

power and of force in might, but as Secretary John Foster Dallas said, "This is a race the Russians can never win." "If we hold to our basic principles," as Woodrow Wilson is quoted by Mr. Dallas, "our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually."

VI. Conclusions of the Story

First he refused the kingdom (Judges 8:22-23)

Second he made one great mistake. After his victory, Gideon came back and he took an offering of ear rings and of gold and made an ephod and the scripture says this became a snare to the children of Israel. It is hard for us to think of Gideon leading God's people back to the worshipping of idols after he had been able to win such a decisive victory over the enemy, but this became an object of worship. We all might wish that he had stopped with that wonderful victory, but he commanded them to bring their ear rings and the chains that were about their camels' necks and he made this lovely ephod. It is a garment like a Mexican blanket with a hole in it to put down over the head. The one worn by the high priest had jewels and other symbols attached to it. But the scripture says all Israel took it for an idol in verse 27. How long did the peace for the deliverance last. The Bible says that there was quietness for 40 years during the days of Gideon.

win the battle. 22,000 people dropped out and left a great gap in the ranks. There were only 10,000 people left, and the Lord came back again and explained that there were still too many. But we must realize that the Lord was purifying them, and he said that we must put these men to a second test which is an unusual test to bring them down to the water. Those who lap the water with the hand and do not bow down on their knees, put them in a group by themselves. Those that bowed down on their knees were separated in another group. This group, he said, will not fit for God's work at this time. In other words, He was saying that they were thinking of their own personal comfort, and God decided that the others were more keener and ready to serve Him than the others. Dr. B. H. Carroll says of this incident that God needed people who wouldn't lose time and that he heard an infidel say that this was the sorriest test he ever heard of. Carroll said he thought it was a remarkable test - that it was the kind of test made by an old Indian fighter when testing his soldiers. He said, "I am going to pursue the Indians into the mountain, and whoever cannot load your gun as you must drop out. You must be able to load your gun as you go."