

in their ranks were the two messengers, spared according to promise.

The men of the new generation were hardier, braver, and wiser, than their fathers, and had already conquered several nations and kings who opposed their progress. Some of the people had by this time fixed on the territory they wished to settle in, but most of them were to go farther west, across a river; and to prevent any quarrelling or dispute in sharing, twelve men were appointed to divide the land fairly and justly among the various clans and families when the time should come. One of the twelve was our hero, representing the powerful clan to which he himself belonged.

3. Seven years later still, or forty-five years after we meet him first, he again comes before our notice. The process of settling in the land had gone on gradually during these seven years, though in the interval the old leader had died, and his place been taken by our hero's former fellow-messenger.

To him now came our hero himself with a request. Forty-five years before he had in his work as messenger, explored and examined a certain hilly part of the country, and the then leader had promised that when the land was finally possessed, this district would be assigned him for his faithfulness. That promise he now asked to be fulfilled before the task of dividing and apportioning the different territories was finished.

At once and joyfully was the request granted, with a blessing added. No sooner had he obtained possession than he proceeded to overcome and cast out the giants who held it, and his success in doing this proved that he was right when, so many years before, he had advised the people to go forward as they were quite able to conquer. He wished to make his conquest thorough and his possession sure, so he offered his daughter as a wife to any one that would capture a certain city and drive out its wicked inhabitants; and

curious to relate, his own younger brother or it might have been his own nephew (for we are not sure of the relationship), took the town and claimed the prize. It shows that our hero was well and safely settled in his territory when he was able to give, as he did give, a large portion of it as a marriage gift to his daughter. Her husband at a later period gave another proof of his bravery by putting himself at the head of his people and defeating a powerful king, who had oppressed them for several years.

QUESTIONS.

1. How do we know that he was forty years of age?
2. How long were the messengers absent?
3. What connection had the length of their visit with the punishment of their countrymen?
4. What possession did he receive? Did he get it *all*?
5. Give the names of his daughter and her husband.
6. What king did his younger brother (or nephew) defeat?

BAD BARGAINS.

A Sabbath School teacher once remarked that he who buys the truth makes a good bargain, and inquired if any scholar recollected an instance in Scripture of anyone making a bad bargain.

"I do," replied a boy. "Esau made a bad bargain when he sold his birthright for a mess of pottage."

A second said:

"Judas made a bad bargain when he sold his Lord for thirty pieces of silver."

A third reply. "Ananias and Sapphira made a bad bargain when they sold their land, and then told Peter a falsehood about it."

A fourth observed:

"Our Lord tells us that he makes a bad bargain who, to gain the world, loses his own soul."—*Children's Friend*.