

brought before Joseph, "the governor over the land," and "bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth." Joseph knew them, and remembered his dreams. But he was now no longer a "child," (chap. xxxvii. 30), he was an exalted ruler, and spoke in another tongue; and while he knew them, they knew him not. He made himself strange to them, and spoke to them roughly, and charged them with being spies, come to spy out the nakedness of the land. In vain did they plead, "We are all one man's sons; we are true men; thy servants are no spies." Their treatment of him at Dothan certainly did not prove that they were "true" men. And Joseph proposes to test them. He would put them in prison, and refuse to let them go till one of them had gone back home and brought their youngest brother, and so he puts them all in prison for three days. On the third day he said to them, "This do, and live; for I fear God. If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: but bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die." (Chap. xlii. 18-20). All this was mingled goodness and severity. Why did he treat them thus? It was that their sin might be brought to mind and judged by them. And this was the effect of his treatment. "And they said one to another, we are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. And Reuben answered them, saying,

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