

John. Joseph, exalted to the throne of Pharaoh, was a type of the risen and exalted Jesus, and beautiful it is to see the way in which he dealt with his brethren, before he made himself known, as Jesus will also deal with *His* brethren before He makes Himself known to them.

When Joseph made himself known to his brethren he said to them : " Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither; for God did send me before you to preserve life." (Gen. xlv. 5). Beautiful spirit in Joseph ! but beautiful truth also ! They sold their brother from envy and hatred, but God was over it all. He was going before them to preserve life. He would over-rule their wicked act to preserve *their* lives, and the lives of millions besides in the time of the seven years famine. But if their lives were to be preserved, they must also be made to feel and *own* their wickedness and sin, in their treatment of their brother. So with the sinner now. God has sent Jesus before him to preserve life, yea He *gives* eternal life, but he must feel, and own, and judge his sin before God. God is light, as well as love. And if we have to do with Him, we must have to do with Him according to what He is. His love provides for the sinner, but His holy nature must expose and judge sin. And we must have His mind about it, and judge it too, morally, or else we cannot be in His presence. And this is what God leads to, in order that we may have assured forgiveness.

The stress of the famine brought the sons of Jacob down to Egypt to buy corn, and there they were