

in his fall is at length revived, for they say :  
 " The children of Benjamin my brother " (ver. 23).  
 How worthy of God was such a result ! It was  
 not victory but defeat which brought about these  
 things, blessed fruits of the discipline, and mean-  
 while other fruits were yet to be produced. " And  
 Jehovah said, go up against him."

Eighteen thousand men of the children of Israel  
 were destroyed down to the ground in the second  
 defeat. Then, in the first place, " *All* the children  
 of Israel, and *all* the people went up, and came  
 unto the house of God." No one was missing ;  
 they were unanimous in seeking Jehovah. Sec-  
 ondly : Instead of weeping until even, they wept,  
 and sat there before Jehovah. Their sorrow  
 before God was deepened and of longer duration.  
 Thirdly : They " fasted that day until even." That  
 was more than sorrow ; it was humiliation,  
 judgment of the flesh and repentance. Fourthly  
 and fifthly : They " offered burnt offerings and  
 peace offerings before Jehovah." They recovered  
 those two things of inestimable value, a true sense  
 of the value of the sacrifice and of communion.  
 Dependence on the word of God and the realization  
 of His presence became more highly valued,  
 through God's discipline. The people had the  
 consciousness of being before God Himself, who  
 dwelleth between the cherubims over the ark, and  
 drew near to Him, by a living High Priest who  
 interceded for Israel. Sixthly : Their own will  
 was at last completely broken. " Shall I yet again