

hollow reeds. Often a certain sanctity attached to the ancient form of an instrument, and it continued to be used in some rites long after a better form had been produced. The modern synagogue still uses at the great festivals the trumpet of ram's horn, which is the oldest form of wind instrument now in use. Sometimes the straight horn of the ibex was employed, and the Mishna permits the horn of any clean animal, except the cow; but the curved ram's horn was preferred because of its acoustic properties. The horns now in use are sometimes carved and adorned with gold ornaments, but no

metallic attachment is permitted at the mouth-piece. In a recent Jewish exhibition a synagogue trumpet from Aden was shown, made from the wavy, spiral horn of a Koodoo, or South African antelope. Not only were these horns used for ritual purposes, but they were employed by watchmen, by commanders for manœuvring purposes in battle, and on occasions of national rejoicing. The trumpet has a long piercing note, and yet considerable variation may be introduced by vibrating the lips, by rhythm and length, a trembling vibratory note, or a succession of quick blasts.

APPLICATION

Joshua had spoken unto the people, v. 8. Bushnell, the famous New England preacher of the middle of the last century, has a notable sermon on "Duty not Measured by Ability", his text being Christ's command to the disciples to feed the multitude (see Matt. 14 : 15-21 and parallel passages). Jesus is still bidding us do the impossible. Take the evil passions, selfish desires, hurtful habits, so entrenched in our hearts, that to overcome the least of them is as far beyond the strength, as the capture of Jericho was beyond the might of Israel. But each difficult task our Lord bids us undertake should fill us with joy rather than dismay. For He who commands with divine authority, also promises omnipotent help. What we ought to do, by His grace we can do.

"So near is glory to our dust,

So close is God to man,

When duty whispers low, "Thou must",

The youth replies, "I can".

Armèd men . . . priests . . . with the trumpets . . . rereward after the ark, v. 9. It is faith that is to conquer the world for God, but faith working through organization.

Twin Engines The walls of Jericho fell, not before an irregular mob, but before a well disciplined army.

"Not a step was out of tune,

As the tides obey the moon".

We serve a God, not of confusion, but of order. Planning is needed as well as prayer. These two are like twin engines, driving the great movement forward to the goal of certain

success. Organization will certainly fail unless God is at the head of it. The secret of Israel's victory was their having the ark, the symbol of God's presence, in the central place. Nothing can stand before intelligent, well directed effort, inspired and sustained by humble and confident trust in God.

Compassed the city once . . . so did they six days, v. 14. It is not in sunny southern climes, which require little toil from their

peoples, so easily and abundantly does the ground produce its fruit—not in such countries, that men grow, who are strong of muscle and vigorous of mind. For the most sturdy and stalwart races we must look to the colder northern regions, where men must wring their living from the soil by hard and steady work. A stern climate, requiring patience and self-denial, is the best, alike for brawn and brain. It is in such a climate, too, that heroes of faith grow and reach their highest development. As we see the host of Israel marching round Jericho day after day, apparently to no purpose, we see them stronger and stronger in faith, until, at last, they can rely, without a tremor of doubt, on the naked promise of God. Then, with a mighty shout of triumph, they sweep everything before them.

Rose early in the morning . . . about the dawning of the day, vs. 12, 15. The Jericho region is hot, of course. It is a deep, narrow, sun

scorched valley. f.r below the level of the sea. Prudence, therefore, and convenience, suggested the early morning hour for the march.

Men of the Northern Zone