

cottage and the road was covered deep with snow. She knew that God had sent the screen of snow before the enemy came, and her life had been preserved by His providence.

"Embosomed deep in His dear love,  
Held in His law we stand,  
His hand in all things we behold,  
And all things in His hand."

*God hath made me lord of all Egypt*, v. 9. At Hampton Court near Old London, there is a wonderful and famous vine. A more beautiful sight can scarcely be seen in

The Vine and  
The River

all England than this vine when it is covered all over with the rich, luscious clusters of the vintage time. It is said that the extraordinary fruitfulness is due to the fact that its deep and wide-spreading roots have made their way down to the Thames, so that it draws continuous moisture and nourishment from the river. The vine is the picture of the life that is receiving constant supplies from the never-failing fountain of God's grace. Such a life is sure to abound in strength and joy, and in blessings to all around.

*Haste and bring down my father hither*, v. 13. To the true son it is no burden, but a joy, to care for his parents when they have become old and feeble. It is a mean soul, indeed, that grudges to aged father or mother provision for their declining years of life. The words of King Lear awaken a

To the Work-  
house

responsive echo in every honest heart: "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child!" A traveler in England was in the vicinity of a poorhouse, when he met a stout young man carrying an old man on his back. The old man was weeping bitterly, and the young man was scolding him in rough language. The traveler asked what was wrong, as the young fellow rested for a moment on a wayside stone. "Oh! I am taking the old one to the workhouse, and he doesn't want to go." At this the old man wept more bitterly than ever and said, "Stranger, this is my own son, and forty years ago I did to my father what my son is now doing to me, and I rested then on this very stone."

### Lesson Points

In Christ, not only members of the same family, but all men are brothers. vs. 1-4.

"You sold me," tersely says Luther, "but God bought me for His good purposes." vs. 5-8.

When we trust God for His grace, He trusts us with His work. vs. 9-13.

Like ice under the glowing sun, human enmity melts away before divine love. vs. 14, 15.

It is the forgiving heart alone that knows the full sweetness of being forgiven. Ch. 40: 15-21.

'Tis easier for the generous to forgive, Than for offence to ask it. v. 21.

### TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

#### For Teachers of the Older Scholars

The intervening events since last Lesson are very important. Trace the growing power of Joseph, the famine in Egypt and surrounding countries (ch. 41: 57), and especially in Canaan, ch. 42: 1-5. Consider the situation in Canaan and the decision that Jacob's ten sons should go to Egypt to buy food. Note how the individual characters of Reuben (ch. 42: 22, 37, 38) and Judah (ch. 44: 18-34) stand out. Recall the cruel treatment of Joseph by his brothers, and his wisdom in preparing them for his

future plan. See how the memory of their sins distresses them, ch. 42: 21. Study the whole history. A map will be helpful. The testimony of the monuments and other records is also valuable (see *Light from the East and From the Library*). The Lesson is very touching, and calls for meditation rather than exposition.

1. *Joseph reveals himself*, vs. 1-4. This he does only after a long process of testing, in which the brothers had shown that they were penitent and kindly disposed towards one another. Note the great emotion of Joseph, his desire for privacy, the astounding disclosure of his identity, the terror of the brothers, the inquiry for his father. It is