

ZAPHNATH-PAANEAH.

GENESIS xli. JOHN iv.

DEAR BROTHER,

In Jacob's blessing of his sons (Gen. xlix.) we find those familiar and lovely words about Joseph, used by the aged patriarch: "Joseph is a fruitful bough (even) a fruitful bough by a well (whose) branches run over the wall." We know now that "a greater than Joseph" was before the prophetic mind of the Spirit in the patriarch when he spake these words, of which I now cite a part. The whole of the blessing may be seen in reading the chapter. The portion I have quoted will answer my present purpose in calling your attention to it. If we turn back in the book of Genesis, and glance at the lovely narrative of Joseph (Gen. xxxvii.-l.)—evidently that of one of the most blameless of men whose histories are recorded in Scripture—we find, in Chapter xli., the moment of his full exaltation over all the land of Egypt before us. At this time he was 30 years of age; he had been shamelessly and heartlessly rejected by his brethren, and sold to his captors, oppressed and afflicted, taken from prison and from judgment; the iron had entered into his soul. In all this, as in the many other details of his life, type of Him that was to come.

He had just interpreted the dreams of Pharoah, and had counselled Pharoah to be warned of God in preparing for the years of the famine that was to