

adorable providence, God could easily have accomplished his wise and good and gracious ends independent of the band of Ishmaelites who were passing at the time. He could easily have sent Joseph down to Egypt independent of the self-originated hatred of his brethren toward him : nay more, he could easily have done it independent of their existence, or the existence of the Ishmaelites. But the wonder working, and all wise God saw fit to take advantage of, and overrule their wickedness to accomplish his own benevolent ends ; and cause even the wrath of men to praise him. God is too wise to be outwitted ; and too powerful to be frustrated in his plans.

We shall not follow the Hebrew youth step by step from the period he was sold as a slave till he for the first time stands before the monarch of Egypt to interpret his dreams. The reader is familiar with almost every link in the chain of Joseph's history. God we know was with him, and watched over him and blessed him, and revealed himself unto him, and exalted him from the prison to the Palace ; and made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. Instead therefore of entering into details, we would simply remind you of the fact that God in his adorable providence designed to raise this virtuous young Hebrew to the very highest station in Egypt next to the monarch, and constitute him a saviour in the land of famine and of plenty. Though he had, in consequence of the base wickedness, and lies, and hypocrisy of Potiphar's wife to lie for years in a dark prison, he had a paradise in his own heart, and that God who was with him, and who had great and good ends to accomplish by him, was the breaker up of his way, and gave him favour and influence and honour in the eyes of the king of Egypt in spite of all who meant evil unto him.

Joseph's brethren, then you perceive had one end in view in sending him to Egypt, and God had another. When Joseph first made himself known to them, he made a very touching and feeling reference both to their end in selling him, and to God's end in sending him thither. " I am Joseph ; does my father yet live ? And his brethren could not answer him for they were troubled at his presence. And Joseph said unto his brethren, come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved nor angry with yourselves that ye sold me hither : for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years