



THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

WHO of the young people can tell the story of the picture?

A man and woman and a little babe are in a quiet village. They are poor and lowly, but strong in each other's love, and in love to the little one and to God, they are happy. But there is something more than this. Some strange things have been said concerning that child, of the wondrous being that He has, and of what He is to be, and they are specially happy in the hopes that centre in Him.

But one night the man dreams a strange fearsome dream, and in the dream, a voice tells him that the young life around which so many hopes are clustered is in danger, that the king who lives in a city about six miles distant will seek to kill the little one. What shall he do? How can he escape? Where can he get beyond the king's power and who can help if the king wishes to kill?

Then as in his dream he wonders and fears, the voice says again, "Arise and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt." How his heart bounds at the thought of safety! The king cannot touch him there.

He wakens the mother, and tells his dream. Up they rise, not waiting for the day lest mischief befall them, and their escape be prevented. Away down through the hills below Bethlehem they hurry along, the mother clasping her child tighter at every sound and casting glances backward to see if any are following.

Weary and worn they press on, and at length they reach Egypt, where their forefathers had been so long in bondage, but which to them now means safety, and in the picture we see Joseph pointing with glad, eager looks, to the palm trees by the Nile. Now they are safe, and Mary is bowing her head in loving tenderness over the babe and lifting her heart in gratitude to God, while the little one, all unconscious, looks and smiles at them both.

What a picture of helplessness. The infant Saviour escaping for life from a bold, bad man. But He was safe. The Almighty God was watching over Him. And if you are a follower of that same Saviour, that same God will keep you when you are weak, and protect you when you are in danger.