

true God from intermarrying with idolators, yet Abraham instinctively shrank from allowing his son to enter into such a relation. He, therefore, called Eliezer to him and required of him an oath to the effect that he would not take a wife to his son from among the people by whom they were surrounded, but go to his country and to his kindred and take for him thence a wife. Eliezer was accustomed to the most prompt obedience to the commands of his master, but, like every other pious man, he feared an oath, and, in his opinion, it was at least possible that he would not be able to find a suitable woman who would consent to accompany him so great a distance in order to become the wife of one whom she had not even seen. He suggested the difficulty, and asked if he should conduct Isaac to Abraham's native land. There are times in the experience of every man in which reasons for and against certain measures are so evenly balanced that it is difficult to decide as to the path of duty. Thus it was with Abraham in the instance before us. He doubted not that it was the will of God that Isaac should marry one connected with his own family; he felt, too, that the fears of Eliezer were not without foundation, yet might not Isaac, if he went among his relatives, be persuaded there to remain? God had promised that the land in which he then sojourned should become the possession of his descendants, and he had lived in reference to