

But good times have their perils, as we are beginning to discover in our own country. Ezek. 16 : 49, 50, is an instructive passage.

II. HARD TIMES, 8-14.

The "hard times" came partly through political changes in Egypt. The "new king" was of a different dynasty, and that very fact made him bitter towards Joseph's people. Mark (a) This king's foolish jealousy, vs. 9, 10. He was little of a statesman, else he would have sought to attract and amalgamate, rather than to antagonize this people. (b) His mistaken methods, vs. 11-14. Forced labor (v. 11) was the king's plan. He would crush the spirits of the people. How utterly his plan miscarried, v. 12! The tree on which the northern blasts blow takes all the deeper root therefor. Besides, God was with them, and as afterwards He brought them forth unscathed from the pursuing enemy in the Red Sea, so, now, He causes them actually to flourish upon persecution.

But there were deeper depths, vs. 13, 14. Even here, as we shall see, God was with them. Their courage was indeed broken. But in their despair they came back to God, and like iron hammered on the anvil, they were toughened and strengthened by their trials for the better service of God.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Connection—I wonder how many of you have begun to be nice old men and women? Do you remember the little girl in our story last Sunday who began, right away, to get ready to be the kind of old lady she wished to be? Are we getting ready to have a happy

ending to our life, like the man whose death we talked about last Sunday? How did he get ready? Yes, he "applied his heart unto wisdom," followed God's laws, learned of Him and trusted in Him.

A New King—How many can tell me the name of our good Queen who died last January? How we all loved her for her goodness and kindness to all her people! Now we have a new King. Do you know his name?

Prove from Scripture

That God knows all our ways.

Topics for Brief Papers

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous.)

1. The numbers of the Israelites.
2. The oppressions.
3. God's use of suffering.

The Catechism Question

Ques. 101. *The first petition of the Lord's Prayer.* As the Ten Commandments begin with those relating to God, so the first three petitions of the Lord's prayer have reference to Him—His name, His kingdom, and His will. To "hallow" means "to set a thing apart as sacred, or holy." God's "name" is "that by which He expresses Himself or tells us what He is. He expresses Himself in nature, in the mind of man, in the Word, in His ordinances, in Christ. We pray, therefore, that "God would enable us and others to glorify Him in all that whereby He maketh Himself known:" and further, in the words of Professor Salmond, "as it is man's chief end to 'glorify God,' so, in this petition, we acknowledge it to be the highest object of all things to set forth his glory, and pray that all may be made to fulfil that object", "that he would dispose all things to his own glory."

