

9th June, 1861.

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM.—Genesis  
12. 1-9.

I. THE CALL.—Abraham was 60 years old when the family quitted their native city of Ur, and went and abode in Charran. The reason for this movement is not given in the Old Testament, but is given in Acts 7, 2-4, where it is said God first called Abraham. This first call is not recorded, but only implied in Gen. 12 ch., and is distinguished by several pointed circumstances from the second, mentioned in 1st verse.

The nature of the call rendered it a great trial to Abraham's faith. He was to leave country, kindred, and father's house and to go where he *knew not*. Were God to call us to leave country, &c., and go to China, Japan, Africa or elsewhere, it would be a trial of our faith, but to have us to leave home without knowing where we were going, would still be more trying.

The encouragements offered were several. I will make thee a great nation, v 2, ch 17-6; 18, 18; Deut. 26, 5. This was a gratifying promise to a man seventy-five years of age who as yet had no children. I will make thy name great. v. 2; 24, 35; to become conspicuous is also gratifying. Thou shalt be a blessing. v. 2. To be the means of conveying blessings is the delight of every pious soul. v. 3.

*Observe*—How careful we ought to be in our treatment of those whom God calls to himself or to duty. In blessing them we will be blessed, and in cursing them we will be cursed. v. 3.

II. THE OBEDIENCE.—So Abraham departed as the Lord had spoken to him. His obedience was prompt, complete.

Lot went with him. It is not said that Abraham took him, for he was commanded to leave his kindred. Probably Lot would not stay behind but went though the Lord called him not, and his subsequent history shews that it would have been as well for him to have remained in Haran.

III. THE REWARD.—Abraham journeyed to Canaan and having passed through the land unto the place of Sichem and encamped, then the Lord appeared to him there. He promised Abraham the land of Canaan, to his seed for a possession. This was the first instalment of the reward of his obedience.

*Observe*—Abraham builded an altar to the Lord who appeared to him in Sichem, while a stranger in a strange land. Afterwards when he pitched on the east of Bethel, he again builded an altar and called on the name of the Lord. His example ought to be imitated by

us. Wherever our tent is pitched there we ought to have an altar to the Lord.

As part of the reward of obedience in Abraham all families of the earth are blessed v. 3, ch. 18. 18; 22, 18; 26, 4, 5. Ps. 72, 17. Gal. 3, 8, 9. All families of the earth are blessed through him inasmuch as Christ after the flesh came of the stock of Abraham. Inasmuch as his example has induced thousands to believe in God.

*Learn* 1. If God calls you to do anything however great the sacrifice involved, do it. Duty is ours, results are God's.

2. Call upon God in all places. Commit your way, &c. Ps. 37, 5.

## ENGLAND'S YEOMEN : from Life in the Nineteenth Century.

This is published by Carter & Brothers, New York, and is written by Maria Louisa Charlesworth, author of several other works such as "Ministering Children," "The Ministry of Life," &c. It is a very interesting history of an English farmer and of the family to which he belonged. Of the manner of agricultural life in England in the beginning of this century, and of the difficulties which the family had to contend with, in the hindrances and opposition of an ungodly rector. The position of this family, with regard to church ministrations, was and is, we fear, that of two many of the adherents of the Established Church in England, but this book teaches the important lesson, that where there is an unfaithful pastor and a heretical preacher, the Liturgy is of great worth and advantage. We hope this book will be widely circulated.

## HELP HEAVENWARD; or Words of Strength and Heart Cheer to Zion's Travellers.

This is another of Carter & Brother's publications, written by Octavius Winslow, D.D. It is a series of short sermons or rather expositions of particular texts of Scripture, without the formality of discourses prepared for the pulpit, in which the author endeavours to encourage saints who are wearying by the way. Mr. Winslow is well-known as one of the most savory of living writers, and this work, like his others, will endear him to his fellow-travellers. We shall favor our readers from time to time with an extract from his book, which is well worth perusing.