

On the very threshold of their career the Lord gave them great encouragement. The elders of Israel were gathered together; the lips of Aaron, the eloquent speaker, repeated boldly the message of deliverance, and, strong in faith, he proceeded to show the signs which God had commanded. And the Israelites believed. The signs proved that the messengers came with authority; but it was the gracious message itself which won the hearts of the people so that "they bowed their heads and worshipped."

Joy and wonder must have been mingled in the hearts of Moses and Aaron as they beheld this scene. They had tasted the sweetness of doing God's work, and their zeal must have been greatly quickened. How many lives would be suddenly transformed and imbued with brightness, if only they were devoted to the service of God! It is one great use of companionship, that each shall encourage and stimulate the other rightly to use the time and talents God has given him. Moses needed the ready tongue of his brother, and Aaron needed the strength and determination of Moses. The late well-known author of "The Book and its Missions," the foundress of the noble order of "Bible Women" in England, owed to a young friend and companion the impulse which caused her to enter upon the great work.

3. *The meeting with Pharaoh in his audience chamber.* This was something more formidable than meeting the elders of Israel. It was bearding the lion in his den; breaking in upon the "strong man armed," whose "goods" were "at peace." Luke 11. 21.—They went, not as suppliants, but as heralds with a message of authority. True, it was no harsh or threatening message. But it aimed an unmistakable blow at the sovereignty of Pharaoh over the enslaved Israelites, and was calculated in no small degree to rouse the anger of the proud monarch. "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, let My people go, that they may hold a feast unto Me." The idea is scouted with astonished indignation; "I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go." The message is then repeated, couched in milder language. But by this time Pharaoh has recovered from his surprise, and has noted that the men before him are simple Israelites, alone and defenceless. And his wrath softens down into contempt as he bids them "get you unto your burdens." The fortress stands apparently as strong as ever, but these *companions in arms* have hurled the first blow at it, and have done so with impunity.

The Lord's warriors receive their commissions singly, but he does not send them to fight the battle alone. He means them to be *companions in arms*.

"Many giants great and tall  
Stalking through the land,  
Straightway to the earth would fall  
If met by Daniel's band."

The giant of strong drink, the giant of dishonest practices, the giant of levity in speech, the giant of extravagance in dress, and countless other things, need to be attacked in concert, for are not these keeping many in bondage who ought to be free to serve God? And does not the promise "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them" apply to companions in labor and warfare, as well as to companions in prayer?

But how came it to pass that these two companions and brothers, Moses and Aaron, were agreed in faith and purpose, in labor and in warfare? How came it that in almost every case up to the parting hour, they were true fellow-helpers in the work God had given them, so that while Aaron could lean upon Moses, Moses in his turn could lean upon Aaron? The Golden Text tells us, they were men whom God had chosen. It was not mere natural affection or old association that brought them together, but the will and the choice of God.

"Choose Thou for me my friends," should be the prayer of every young Christian. And if God gives to any such their own brothers or sisters to be companions in faith and purpose, not only should they highly prize the gift, but they should seek, as far as is possible, to be companions also in work and in warfare.

### BEREAN METHODS.

#### Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Draw or show on the map: (1) The journey of Moses from Midian. (2) The journey of Aaron from Egypt. (3) The place of meeting in the wilderness. (4) The journey of the two brothers to Egypt.... Sketch briefly the life and character of Aaron.... Word-pictures of (1) The meeting: two venerable brothers embracing on the Mount of God. (2) The Assembly: the elders of Israel listening to the chosen leaders; bowing with tears of joy; accepting the message. (3) The Summons: palace of Pharaoh; courtiers and princes around; Moses and Aaron before the throne. (4) The Rejection: scornful answer of the king, etc.... Three classes of people, (1) God's workers. (2) God's people. (3) God's enemies.... Examples of the lesson, (1) Affection. (2) Unity of effort. (3) Fidelity (in delivering God's message). (4) Faith (ver. 31). (5) Thanksgiving. (6) Worship.... Warnings of the lesson. (1) Against unbelief. (2) Against contempt of God.... Requisites for success in God's work. (1) Lead-