

manders, who led forth the nation's troops to battle and to victory. The names of Miriam and Deborah, Jael and Judith, will at once present themselves as examples. Yet was none of these greater than the son of Amram, who, in order to effect the emancipation of his brethren, renounced his royal station and imperial prospects.

That Israel's condition in the land of Egypt was at this time such as powerfully to appeal to the latent patriotism of a great soul like Moses, the monuments and Scripture unite to declare. However pleasantly life moved along for Jacob's household in Goshen whilst Joseph's friend and patron held the reins of government, matters took a turn for the worse when the new dynasty of Theban Pharaohs climbed into the throne. Then the Israelites began to be looked upon with disfavour, and ultimately, in consequence of their multiplying numbers, with alarm. By the opening of the 4th century of their sojourn they had been completely reduced to a state of servitude. In accordance with a custom of the Pharaohs to employ no Egyptians but only foreign captives in the building of their temples and cities, they were turned out under taskmasters or overseers to work, and their lives rendered bitter to them "with hard bondage, in mortar and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field." The king employed them to build two treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. Their oppression deepened as the years sped along. When Moses was born it was at its worst—it was midnight in the land of Goshen. Every male child among the Hebrews was cast into the Nile except such as, like Moses, were rescued by maternal love and ingenuity smiled on by heaven. Eighty years rolled by without a streak of morning light relieving the gloom. Rather, when the first promise of approaching dawn appeared in the return of Moses from Midian, their burdens were increased and their woes multiplied. The tale of bricks heretofore exacted was still demanded, while the straw with which they had been furnished was henceforth to be gathered by themselves; and while the people fainted at their tasks the overseers, whip in hand, lashed them on, saying, "Go to; ye are idle, ye are idle!" But all through those years of enforced service the