

THE GIVING OF THE MANNA

Exodus, chapter 16

More than a month had passed since the children of Israel had started from Egypt. They were out in the wilderness now—scarcely a tree in sight, scanty patches of coarse grass, miles and miles of bare rocks. They had managed to get food enough for the cattle, but it had been hard work.

They had brought along food for themselves and their children. But now it was nearly eaten up. At last the day came when it was quite gone.

The people were frightened. Here they were out in the desert without a crumb to eat. "What shall we do?" they cried to Moses. "Why did you bring us out to starve? Why didn't you leave us in Egypt?"



Isn't it a pity those people were not a little braver? Isn't it a pity they did not say to one another: "Remember the Red Sea! God was strong enough to save us from Pharaoh's army. He will save us now. He will not let us starve"? But they did not. They grumbled to Moses instead.

God heard them and he said to Moses: "Tell the people that I have heard their murmurings. Tell them that I will show them that I am the Lord their God."

The next morning God did show them. When the people