

# EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

**Verse 1. He had made an end.** Saul did not recognize the minstrel-boy in the young champion, and obtained from David an account of his family and history. **Unto Saul.** Who at this time did not suspect that he was talking with the future king of Israel. **Jonathan.** The son of Saul, a few years older than David, and like him in valor, in faith, and in devotion to God. His brave deed is related in 1 Sam. 14. **Was knit.** Jonathan had not known David during his former brief stay at the court; but now with generous admiration for his deed, and love for his character, his heart was fastened to him as by a chain. **Loved him.** His love, which then began, was not cooled when he found in David a rival for the succession to the throne. See what David said of his love in 2 Sam. 1. 26. Thus did Jonathan's love console David for Saul's hate.

**2, 3. Saul took him.** Took him into his service and kept him near his person. **Go no more home.** So that he now ceased to be a shepherd, and began his career at the court. **Jonathan and David.** The words show that the proposition came from Jonathan, as the higher in rank, and also as the more ardent in affection. **A covenant.** A promise of perpetual friendship, which was kept even when their interests became irreconcilably opposed, and maintained by David to Jonathan's child after his death. **He loved him.** 1. True love is not only unselfish but self-forgetting.

**4. Stripped himself.** In the East it is regarded as the highest honor to receive a garment which has been actually worn by a prince. **Of his robe.** The outer mantle. **His garments.** The word has especial reference to military clothing and armor. **His sword.** The ancient swords were short, and generally double-bladed. **His bow.** This was the favorite weapon of Jonathan, as will be shown in the next lesson. David's song over Jonathan's death was named "The Bow." 2 Sam. 1. 10. **His girdle.** It was probably made of fine leather, and ornamented with jewels, as was the custom among nobles. **2. Love delights in self-sacrifice.** **3. The most precious gifts are those which carry with them the heart.**

**5. Went out.** On errands of public service, whether in peace or war. **Saul sent him.** Showing fidelity, ability, and loyalty. **Behaved himself wisely.** He was not exalted in spirit by his success, but earned his prosperity (which is indicated in the word) by his prudence. **Over the men of war.** In command of the men-at-arms, always kept around the sovereign. **He was accepted.** His kindness and freedom from foolish pride kept him from exciting the envy of others. **4. "It is harder to know how to abound than how to be abased."**—*M. Henry.* **Of all the people.** With whom he was brought into contact in his journeys and campaigns on "the king's business." **Saul's servants.** That he could disarm the jealousy of the court shows

uncommon wisdom and attractiveness of character.

**6. As they came.** This was at the close of the campaign, some time after the battle of the last lesson. **Slaughter of the Philistines.** Rather, "of the Philistines," as in the margin. **The women came out.** Such welcomes of the women to the returning warriors are often mentioned in ancient history. **Out of all cities.** Those cities which they would pass in their return. **Dancing.** This dancing was in the open air, in the day-time, and not by the sexes together. **Tabrets.** Somewhat resembling the tambourine, with which a noise is made by striking and shaking. **Instruments of music.** Margin, "three-stringed instruments." Probably triangles, with metal rings around the three arms.

**7. Answered one another.** Responsively chanting the sentences. **Saul hath slain his thousands.** This was the chant, of one company, with an Oriental exaggeration of Saul's achievements. **David his ten thousands.** The response of another throng. So David's men said afterward, "Thou art worth ten thousand of us." 2 Sam. 18. 3.

**8, 9. Saul was very wroth.** Since the praises to the subject were at the expense of his sovereign. **Displeased him.** He was jealous of the hero of the hour; forgetting that but for his achievement he himself might not have received even his praise for the thousands. **More but the kingdom.** The thought flashed upon him that perhaps David might be the one of whom Samuel had spoken. Chap. 15. 28. **5. Hearts forsaken by the Lord are full of vague alarm and wretchedness.** **Eyed David.** Looked upon him with growing jealousy as he saw his growing greatness in the eyes of the nation.

**10. On the morrow.** The day after the return from the war. **Evil spirit.** A deep melancholy, approaching to insanity, which came as the result of his straying from God, and therefore was God's messenger, and in that sense was from God. **He prophesied.** The only word in which the Hebrew language could express raving and strange cries from a supernatural influence; which in this instance was from an evil spirit, not from the Spirit of the Lord. There are such spiritual manifestations in the present age, which by their immoral influence upon character suggest evil supernatural power. **The house.** Saul's palace, which probably differed from ordinary Oriental houses in being larger. **David played.** In order to soothe the king by the strains of music, which had calmed his spirit at other times. Chap. 16. 16. **A javelin.** A spear, which Saul held as the emblem of sovereignty. It was kept by his side at table (chap. 20. 33), and stuck in the ground by his pillow as he slept in camp. Chap. 26. 7.

**11, 12. Saul cast.** Rather, "brandished" it; pointed it as if to hurl at David, who escaped before it was actually cast. **Avoided**