

APPLICATION

Saul clad David with his apparel. (Rev. Ver.), v. 38. A certain cobbler in Glasgow during the early years of the last century had a fierce dislike of ministers. At that time one of the ministers in the city was the afterwards famous Edward Irving, whose father had been a tanner. He won the cobbler's heart by being able to talk with him about the materials of his trade. "He's a sensible man, yon", he said, "he kens aboot leather." There are some people who think that one knows nothing unless he knows the thing they know. To such persons there can be only two ways of doing anything,—the wrong way and their way. Such an opinion of our own wisdom is simply a block in the way of our improvement. Far wiser is it to adopt the saying of a great man, "There is no man from whom I cannot learn something".

I have not proved them, v. 39. "Your father and mother proved it; so do not lightly forsake it." This was said of the Bible, and the counsel is sound and full of sense. They found it a light that led them in safe paths, and never once did they go astray when they followed its leading. In their times of trouble they went to its promises for comfort and courage, and never found them to fail. It helped them all through their lives, and when they came to the end of life, they were not afraid even of death, because they trusted in the assurances in "the Book", of a joyful immortality. It will put you straight and keep you straight.

His sling was in his hand, v. 40. It is familiar weapons alone that we can use with confidence and effect. The Bible is the Christian's weapon, and he ought to be thoroughly versed in its use. Dr. Stalker tells of his looking through the papers of a friend who had died. He had been a busy man of the world, occupied with its business, mingling with its company, exposed to its temptations; and had all the while preserved the character of a religious man. The secret of his life lay open when the pages of his Bible were turned. Everywhere appeared marks of long and diligent use. The leaves were

well worn, the choice texts underlined, short prayers were written on the margin. It was all plain how no temptation had been able to overcome him, how he had come off more than conqueror. Before the one who is possessed of the Spirit's sword and uses it, no spiritual foe can stand.

He disdained him, v. 42. Beware of contempt. It is frightfully common. A terrier does not seem fonder of chasing cats than humanity does of despising those it considers contemptible.

Nobody to be Despised To a follower of Jesus, nobody is to be despised. When the lepers, wretched and loathsome, came to Jesus, he did not say to Peter, "Peter, you go and touch those ugly people". He went to them Himself. He did not use contemptuous names for Caiaphas, or Pilate, or Judas. There is no warrant in the Gospels for such words "dago", "sheeny", "chink", "scab". No persons for whom Christ died, can be so poor, ignorant, foreign, grotesque, or wicked but that we should love them.

I will give thy flesh, v. 44. Hear the boaster! Voltaire said, "Twelve Galilean fishermen built up the Christian religion. You shall see one French philosopher pull it down". Ingersoll once predicted, "In a few years there will be ten theatres built for every church". The Boxers in China swore to drive the foreign religion into the sea. These, and every similar instance, only show how foolish it is to threaten God. Christianity was never so vigorous and thriving as it is to-day.

In the name of the Lord of hosts, v. 45. When Dr. Barnardo found eleven boys sleeping in the gutter of a roof one night, he determined to do something for the waifs of London. He was only a poor foreigner, without money or influential friends, but he set to work in the name of God. Before he died there were ninety Rescue Homes under his care. Now, would this have come about if the attempt had been made in any other name than God's? The missiles of salvation are propelled with wonderful force, when they are hurled in the name of God.

The Weapon That Wins ought to be thoroughly versed in its use. Dr. Stalker tells of his looking through the papers of a friend who had died. He had been a busy man of the world, occupied with its business, mingling with its company, exposed to its temptations; and had all the while preserved the character of a religious man. The secret of his life lay open when the pages of his Bible were turned. Everywhere appeared marks of long and diligent use. The leaves were