

—all of them free—were set to hunt and destroy the life of Joseph; his brethren, who plotted to kill him and ended by selling him as a slave; the Midianitish merchants who carried him into Egypt; Potiphar's wife, with her false and cruel accusation; Potiphar, with his imprisonment of an innocent man. But Joseph neither quailed nor swerved. Behind all these human wills, he saw the will of God. He knew that God was permitting all these agents to do their part in relation to him, and that no one of them could go one step beyond that divine permission. The worst enemy could do against him only what God permitted, and God would permit only what He meant for good. It is the same assurance that alone can give calmness and strength to our lives.

"One adequate support
For the calamities of mortal life
Exists—one only; an assured belief
That the procession of our fate, howe'er
Sad or disturbed, is ordered by a Being
Of infinite benevolence and power;
Whose everlasting purposes embrace
All accidents, converting them to good."

I die: and God will surely visit you, v. 24.
The great prime minister, who had kept the

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

By Rev. J. MacDonald Duncan, B.D.

Our judgment of others is often the reflection of our own character. v. 15.

Believers can pray in the name of Christ, as the brethren of Joseph presented their petition in the name of their father. v. 16.

It is dishonoring to God to doubt that He has answered a prayer for pardon. v. 17.

The dreams which God had sent to Joseph were fulfilled, as all the purposes of God will be. v. 18.

Divine control does not destroy human freedom. v. 20

Kindness is the mightiest of forces. v. 21.

Death is no respecter of persons. v. 24.

"God buries His workmen, but carries on His work." v. 24.

Joseph's dying faith was grander than all the achievements of his life. v. 25.

vast population of Egypt, could not keep death away from his own door. But over against this thought of man's mortality place this fact: His servants die, but God lives. And because God lives, no honest, faithful work done for Him will ever fail. In the Highlands of Scotland there is a place where a village once stood, which has now completely vanished. But the grass on that spot is greener than on any other place around. For years the villagers had cultivated their gardens there, and the grass is greener because of their work. So, if we are kind and true and faithful, God will see that the world will be the better after we are gone, for our having lived in it. When we are called away, we do not leave our loved ones alone in the world. We leave them in a world in which God lives.

And he was put in a coffin in Egypt, v. 26.
"Joseph here left his confined body to his people that by its presence among them, and preservation by them, they might never forget that Egypt was not their final resting place." (Taylor.) Instead of a coffin, we have the empty grave of Jesus to remind us that He has risen and that believers also shall rise to a higher and more blessed life.

Outward signs are a help to inward faith. v. 26.

I hold him great who, for love's sake,
Can give with generous sweet will,
Yet he who takes for love's sweet sake,
I think I hold more generous still.

I bow before the noble mind,
That freely some great wrong forgives;
Yet nobler is the one forgiven.
Who bears that burden well and lives.

—Proctor.

"The Lord Jesus, who lighteth every man coming into the world, was in Joseph's heart, though less clearly in Joseph's creed; and his behaviour was a foreshadowing of Incarnate love. Reader! He waits to forgive thee thus. Though thou hast maligned, and refused, and crucified Him afresh, and put Him to an open shame; yet for all that, He waits to forgive thee so entirely, that not one