not much larger than Wales, was in David's time capable of accommodating some five millions. *The place of the Canaanites*, etc.; the most powerful tribe, taken to represent all the people. (See Dictionary, p. 448.)

V. 10. *I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people.* Moses is now entrusted with an unprecedented commission. Never before did God charge any man to act as His ambassador and execute His purposes. This was the beginning of a new dispensation, during which God worked through a person whom He specially prepared to act as His representative.

IV. A Promise of Cheer, 11, 12.

V. 11. *Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh?* The exile in Midian had toned down the impetuosity with which he set out to effect the deliverance of his people in Egypt forty years before (ch. 2 : 11, 12), so that he now shrank from the task. It seemed

too bold an undertaking for an exile—an un-armed shepherd—to approach the mighty king of Egypt on such an errand. [Compare Isaiah's call (Isa. 6) and Jeremiah's (Jer. ch. 1). *And that I should bring forth the children of Israel?* The children of Israel would not listen to him forty years before (ch. 2 : 13, 14), with all the prestige of the palace behind him. Why should they listen to him now, a comparatively obscure stranger? Then, he was confident, now he is distrustful.

V. 12. *Certainly I will be with thee.* God listened very patiently to the recital of his difficulties, and met them all at once by the guarantee of His own presence, power, and guidance, requiring faith in Him. *This shall be a token unto thee,* (as in Gen. 9 : 12); a pledge to Moses of the success of his mission. In due time the delivered people will serve God upon this mountain. This was fulfilled in Exodus 19 and following chapters.

APPLICATION
By Rev. J. Macdonald Duncan, B.D., Woodville, Ont.

Now Moses kept the flock, v. 1. "I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit," said Amos, the earliest of Israel's prophets. "I am a peasant's son, my father, grand-father and great-grandfather were all genuine peasants," said Luther, the great leader of the Reformation. God has always put honor on work. Adam was a gardener ; Moses, like the patriarchs, was a shepherd ; Jesus was a carpenter ; John was a fisherman ; Paul was a tentmaker. To have plenty of honest work and to do it well, is to stand in the direct line of succession to the best and greatest of our race.

And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire, v. 2. There are three great facts about God set forth when He is repre-sented under the figure of fire : (1) His *intense activity.* In the spring time the rays of heat from the sun's central fires awaken sleeping nature. The furnace fires give their wonderful speed to the locomotive and the steamship. So God is constantly active in nature and history. (2) His *mighty power.* Fire is one of the most powerful of man's servants and the most resistless of his mas-ters. There is no force that can successfully

oppose the might of God. (3) His *perfect holiness.* A ray of light passes through a room impregnated with disease germs, but it will carry no contagion. In like manner the divine holiness blazes with dazzling bright-ness amid the impurities of earth.

And the bush was not consumed, v. 2. Our Church has inherited from the Church of Scotland the banner which bears the emblem of the burning bush, and the motto : "Nec Tamen Consumebatur"—"Yet it was not consumed." This was a fitting motto for a Church born in days of fierce persecution, and harried by Claverhouse and his dragoons. It is a suitable motto for any branch of the Church of Christ or any true believer. No Church in which God dwells can be de-stroyed, and no individual in whose heart He resides can perish.

Why the bush is not burnt, v. 3. How often and in how many lands it has seemed as if the Church of Christ were doomed to a cer-tain destruction! In Rome, when Nero lighted his gardens with living torches made of the pitch-covered bodies of Christians ; in France, when the Huguenots were massacred by thousands ; in Scotland, when the Cov-