

to the contents of the closing chapters of Genesis, and to the suggestion that, in spite of all his marvelous career in Egypt, Joseph's heart was in the promised land. "Between the latest scene in Genesis and the opening scene in Exodus lies a great silence, broken only by the sighing and groans of the people."

1. *A changed policy*, ch. 1:8-10. Point out that in v. 8 we have the turn of the tide in the fortunes of Israel in the land of Egypt. Up to this time the Israelites have been treated with consideration. What reason is given here for the new policy of oppression about to be inaugurated? Have some member of the class state in his own words the arguments advanced by the new ruler of Egypt in support of his policy toward Israel. What does the class think of these arguments? Is anything to be said for them? What ought to be the attitude of a Government to aliens who have settled in its country? Point out that there is always a danger that prejudice against those of other blood should result in injustice toward them.

2. *Israel under taskmasters*, vs. 11-14. How did the new Government proceed to carry out its policy of oppression? Call attention to the hardship involved in turning herdsmen and shepherds into builders. It is probable that these "store cities" were to serve both

as strongholds of defence and as convenient places to store up military supplies. Did the policy of oppression have the expected result of diminishing the numbers of the children of Israel? Remind the class that part of the purpose of the writer of Exodus is to show that nothing could thwart God's plans for the chosen people. It is important in this connection to remember that such public works usually resulted in many deaths among the workmen.

3. *The infant Moses*, ch. 2, vs. 1-8. Point out that while, on the one hand, things are getting darker and darker for the downtrodden Israelites, on the other, a man is being raised up and trained for their deliverance. Can the class name any more modern cases of oppression, and men who have been raised up by God to deliver those who suffered under them? Have some one turn to Exod. 6:20 where the names of Moses' father and mother have been preserved. Why had Moses' mother to go to such trouble to save her child? Compare with Pharaoh's edict a somewhat similar one in the New Testament, Matt. 2:16. Why was it a peculiarly fortunate thing that Moses was not only saved, but saved to be brought up at the court of Pharaoh?

## FOR TEACHERS IN THE SENIOR DEPARTMENT

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

Teachers in the Senior Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY.

Take a minute or two to link the lesson with Lesson XII. of last Quarter (Gen. 47:1-12), in which we saw Joseph's family settled in Egypt and there carrying on their business as shepherds. They have been in Egypt for about 400 years. Now the time has come, in God's great plan, for the Israelites to leave Egypt and go to the land of Canaan, the country promised to Abraham for his descendants (see Gen. 15:13, 14). Ask for the meaning of Exodus ("departure"), the name of the book from which eight of the present Quarter's lessons are taken. The name indicates that the book tells of Israel's departure from Egypt to settle in the Land of Promise.

How were the Israelites prepared for their

departure from Egypt? The lesson tells us. Bring out the story of the oppression (ch. 1:8-14), which would make the Israelites eager to escape from Egypt. The points to make prominent are:

1. It arose (v. 8) under a "new king," that is, a king belonging to a new dynasty. This king "knew not Joseph,"—he did not appreciate, that is, what Joseph had done for Egypt, and felt under no obligation to Joseph's people.

2. The new king was afraid (vs. 9, 10) of Israel's growing numbers and power. Was this fear justified? Remind the scholars that Israel's prosperity was a proof of divine favor. Was it not a good thing for Egypt to have