

become "my father." When under emotion nature asserts itself. Who can tell what the feelings of the brothers were when he announced himself. Their fears must have been greatly intensified, and with lightning speed their thoughts would revert to the past. 4. The brothers in their astonishment had removed to a distance. He asks them to come near so that he may talk with them and re-assure them. His manner would show that in saying, "I am your brother whom ye sold" he did not wish to upbraid them, but rather assure them of his identity. Num. 32 : 23.

II. COMFORTING HIS BROTHERS. 5. He asks them to forgive themselves for what they had done to him, and shows them that they were the instruments of carrying out God's plans to preserve life and save the chosen family. That Joseph forgave them may be inferred from his treatment of them, a thing that they would understand very readily. Joseph could extenuate their sin when they could not do so. 6. **Earing**—"plowing," seedtime. "Arable" was formerly written "earable." See also 1 Sam. 8 : 12 ; Gen. 45 : 6 ; Exod. 34 : 21 ; Deut. 21 : 4 ; Isa. 30 : 24. Through the want of rain in other countries the Nile would not rise above twelve cubits. 7. The salvation of Jacob's family is all important in Joseph's estimation, and he has been sent by God to ensure it. We are the creatures of God's providence.

III. SENDING FOR HIS FATHER. 8. Among the Phoenicians, Persians, Arabians, and Romans the title of father was given to certain state officers. Joseph was the father or preserver of Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and Jacob with his family. God is not the author of evil but of good. 9. Joseph invites his father to come to Egypt in the first place without consulting Pharaoh, but Pharaoh afterwards approves of the invitation and repeats it. This shows Joseph's power. Notice that Joseph acknowledges God in the whole matter. 10. Goshen lay to the northeast of Lower Egypt, having the Mediterranean on the North, the desert on the East, the Tanitic branch of the Nile on the West, and the head of the Red Sea on the South. 11. Joseph's care for his father is well worthy of study by the young, when as in this age, there is so much danger of forgetting duty to parents. What is the fifth commandment? We should be helpful. 12. Benjamin will especially be a witness to his father for the accuracy of the report and the genuineness of the invitation. 13. This is not said in a spirit of boasting, but to encourage his father to accept of the invitation. Undue pride is a sin. 14. Benjamin is his full brother and younger than Joseph, hence his greater display of affection for him. He kisses all his brothers, even the formerly cruel Simeon, thus showing his complete forgiveness of the past. After the reconciliation, the brothers are able to converse with him.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—What so deeply affected Joseph? (4)
- 2.—How did his brothers feel when Joseph made himself known? (3)
- 3.—How did Joseph comfort them? (6)
- 4.—What message did he send to his father? (4)
- 5.—Why was Benjamin so dear to him? (5)
- 6.—How did he manifest his complete forgiveness? (3)

Name.....

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory _____ verses in addition to the Golden Text, and _____ Questions in the Gate-chism and have recited them to _____ I was at church _____ I send with this my Weekly Offering of _____ cents.