

record of Achsa's marriage gift. The south land given to Achsa by her father does not, as might appear to us in this western hemisphere, mean a land having a southern exposure and therefore a well favoured lot ; although this was the thought which lead us to a study of the passage. It means a portion of land situated towards the south of Palestine and therefore well situated as contrasted with other lands situated to the north. It was a land situated towards the south and at the same time between the mountains on the one hand and the arable land on the other. It was for these reasons well suited for grazing purposes with the exception of one drawback, which was however in itself fatal in view of the purpose for which it was otherwise suited. Achsa however did not regard the lot worthless. She did not find any fault with her father as though his marriage gift to her was of no value. In fact she felt convinced that she could approach the same kind hearted father who had given her so good and well favoured a lot and ask him, with the South Land to give her also springs of water.

I may here explain that the word translated "a blessing," commonly means a gift of friendship and good will ; as when Jacob said to his brother Esau : "Receive my present at my hand . . . . Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee."

I. Certain situations in life that are analogous to that of Achsa, when she found herself in possession of a south land without springs of water.

These are situations not to be made light of or despised, because they are put in our possession by a more kind-hearted father than Caleb. If Caleb said to his daughter, as she dismounted, "what wouldst thou?" much more does our Father say to us in our favourable situations : "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." We take :—

1. The situation of such as enjoy at least a competency of the good things of this life and yet are destitute of spiritual blessings. Along with these we take all those who have not merely a competency but all who enjoy wealth. This is truly a south land without springs of water. This is a lot that cannot be despised ; it is the gift of God. If we have prospered by our industry and thrift, it is because God has blessed the work of our hands and preserved us from reverses that have brought shipwreck and desolation to others. We cannot afford to despise or make light of our temporal comforts they are our south land. However, there is one thing lacking. Our comfortable homes, food, raiment and money in the bank will not meet all the wants of our nature. No! railway and bank stocks will not do it, and yet we cannot afford to ignore these things for they are God's gifts to us, and essential to meet our wants ; but they are not all that our nature demands. We need a blessing, for we need springs of water. It is the creed of a fool, and no better than that of the beasts that perish, to say : "I will pull down