

neighborhood of Bersan, and were crossing the plain of Dothan to the eastern road which ran southward to Egypt.

SOLD—Slavery was an integral part of all ancient civilization. Slaves were to the old world what machinery is to ours. In addition to an international slave trade, there were generally in all nations four sources of supply: the children born in slavery or sold by their parents in infancy; prisoners taken

in war; persons sold by the state as a punishment for theft or other crimes; and those sold by their creditors for debt or who had been compelled by extreme poverty to sell themselves. Egypt had many domestic and foreign slaves and they often rose to high positions in the State. The average price of a slave was thirty shekels, but the distance to be traveled and the margin of profit fixed the lower price in the case of Joseph.

THE LESSON APPLIED

The wrath of man, as seen in the behavior of Joseph's brothers, drops to a very mean and very abhorrent level. Their wrath began in envy. "Envy slayeth the silly one." Envy cuts away the steps by which one might rise.

With cool deliberation, these men plot to kill Joseph. They are not moved by sudden passion. They are impelled by deep-rooted jealousy because he, a younger brother, has been made their superior.

"Base envy withers at another's joy,

And hates that excellence it cannot reach."

Envy is one of the basest of all sins. It springs up at the sight, not of evil in others, but of good. Not harm done to us lies at its root, but often kindness shown to us. Murder lurks hidden in envy, and envy often results in actual murder. Those who yield themselves to envy walk in "the way of Cain."

"Life is too short for hate:

We mingle here but one brief day,
Too brief for what we meant to say
When it is all too late.

"Life is too short for hate;

The tree is green that soon shall wave
Its leafy plumes above the grave
In that relentless state."

The crime which they meditate reveals their inmost character. Reuben proves to be a coward. Judah is seen to be a hypocrite, and the hardness of heart that curses the degraded, shows in all of them as they sit down to eat bread, by the pit where they propose Joseph shall starve. If brotherly love had been confined to Jacob's family, it would have died of loneliness.

Blame has been laid upon Jacob for the envy felt towards Joseph. The partiality shown to Joseph in encouraging him in idle-

ness, and dressing him in a garb unlike theirs, roused the jealousy of his brethren. It may be that there is a lesson here for parents to note. Partiality is a dangerous thing. It spoils the receiver of it, and makes him a mark for his companions. Envy is a sin, however, that grows, whether men see the envied one favored or not. These were bad men, and they were engaged in bad affairs. Joseph would not associate with them in their raids and cruelties, and they hated him for his refusal as well as for his rectitude. Many a lad is cruelly treated in his home and school or at his work because he is honest and upright. Envy still dogs the heels of merit, and barks at and bites, too, the one who resolves to live pure and speak the truth in his heart. Jacob loved Joseph for the very reasons that his brothers had for hating him.

Sin is a boomerang. It doubles on its flight, and returns to wound the sinner. Jacob had lied to his father Isaac. Though years had rolled their busy length between that time and the day he sent Joseph to find his brethren, though Esau had forgiven him ten years before, and though God had pardoned him, Jacob meets his own sin of lying when his boys come to him with their lie about Joseph. A lie seems to be a shield to him who uses it, but he soon finds that it is a shield with sharp points on both sides of it. Jacob found it so. As these sons of Jacob committed one fault at first and lied to hide it, thereby making it two, they exemplified to all who know of them Herbert's words: "Dare to be true. Nothing can need a lie; A fault which needs it most, grows two .. thereby."

Nothing is an opposition to him who is in the path of God's commandments. It is