

was it? Why was his name changed? Thus the two lessons may be naturally connected. The subject being "the beloved son," the two incidents in the lesson which illustrate this may be brought out: the coat of many colors, and the hatred of his brethren; this hatred being produced by envy because of the father's love. The two dreams are also to be described, and the meaning, which was so obvious to the brethren, is to be given. Of course all words not familiar to the children are to be explained; such for instance, as *obedience*. Even the word *sheaf* may not be understood by some, for there are children in our large cities who never saw a sheaf. The sin of envy is to be especially dwelt upon, since it is a common besetment of childhood. Show how unhappy and how wicked it makes every one who indulges in it. Make it seem as mean and despicable as you can.

After the incidents of the lesson have been treated, ask if God ever had a beloved son? What was his name? Did God ever send him to visit his brethren? How was it he came? Who told of his coming? How did his brethren receive him? [Let the entire class say, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."] Does Jesus ever visit us? Can we see him, as we see father and mother? Then how does he come? [Here show briefly the spirituality of intercourse with Christ.] How ought we to receive him?

IV. MISCELLANEOUS.

Prayer-Meeting Topic: The Lord loveth the righteous.....*Texts:* Job xxxvi. 7; Psa. x. 12; xxxiv. 17; xxxvii. 17, 25; lv. 22; cxlvi. 8; 1 Pet. iii. 12.....*Foster:* 637, 1632, 1913, 1923, 3692, 3698.....*Blackboard:*

THIS IS MY BELOVED SON.

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| JOSEPH. | JESUS. |
| Hated. | Rejected. |
| Envied. | Despised. |
| Enslaved. | Betrayed. |

Suffered to Save.

His Brethren.——Me, a Sinner.

Blackboard Song:

To Christ the Golden Sheaf divine,
Let golden sheaves on earth bow down;
And Christ, the glorious Sun sublime,
Let stars of heavenly beauty crown;
Above all height, beyond all praise.
The peerless Christ ascends the skies,
And through the everlasting days
Loud songs shall to his throne arise!

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 1873.

LESSON III.—Joseph Sold. Gen. xxxvii. 23-28

I GENERAL STATEMENT.

Joseph being sent to look after the welfare of his brethren who were feeding their father's flocks at a distance from home, finds them in Dothan. His brothers strip him of his many-colored coat, and cast him into a pit. He taken out and sold to a company of passing Ishmaelites.

II NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Topic: The devices of the wicked.

1. WICKED PASSIONS, vers. 23, 24. Joseph's BRETHREN were now in "Dothan," (*two wells*,) (ver. 17,) far from home, on the southern edge of the plain of Esdraelon. JOSEPH WAS COME. Full of kindness, with loving words from Israel. STRIPPED.....HIM. Regardless of his innocence, despite his cries of anguish. Gen. xlii. 21. So Jesus was stripped. John xix. 23. HIS COAT. As odious as his dreams. THEY TOOK HIM. Not tenderly as brothers, but savagely as demons, with murder in their hearts. PIT.....EMPTY. These wretches had designed to kill Joseph, (ver. 20,) but Reuben advised that he be "cast into this (empty) pit," (ver. 22.) doubtless intending in some way to rescue him. Vers. 29, 30. Such pits are now found around Dothan.

Hard-hearted men are kindred to Satan in thought. (1 John iii. 15.) and find it easy to do his bidding in deed. John viii. 44

First envy, eldest-born of hell, imbrued
Her hands in blood, and taught the sons of men

To make a death which nature never made,
And God abhorred; with violence rude to break

The thread of life ere half its length was run!

And rob a wretched brother of his being.

—Beilby Porteus.

There is an old legend that well illustrates envious thoughts. It runs thus: A Burmese potter became envious of the prosperity of a washerman, and, to ruin him, induced the king to order him to wash one of his black elephants white, that he might be lord of the white elephant. The washerman replied that, by the rules of his art,