

stored for export in time of peace, or supply in time of war. *Pithom and Raamses*. The former was identified in 1883 and has been since explored. The latter has not yet been found.

V. 12. *But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied*. Short of actual extermination by killing, as in the case of the Armenians in Turkey, hard usage seems to be productive of increase in population. *Grieved*.

APPLICATION

Now these are the names of the children of Israel, v. 1. What a marvellous race the Jews have been! Their discipline under the Law of Moses produced in them a type of national character like no other in the world. Said Balaam (Num. 23: 9), "They shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations." Their characteristic feature, according to Goethe, is toughness. This strength of moral fibre, combined with the genius for religion, furnished a suitable soil for the growth of the great religious leaders of the world. To the Jewish nation we owe David and Isaiah, Paul and John. Greatest gift of all, from this nation Christ sprang. The influence of this wonderful people is still powerful in literature and politics and finance. The Christian Church will yet receive a great accession of strength from the ingathering of the Jews. "What shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" (Rom. 11: 15.) The Church and the world will be enriched by the fruitage of those ages of patient training under the care of that harsh "pedagogue" (the Law) which will bring them at last to Christ. (Gal. 3: 24.) It will not be in vain for themselves or others that this people have "borne the yoke in their youth." (Lam. 3: 27).

Reuben, etc., vs. 2, 3, 4. These names are stained with blood, and darkened by crime. Around them clings scarcely one great and lovable memory. Yet theirs was a glorious heritage; and theirs a noble destiny. To what can we ascribe their high place but to the grace of God? Not even their descent from Israel could prevent their falling from their lofty privileges. For, when we turn to the Revelation (7: 5-8), we find that the

The word so translated "expresses a mixture of loathing and alarm."

Vs. 13, 14. *To serve with rigour*. The word translated rigor, means "to crush, to break to pieces." It is used only in these two verses. *In mortar*; preparing for brick-making. *In bricks*; building with the bricks when made. The pictures on the monuments show heavy burdens and sharp whips, and cruel overseers urging to the tasks.

tribe of Dan has been blotted out, while Manasseh is counted separately from Joseph to complete the twelve. Our salvation is not secured by our merely natural descent from Christian ancestors.

And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation, v. 6. The people of Israel had now no longer in the great prime minister, their kinsman, a prop to support them. Nor was there, now, any one whose eyes had actually rested on the hills and valleys of Canaan to which it had been promised that they should return. They were left without the encouraging presence of Joseph; they were deprived of the testimony of eye-witness to the beauty and fertility of the Promised Land. So Paul left the Philippians to "work out their salvation" in his "absence." (Phil. 2: 12.) Why have the people of God been robbed so frequently of all external helps to their faith, if not to drive them to more simple and direct reliance upon God, "which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure?" (Phil. 2: 13.)

And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied and waxed exceeding mighty, v. 7. "No book attaches more weight, than the Bible, to the truth, amply vindicated by modern science, that good breeding in the strictest sense of the term, is a powerful factor in the lives of men and nations. To be well-born does not of necessity require aristocratic parentage, nor does such parentage involve it; but it implies a virtuous, temperate and pious stock. In extreme cases the doctrine of race is palpable; for who can doubt that the sins of dissolute parents are visited upon