

spake I not unto you, saying, do not sin against the child ; and ye would not hear ? therefore, behold, also his blood is required." Thus their sin was before them, and they spoke of it to one another. Joseph heard and understood all, but this they did not know, for he spoke to them through an interpreter. Did the thoughts of their sin against him twenty-two years before, now brought afresh to his mind and theirs, produce any bitterness towards them ? None whatever. Grace had lifted him above all that. Although there was severity in his manner, his heart was yearning over them with tender compassion. "And he turned himself about from them, and wept ; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes." This, no doubt, seemed a hard way to deal with "true men," but he knew what their hearts were, and the needs be. And God knows how to deal with us, too, poor self-righteous, self-justifying sinners, claiming to be "true men," notwithstanding our having despised, and dishonored His Son. But if there is seeming severity in His ways toward us, all comes from One who loves us infinitely, but who must teach us what is in our hearts, in order that He may bless us to the full.

Next, the sons of Jacob are sent home with their sacks full of corn, and when on the way they open their sacks they find each man's money in the mouth of his sack. Here was another strange thing, calculated to exercise their hearts. "And their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to an