

God, he would sing: "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside the still waters." Sometimes this tranquil enjoyment was exchanged for the stern struggle to protect his flocks. He then became the fearless fighter, slaying the lion and the bear, and, like a good shepherd, risking his life for his sheep. Here are two apparently opposite qualities, calmness and boldness. But they are not inconsistent. They are combined in the character of the Christian, for the believer, calm in disposition and kindly in heart, is changed into an Hercules of power when combatting sin in its various forms.

#### CONFLICT WITH THE GIANT.

The details of this memorable event will be found in the seventeenth chapter of First Samuel, and need not be repeated here. It appears, however, that religion was on the decline in Israel, when there was no one but David to meet the mighty Philistine. But, however, indifference to God and lack of faith in Providence had seized the majority of the people, David was still firm in trust and service, still confident that God, if his people would be faithful, would fight their battles for them. He acted accordingly. He faced the formidable Goliath of Gath. But he recognized the importance of the use of means, as he carefully selected the five smooth stones from the brook, and got ready his sling for action. We all know how the combat ended—a decided victory for the forces of Israel. The lesson is evident—faith in God, the use of appropriate means, courage of heart,—and final victory.

#### HE BECOMES KING.

After a long and eventful warfare, he became king. One of his first acts was to bring the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem, and establish divine worship in the capital of his kingdom. In his prosperity, he did not forget God, the Giver of his success. The annual entry of the ark into the holy city is celebrated most beautifully in Psalm twenty-four, where the responses can be clearly distinguished, and the high note of joy be discerned. How essential that in our capital at Ottawa; at Washington; at London; in all great cities of the world, that the ark of the Lord might find a place, and the principles of true religion be constantly recognized. How important that in the citadel of the heart Christ should rule, and dominate all inward and outward things!

#### DAVID'S FALL.

This great man had an awful fall into sin. His action cannot in any way be condoned. It was a fearful crime. He was a man of fifty-three years of age at the time, and should have had the wisdom of experience as well as reliance upon God, to resist any form of sin. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." The Christian is the good fight of faith until the end. There is no respite in the conflict. How this sin of David has given some men since his day the chance they so dearly love to get, of railing at religion, and pointing the finger of scorn at the Christian profession. David was never the same man afterwards. There was sadness in all his subsequent life. He was severely punished by God for his crime. His son Absalom was slain. He was driven from Jerusalem, and trouble and conflict marked much of his after career. But though his sin was great, his repentance was great. Read the fifty-first Psalm for a specimen of his sincere penitence. God showed mercy towards and restored him to his favor, showing that when men fall from the right path, if they will return to God in sincere penitence

of heart, he will have mercy and forgive.

#### DAVID'S LAST ACT.

The last public act of David was the collecting of materials of the temple. He was not permitted to build it, because he had been a man of war. But although he knew he could never see the structure, or worship in it, he did what he could to make the building possible. It was a noble, self-sacrificing act, looking toward the benefit of generations yet to be. Just so, every one who lives in this world can do something, and ought to do a good deal, to make the coming decades better than those that have gone. By a consistent life, a noble character, Christ-like actions, generous foresight, each one can contribute to the well-being of succeeding generations.

#### SCINTILLATIONS.

If God could raise King David from among his sheep, he can raise you from your grocery store, your wood-yard, or your kitchen.

The taller our Goliath is, the nearer does his head come to the throne of God, where stands our Almighty Helper.

David succeeded where Saul failed, because David obeyed where Saul disobeyed. Success is simply a matter of obedience.

David, after conquering many foes, fell because he could not control his own passions. No outer conquest, though it be of the whole world, is of any avail without the inner conquest.

David's Psalms have gone to the heart of the world because they came from the heart of David. Speak from your own lives, if you would influence other lives.

The temple was no less David's because it was Solomon's, since Solomon was David's. God will always take the will for the deed, when the deed is impossible.

David was doubly David while Jonathan was alive. Are you getting as much out of friendship as David and Jonathan did?

The word "king" comes from the German word meaning "can." David became king because he was a king!

Saul had his good points, and David had bad ones, but David's sins were ruffles on an upward wave, and Saul's virtues were ruffles on a downward wave. What is the main direction of your life?

#### POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Again, have some member prepare a brief biography of David. It is a most interesting life. After it is read, have a review of the facts in the form of question and answer. Then have some one else prepare a brief paper or talk on "Prominent points in the career of David." You will find help in the foregoing article. It would be appropriate to have a conversational service for a short time, with this question before the meeting: "What can I imitate and what can I avoid in the life of David."

#### NOV. 3.—"GREAT MEN OF THE BIBLE: WHAT ELIJAH TEACHES US."

2 Kings 2: 1-12; Matt. 11: 14; Jas. 5: 17, 18.

#### HOME READINGS.

Mon., Nov. 2. That God will provide. . . 1 Kings 17: 1-4  
Tues., Nov. 3. That power is for service. 1 Kings 17: 21-24  
Wed., Nov. 4. That God hates sin. . . 1 Kings 18: 40-46  
Thurs., Nov. 5. That the best men fail. . . 1 Kings 19: 1-19  
Fri., Nov. 6. To train our successors. . . 1 Kings 19: 19-21  
Sat., Nov. 7. That God gives victories. . . 2 Kings 1: 1-18

Elijah was a stern and brave and devoted servant of God. He was like a meteor attracting attention by his brilliancy. Many looked upon him as a supernatural being, but James sweeps away that notion by saying: "He was a

man subject to like passions as we are." He was a man, but a man of God. He had been an eminent reformer and religious teacher, and at a time when much opposition was made to the cause of Jehovah, He had restored idolatrous Israel to the faith of their fathers. He had opposed wickedness in high places, and had been a strong factor in establishing righteousness throughout the land.

Now, what were the qualities of this man that made him such a great, moral and religious force?

1. Elijah was a Man of Unmovable Faith in God and Revealed Truth.—The age in which he lived was one of religious vacillation. The multitudes halted between the claims of Jehovah and those of Baal. But Elijah's faith was clear, sharp-cut, well-defined. There was no doubt as to his position, no ambiguity as to his utterances. He was a firm and fast believer, a man of undoubted and unquestioning attachment to God. How much needed is this quality these days! We are fallen upon times when it is fashionable to say that it is conceded a mark of intellectual independence to cavil at creeds, and question orthodox truth. The young people of to-day need a double portion of the Elijah spirit that expresses itself in the words: "As the Lord liveth before whom I stand."

2. Elijah was a Man of Courage to Avow and Maintain His Convictions.—Not Ahab, the king, with all his power and insolence can intimidate him. Single-handed he enters the lists against the four hundred and fifty priests of Baal with all their princely retinue and prestige at the royal court. It is nothing to him that he is on the unpopular side. He is right, that is enough for him. How much needed is this quality—courage to avow and maintain moral and religious convictions. There are too many trimmers, and time-servers, and weather-vanes following the direction of the popular current. We need in these times men who will stand up for the right, who will stand up in the face of the whole world and glory in their convictions.

#### AN ILLUSTRATION.

As Luther drew near the door which was about to admit him into the presence of his judges at the Diet of Worms, where he was to be tried for his change of religious belief, he met a valiant general. The famous military leader, seeing Luther pass, tapped him on the shoulder, and said kindly: "Poor monk, poor monk, thou art now going to make a nobler stand than I or any other captains have ever made in the bloodstain of our battles. But if 'thou cause is just, and thou art sure of it, go forward in God's name, and fear nothing. God will not forsake thee." We are well aware how Luther went forward, and how he was crowned victor, and subsequently set Protestantism on foot, a blessing to the world.

3. Elijah was a Man of Incorruptible Integrity and Regard for the Principles of Honor. Elijah not only could not be intimidated, but he could not be bought. The higher honors, and greatest emoluments of the kingdom would have been at his disposal, if he had been willing to sacrifice convictions, and join in the orgies of Baal-worship. But nothing could induce him to desert the cause he believed to be right. He had not an "itching palm" for bribes. With his other qualities he was an honest, honorable man. These days, too, the same quality is a tower of strength. Character must be put above all price. There must be honesty in all commercial transactions, truthfulness in all social relationships, justice and impartiality in the management of all public trusts. Of such a quality may a double portion be secured in the young people of Methodism in this age, when embezzlement and defalcations and political bribery are about us on every hand.