

but during the whole year and as much in a single night as is produced by all the others in a twelvemonth. It was not a medicine or

a condiment but a nourishing food, and it could only be kept for one day, except over the Sabbath.

THE LESSON APPLIED

When General Booth finally separated from the Methodist New Connexion, he and his wife went out into the world "not knowing a soul who would give them a shilling, neither knowing where to go." They went forth in obedience to what they believed to be the call of God. They had many anxious thoughts, but they trusted God to feed and clothe them. "William hesitates," wrote Mrs. Booth. "He thinks of me and the children, and I appreciate his love and care. But I tell him that God will provide if he will only go straight on in the path of duty." We know to-day how fully God has provided for them and blessed their faith. After their experiences of God's goodness to them at the Red Sea, the Israelites should have found it easy to trust God when their food threatened to fail them. Every token of the Father's care should strengthen our faith that He will never fail to provide for our wants when we are doing His will.

A little boy kept a memory book. Whenever a chum did him a kindness he entered it in the book. Then whenever he was tempted to get angry at any of his companions and to quarrel with them, he turned to his book to refresh his memory. On a certain day James gave him an apple. On another he helped him with his grammar. As he thus recalled James' kindnesses his anger would pass and his good-nature reassert itself. Are not the most of our doubts and fears and complaints against God due to lack of memory? Surely the Israelites have forgotten the Red Sea when they here begin to murmur. Has God ever failed us in the past? Have we ever passed through an experience of His appointing where He has refused to accompany us, and share that experience? Has He ever proved unfaithful to a single promise? If we would only recall past mercies more, and dwell on present miseries less, we would see God in a clearer light, as our unfailing friend, and we would be ashamed to grumble against our present lot.

A full stomach in Egypt or hunger in the wilderness,—is that the true alternative? In Egypt there were burdens wearily borne under the threat of the lash. In the wilderness there was freedom and a God who was near, eager to supply their every need. The way of the world with plenty or the wilderness road with sacrifice, is the way men put the alternative to-day. But the way of the world leads to the tyranny of sin and selfishness, the most galling of all tyrannies; while the wilderness road is luminous with the presence of God, and leads to the Promised Land. When the attractions of the world fascinate we ought not to forget its burdens and its slavery. When the straight path seems hard and uninviting we ought not to forget that it is the road of freedom and the way along which we have the companionship of God.

To us to-day the manna sets forth Christ as the true sustenance of life. When Christ declared, "I am the bread of life," He implied that all men are hungry and need food. The tragedy of many lives lies in their endeavor to satisfy this hunger elsewhere than in the Saviour. Goethe, the great German poet, after spending his life apart from God, wrote: "I can affirm that during the whole of my 75 years I have not had four weeks of genuine well-being. It is but the perpetual rolling of a rock that must be raised up again forever." Contrast that with the triumphant joy of Paul's words: "I have fought a good fight . . . I have kept the faith." "Our souls are restless," said Augustine, "and cannot find rest until they rest in God."

As the manna was given freely for all, so Christ is given, for "Whosoever will, may come." As it was near to each tent so that every one could easily procure a supply, so Christ is near, for "Behold, He stands at the door and knocks." But it was needful for the Israelite to gather the manna. Even so must we receive the Christ, feed upon Him, make Him our strength and life.