

accepted these gospel promises, before he could make up his mind to believe and embrace them! He did not treat the Reverend, and angelic preacher with contempt, by telling him that he did not want any such promises and blessings as he proposed to give him in his gospel; for my ancestors were all good and pious pagans, and died happy, and went off to the Elysium; and the religion that was good enough for them to live and die so happily by, I guess is good enough for me! He did not say to the preacher of this new gospel, "do you think all the learned and devout idolators that have lived could have been in error in regard to the promises made to us by our gods, and that none of the good people that have died, have gone off to Elysium,—the Heaven, the Paradise of our gods; and that you, only, have preached the true doctrine of rewards? I don't know as I care about inheriting this land you have proposed to give me,—literal land, with literal kings over literal nations of the earth! Such promises are too material! I have always been taught to believe in the spiritual,—the escape of the soul at death, from the body, when it would be taken off to the Elysium of the gods, to be forever happy in a spiritual state, and I do not believe that all these pious pagan priests, learned professors, and pagan church members have been mistaken! Impossible! They were too intelligent for that! If you, only, are right, and all these pious pagans are mistaken, do you not think that some of our learned men would have been sharp enough to have discovered

it long ago? Besides what does it matter what our reward is going to be, so we are good, and can feel happy and die happy?

This is the way some people argue in our day, when the true gospel is preached unto them! But none of this kind of cavelling entered the mind of the venerable patriarch, and consequently he did not use any such logic as this. Although he knew he would be without one sympathizing friend, in his new religious views—except Sarah, his wife and Lot, his brother's son,—he promptly, cheerfully, and without waiting for others to join him, cut himself loose from his former religious and social surroundings and associations, dear as they must have been to his heart, and in obedience to the gospel call, started for Canaan, the land he and his seed after him were to receive for a grand political possession at some indefinitely specified time in the future. His faith in the gospel message he had just heard, outweighed all his former prejudices and attachments to the dear old pagan religion of his ancestors, taught him in childhood, boyhood and manhood; and which still clung to him with tenacity in his maturer years; also all the strong ties of consanguinity that bound him to his kindred; for the command was:—"Get thee out of THY COUNTRY, and FROM THY KINDRED, and FROM THY FATHER'S HOUSE, UNTO A LAND I WILL SHEW THEE."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

