

15. *Sketch a lesson on the life of Moses for—*
I. An advanced class; II. A junior class.

I.—NOTES OF A LESSON FOR AN ADVANCED CLASS.

The life of Moses may be divided into three periods of forty years each.

(a) His birth; parentage; incidents connected with his peril; preservation; by whom; residence at the Egyptian court; how educated; what led to his departure into Midian.

(b) His life in Midian; how occupied; with whom; the most striking incident; how it affected his after life and work; did he at once accept his commission or did he plead his own inability? physical defect as an objection; how overcome, and what was his coming work?

(c) His return to Egypt; his mission to Pharaoh; how received; what overcame Pharaoh's determination not to let the people go; the departure; his leading them safely through the Red Sea; the celebrating of this victory; the receiving of the Law on Mount Sinai; under what circumstances; the directions as to the building of a Tabernacle and the worship in it; the journeyings through the wilderness; his intercessions for his people; his miracles; his preparation for death; his successor; the mode of his death, and why he could not enter the promised land; his relations to his own family in his work; his character; love for his people; how shown; of whom a type, and in what ways; what striking allusion or incident referring to him is given in the Gospels, and how he is alluded to in the Psalms and by St. Paul; what written record did he leave? [37]

II.—LESSON FOR A JUNIOR CLASS.

A cruel king, Pharaoh, sent out an edict once to kill all male children born in the homes and among the families of the children of Israel, who were at that time slaves in Egypt. Think of the sorrow. As soon as a dear little baby brother came, he was killed. One little boy was born and his mother, Jochebed, did not let any one know she had him for three months; but then she could not hide him any longer; so she took him and put him in a basket and hid him in the river bank, where the king's daughter used to come to bathe. She sent his sister Miriam, 12 years old, to watch what would happen. The Princess came to bathe, and her women found the little baby. They brought it to her, and she took compassion on the poor little deserted baby. She said, "I will take this baby for my own; call some one to nurse it for me." Miriam came forward and said she could find a nurse. Who

do you think she went for? How she ran home, and said, "Mother, mother, come quick; they want a nurse for dear baby; come, come." The mother, thanking God in her heart, came, and the princess said, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will pay thee thy wages." How happy was that mother as she clasped her lovely boy. She would like to have said, "I don't want wages for taking care of my baby;" but no! she must not say that, for then it would be known who he was. She had another little boy 3 years old, Aaron, and I suppose Miriam helped her mother greatly with the care of these children. Moses grew to be a man, and then refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, because he saw his own people, the Hebrews, so enslaved and persecuted. He went away to the distant land of Midian when he was forty years old, and there he married a priest's daughter and had two sons. After being there forty years God told him to go back to Egypt and be a deliverer to his oppressed brethren. He did not at first want to go; but God told him Aaron would speak for him—for he was slow of speech. Pharaoh, the king, would not let the people go, and then God sent a great many plagues, on which we must have a lesson some other time. At last God smote the eldest child in all the Egyptian houses with death, and then Pharaoh said, "Go, go, as fast as you can." Then Moses led all his brethren out on their way to Canaan, a land which God had promised them. The Red Sea dried up for them to go through, and Pharaoh, pursuing them, the waters came back and he and his host were drowned. All these people (three or four millions, some think) ought to have been so thankful to go to the promised land! but was it not strange, they murmured and were disobedient to Moses and Aaron, so that God made them wander forty years in the wilderness, till all the grown up people who came out of Egypt were dead. Then you will think Moses led them into the promised land; but no. Although he was almost the best man that ever lived, he got angry and struck the rock when God told him to speak to it; and so God said he could only look at the promised land from the top of a mountain; and then he died, and God buried him. I suppose if the children of Israel had known where his grave was they would have much prized it. Another time I will tell you who did lead them into the promised land. [7]

16. "*There were certain men defiled by the dead body of a man.*" *I. What was the result of this?* *II. Can we conjecture with probability who they were?*