever pray,

With Peter's faith, O grant us all
The love of John, the zeal of Paul.

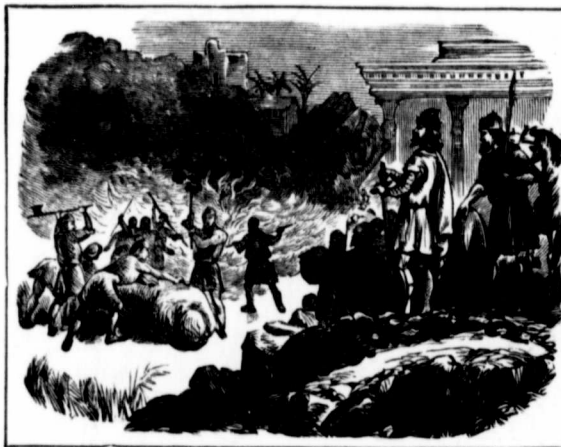
The Temple Repaired.

2 Kings xii. 1-15.

THIS lesson tells us of one of the good acts performed during the reign of King Joash. He was a good man, and loved to go to God's house, or Temple. When he did go he saw how it had been ruined and broken down through the sins and follies of kings and people before his day. Now, as he loved God and loved the temple, he determined to have it repaired. At first but little interest seems to have been taken by the priests, whose duty it was to look after the repairs, but finally the King called them to account, and so the High Priest made a box with a hole in the lid, and set it by the Altar to receive the contributions of the people. They gave liberally, and when there was enough, the carpenters and masons were set to work, and the building was repaired. It cost a great deal of money to make these repairs, but when each helped, the work was accomplished. No doubt some little children dropped in their small coins to help, and by so doing they became partners in this great work. Now, let me tell you a story which I read the other day.

“A good many years ago, more than twelve or fifteen, a number of little girls were banded together, to make money to build a church.

They were very little girls, but were old enough to sew, knit and crochet, and use their little fingers in many ways. They were directed and assisted by their teacher, who was also their Sunday school teacher, a most estimable young lady, who loved the Master and His Church. Now these little girls began their work, and there were two who would take a little basket full of mats and cushions, and little socks, etc., to the houses of their friends, and when asked, “What will you do with the money?” would always reply very promptly, “We intend to build the Church!” Of course this would amuse every one very much, to see how sure they were of doing such a difficult task, yet they most always found ready sale for their goods. It is true they did not make a great amount of money, but after three years had elapsed, they had one hundred dollars. It was the first money raised for building their Church; and at length the Church was built. Perhaps it never would have been, had not these little girls commenced to work. What are you doing to help in God's work, little readers?



JEHU DESTROYING THE IDOLS OF BAAL.