

Many suggestions in the Scriptures combine with the deep instincts of nature to teach that we shall know our kindred in heaven and be associated with them in special affection as here.

I. God in the Scriptures deals with families both in saving and destroying.

II. Noah's obedience of faith the salvation of his household. Special

obligations on heads of families to bring the household to Christ.

III. Unspeakable joy of the family reunion after the storms and separations of earth. What greetings! what memories! what unalloyed fellowship and blissful employments!

*Application.* — There are whole families here in Christ, and there in heaven. Some are divided. Shall any be left out?

#### LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

##### The Great Wheat Corner.

*He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him.*—Prov. xi: 26.

THE present methods of unrestricted individualism in business culminated last month in another "wheat corner," which sent the price of that staple necessity up like a skyrocket, from ninety cents to two dollars a bushel, diminished the size of the baker's loaf from twenty to seventeen ounces, and added another twist to the vice-like poverty gripping the masses in our great cities by a charge of twenty per cent. additional for every loaf, cake, tart or piece of pastry made of wheat flour. Wheat "operator" Hutchinson of Chicago, who fathered the "corner," made a million dollars. In the city of Chicago the price of bread advanced a cent a loaf. In the city of New York a well-known commission merchant killed himself, because his firm was unable to meet its liabilities owing to the increased price of wheat, and many of the small retail bakers supplying the tenement house districts, unable to carry a large quantity of flour, and caught by the sudden rise in prices, could not supply their customers, which they lost to the larger bakers with longer pockets. In England, too, the price of wheat advanced 8s. 6d. per eighteen stone. Thus the manipulations of a private clique upset the business of a whole people, caused at least one self-murder with its terrible accompani-

ments of grief and shame, and produced temporary disaster among vast numbers of the poor.

How was it done? Simply thus: The wheat-gambler, studying the market, discovers a real or seeming shortage in the crop and buys with his ample thousands at regular market prices as much as he is able of the visible supply of grain. This he stores in the great warehouses and refuses to sell. There is a sharp rise in prices as the regular demand for the staple commodity continues, and there is no supply to meet it. Then the operator goes into the "market" and buys "wheat." There is no grain handled in the transaction, but he nevertheless buys "wheat" heavily. Again the price goes up under the "bulling" operations of the gambler. At last wheat is two dollars a bushel, the five-cent loaf is selling for six cents, rival "operators" are "suspending," and the great wheat Anarchist "unloads," pocketing under the laws of the land a cool million by the transaction.

The same spirit of unrestricted individualism in business in the shape of a "sugar trust" advances the price of sugar three cents a pound to the consumer, closes the Bay State Sugar Refinery, because the employees will not accept a reduction of seven per cent. in their already too scanty wages, and in another instance stops altogether a sugar mill, throwing 1,000 bread-winners out of employment in obedience to the de-