

God, and did his work as to Him. Therefore could be trusted to do it well.

IV. LESSONS. (1) *The sin of envy.* Hardly any sin so common or so little thought of. But see what it leads to! (2) *The way to bear troubles.* Not moaning over them, but being patient, cheerful, setting to work, doing all as in God's sight.

TEXT. *Godliness with contentment is great gain.*

NO. 4. BENJAMIN.

I. THE JOURNEY. (Read xliii. 1-15.) Have here the busy preparations for a journey. One of Jacob's children leaving home for first time. Who is he? Benjamin had sad life so far. His mother Rachel died at his birth—had lost his own brother Joseph when quite a child—had grown up among rough shepherds. Why is he to leave home now? Listen to Judah telling the tale (xliii. 3-14). At last Jacob yields. But what preparations are made? Shows the same caution so often seen in his life. So a present is packed for the lord of the country, after Eastern custom. Is that all? Jacob gives them his blessing, and prays God to take care of them. Can picture the old patriarch laying his hand upon Benjamin very solemnly, and then turning away to conceal his tears. All boys must leave home sooner or later. What can they learn from this story? (a) *Prudence.* Make all arrangements first, so that may begin well. (b) *Prayer.* How happy

to leave home with father's prayers and blessing! Such a start, sure to go on well.

II. THE WELCOME. (Read xlv. 1-15.) Question the children on the result of the journey. Their reception by Joseph—his making them a feast—seating them by age—placing his cup in Benjamin's sack—his being accused—the brothers' return. Judah's piteous appeal for Benjamin. At last Joseph makes himself known. How loving and forgiving he was—they must not grieve—it was all God's doing. All has turned out well. They must fetch their father and come back and settle in Egypt; and now at last he approaches Benjamin—his loving eyes had found out first who Joseph was (verse 12)—the two brothers—long parted—kiss and weep, and weep and kiss again. What a happy ending to a journey!

III. THE LESSONS. (a) *Unselfishness.* Why did Benjamin leave home? To save his father and brothers. Gladly left his father's side to go long journey for good of others. Who greater than he did the same? (b) *God's overruling providence.* What seemed less likely to happen than the issue of this journey? How could they possibly have imagined who the ruler would turn out to be! God had ordered all things to work together for good. He does so still. We cannot see His workings—like intricate machinery—can only trust and not be afraid.

TEXT. *All things work together for good to them that love God.*

EVERY man has some peculiar train of thought which he falls back upon when alone. This to a great degree moulds the man.—*Dugald Stewart.*

THE many important lessons that may be

included in the morning exercise are those of thankfulness, goodwill, reverence, helpfulness, obedience, love, cheerfulness, patience, industry, happiness, health, love of country, usefulness, honesty, politeness, duty, what to read, how to behave, etc.