

and industrial concerns to pass by those who drink and enlist in their service only those who are abstainers is a striking witness to the practical value of temperance.

Said Khama, the African chieftain, when he pleaded with Queen Victoria that "not a little door" be left open to the trade for the introduction of alcoholic drinks among his people: "I dread the white man's drink more than all the assegais of the Matabele, which kill men's bodies, but drink destroys both soul and body forever." The very intimate relationship between drinking and crime is evidence enough of how this form of self-indulgence tends to blunt the moral sense and undermine the spiritual life. Body, mind and spirit interact, and the whole man suffers who drinks. It does kill the soul as well as the body.

The testimony of George Kennan to the beneficial effects of prohibition in Russia is instructive. "The efficiency of labor and the savings of labor have increased more than 50 per cent.; the peasant population is better dressed and better fed than it has ever been before; and crime, disorder, fires, and

'hooliganism' have everywhere decreased." A correspondent puts it thus: "The prohibition of the sale of vodka has affected the life of both peasants and artisans in the most beneficial way. All of their earnings are now spent for useful things or in domestic improvements. In the streets of the village one no longer hears indecent songs or sounds of revelry, and in the families there are now no drunken quarrels or fights. On holidays the village is quiet. The people sit at home in an orderly way and talk about their domestic affairs. You will not see in the streets a single intoxicated man, nor hear a single abusive word. The wives and children of drunkards are praying God to bless the Government which has forbidden the sale of vodka. In a word, since the vodka shops closed, the people have been reborn. All now is peace and quiet."

With hardly a single exception, careful observers note a spiritual uplift and a moral regeneration. This seems a day of special opportunity for our temperance workers. May our great Sunday School army prove equal to the occasion!

THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of Bible Classes

Discuss the situation in regard to the war declared against Israel by the 32 confederate princes, ch. 20:1. Ahab, unable to meet so vast an army, shut himself up, and was besieged, in Samaria. Benhadad would not have attacked him there, had not his judgment been unsettled by intemperance, which prevented him from thinking clearly enough to see the menace from the Assyrians on the north. Bismarck advised Germany to make friends of the British. They disregarded that counsel. If any advice was given Benhadad to make friends with Israel, it was ignored. The following are the points to bring out:

1. *An insulting ultimatum*, vs. 10-12. The besieged forces of Ahab were reduced to sore straits. Ambassadors appeared, laying claim to all that Ahab had. With degrading submission, he at first allowed the claim, v. 4.

A more insolent threat (v. 6) roused in Ahab the courage of despair. He laid before his counsel the terms demanded by Benhadad, and under their advice these terms were refused. Benhadad then announced his purpose to shatter Samaria into dust, v. 10. Ahab quoted a proverb in reply, v. 11. It was the most king-like flash of dignity in his whole career: as if he had said: "The time to crow and clap your wings is after you have fought." The message was carried into Benhadad's war-booths when drinking himself drunk. In tipsy fury, he gave orders to set the siege-train in motion, and catapults, battering-rams and scaling ladders advanced.

2. *A supernatural encouragement*, vs. 13-15. A nameless prophet sought Ahab. Pointing to possibly 130,000 archers and a great array of chariots he promised they should be routed. "By whom?" demanded the perplexed king. "By the young men," was the answer. "Who will lead them?" "Thou." He counted 232 young men and 7,000 vet-