

them, the lot of these toilers was hard indeed. History tells of an Egyptian king who destroyed by similar labors 120,000 of his subjects. *In mortar, and in brick.* They were compelled not only to erect buildings, but also to make the brick required for them. *In the field.* The forced labor was extended to the cultivation of the fields, and the wretched slaves were compelled to draw up water from the river level in buckets by the terrible tread wheel or the machine called the "shadoof," still in use on the Nile, for the irrigation of the fields above.

#### II. Israel's Deliverer, ch. 2 : 1-8.

Vs. 1, 2. *A man of the house (tribe) of Levi ;* the tribe to whom the priesthood in Israel was afterwards given. The name of Moses' father was Amram (ch. 6 : 16, 18), and of his mother Jochebed, ch. 6 : 20. *A goodly (beautiful) child.* "Fair to God," Stephen described him (Acts 7 : 20, Margin), that is, "divinely fair." *Hid him three months.* The parents did their part to save the child's life, trusting God for the outcome,—an act of real faith, Heb. 11 : 23.

Vs. 3, 4. *Could not longer hide him.* The sturdy child could not be kept from attracting the attention of passers-by. *An ark ;* a small covered box or basket. The word is elsewhere used only of Noah's ark, which Jochebed's contrivance no doubt resembled in shape. The name would recall a similar danger and suggest a similar deliverance. *Of bulrushes ;* the papyrus reed, which grows plentifully on the banks of the Nile, and more especially of its backwaters. *Slime (bitumen in the form of asphalt, which forms a hard, glossy wax) and . . pitch ;* to make it water-tight. *In the flags ;* Hebrew "suph," some kind of water weeds, which gave its Hebrew name, Yam Suph ("Sea of Weeds") to the Red Sea. *His sister ;* Miriam (ch. 15 : 20), who must have been several years older than Moses. *Stood afar off ;* so as not to betray her purpose. *To wit ;* Rev. Ver., "to know."

Vs. 5, 6. *The daughter of Pharaoh.* As an Egyptian princess, she would be an important personage, with an establishment of her own and, perhaps, much political influence. *Came down ;* from her palace. *To bathe (probably in a private bath house) at the river (Rev. Ver.).* To bathe in the sacred Nile was

part of a religious ceremony. *Her maidens ;* the court ladies in attendance on the princess. *Saw the ark ;* as Moses' mother, who likely knew the princess' custom, had hoped. *Sent her handmaid (Rev. Ver.);* the slave who was her personal attendant. *And, behold, the babe wept ;* literally, "and lo ! a weeping boy,"—hungry or chilled or frightened, perhaps all three. *She had compassion.* "Even a king's daughter," says Dr. Joseph Parker, "is the richer and gladder for this stoop of love." *One of the Hebrews' children.* Only a Hebrew mother would be compelled so to hide her child. Besides, the Hebrews were of a lighter complexion than the Egyptians, and had different features.

Vs. 7, 8. *Then said his sister.* Miriam, seeing that the ark had been found, had ventured to join the princess' attendants to be ready for any opportunity to save her baby brother. *Shall I . . call . . a nurse of the Hebrew women . . ?* The ancient Egyptians were exclusive and unfriendly towards foreigners. No native Egyptian woman, therefore, would willingly have undertaken the task. *Go.* No second bidding was needed to give wings to Miriam's feet. *The maid.* The Hebrew word means a grown up girl, perhaps of 15 or 16. *Called the child's mother ;* to the reward of her courage and faith.

#### Light from the East

By Rev. Professor R. Davidson, D.D., Toronto

PITHOM AND RAAMESSES—The rulers of Egypt have from time to time extended their empire across the Isthmus and up the Mediterranean coast to the Euphrates. Among the greatest forerunners of General Allenby were the Pharaohs of the 18th and 19th Dynasties (1580-1205 B.C.). Asiatic dominion drew the centre of empire toward the mouth of the Nile. The cities of the eastern delta country flourished as never before. Tanis (Zoan) became a great and prosperous city with a splendid temple, and Raamses II. built a stone city in the valley Tunilat which leads east to the Isthmus. This he called Pithom (House or Temple of Atum, a name of the sun god). Somewhere not far off he founded a residence city and called it after himself, Raamses. In the spring of 1883, E. Naville, a French ex-