

laid aside from service, still kept it near him, and held it in great and affecting moments, and bowed his head upon it to worship as he did when standing on the hillside in his prime. The staff of the king was called his sceptre, was ornamented with gold and gems, and became the symbol of his government and power.

BONES (v. 22)—The Hebrews buried their dead as we do, and the bones were the only

part of the body that remained after the lapse of years. But Joseph was embalmed after the manner of the Egyptians, his mummy was placed in a coffin, kept for 360 years, carried round by the Israelites in all their wanderings, and finally buried near Shechem in the grave his father had bought, and in the centre of the territory belonging to his descendants, the children of Ephraim.

APPLICATION

Faith is the assurance (Rev. Ver.), v. 1. Some botanists were one day hunting for specimens of mountain plants in the Highlands of Scotland. They saw

"If My Father Holds the Rope" several scarce and beautiful plants growing at some distance down the face of a steep precipice. They called a boy who happened to be near and offered him a sovereign, if he would allow himself to be lowered in a basket to pluck the flowers. The boy shrank back at first, but, remembering how poor his parents were, he bravely answered, "I will go, if my father holds the rope." He knew the strength of his father's arm and the love of his father's heart, and felt safe. The assurance of our faith is our knowledge of the power and love of our heavenly Father.

Proving, v. 1. A captive was brought before an Asiatic prince. The scimitar was already raised above his head, when, oppressed by intolerable thirst, he asked for water. A cup was handed him. He could scarcely raise it to his lips, so much was he trembling with fear. "Take courage", said the prince. "your life will be spared till you drink that cup of water." He instantly dashed the cup of water to the ground. He knew how highly the barbarian ruler held his plighted word. God's promises are said to be immutable. That is a long word which means never to be broken.

Things not seen, v. 1. One evening a father and his little daughter were walking in a valley where the mist lay close to the ground.

It rose above the child's head, but the man was out of it from his shoulders up. The little girl was frightened. She cried, "I can't see our house, papa. I don't know the way.

Where are we going?" He replied, "I can see perfectly well, just keep hold of my hand, and I will take care of you." He was walking in the light, while she was walking in the darkness. He was guiding her to the "things not seen". So is it with every child of God. God sees, for He is Light and lives in light. And He leads His children safely through the darkness to the light. Faith

"sees the Best glimmering through the Worst, She feels the sun is hid but for a night, She spies the summer through the winter bud".

Abraham, v. 17. There is an ancient legend that the youthful Abraham, whose father Terah was a dealer in idols, once took a hammer and smashed all the images in his father's shop.

Why Not? Terah, in his rage, dragged his son before King Nimrod. Nimrod said to Abraham, "You will not adore the idols of your father; then worship fire." Abraham replied, "Why may I not pray to water which extinguishes fire?" "Be it so; pray to water." "But why not to the clouds which hold the water?" "Well then, pray to the clouds." "Why not to the wind which drives the clouds?" "Then pray to the wind." At last Abraham said, "Be not angry, O king, I cannot pray to the fire, or the water, or the clouds, or the wind, but to the Creator who made them. Him only will I worship."

The reproach of Christ, v. 26. Fifty years ago, in Madras, India, a young Brahman became a Christian. His friends determined to kill him, rather than

"Keep Me" that he should be baptized. He was taken to the missionary's house, which had to be guarded for days by soldiers to protect him from the mob that sought his life. At last, his father and mother pretended to be reconciled to his being