

and start them on the road, turn to give a farewell look at their old homes, and set out on their strange and unknown journey.

But they have no roads and must have guidance. In the East it was customary for large caravans to have a pot or pan set high upon a pole and a fire lighted in it to enable all to follow the leader. Here God Himself provided a guide, which seemed like a great pillar, cloud by day and fire by night.

They travelled eastward and soon they came to the Red Sea. What can they do, they cannot cross it. They cannot go around the north end of it, for there is a great wall there with soldiers guarding it. So they turn South and soon they meet some mountains which stop their progress. They are shut in and can go no further. To make matters worse, a cry is raised that the Egyptians are coming after them. They look. Yes, sure enough, there are Pharaoh's chariots and soldiers. After a few days the Egyptians had got over their fright and were sorry they had allowed Israel to go, and Pharaoh told his army to go after them, for he knew they could not travel fast. Here the army overtakes them.

The Egyptians are glad for they think they have them securely caught, and the Hebrews are afraid for they see no way of escape. They begin to find fault with Moses for leading them to such a place. Moses cries to God and God helps.

First he caused that great pillar of cloud and fire which was leading Israel, to come behind them, and it came upon the Egyptians like a thick fog so that they could see nothing. They waited quietly till the morning, thinking that they had Israel securely trapped, and that they could wait for the cloud to lift. But when, in the early dawn, the cloud lifted and they looked, what did they see? Why Israel was away on the other side of the sea. A strong wind had blown the shallow waters south so that Israel could pass over as on dry ground. All night long they had been crossing while the Egyptians were wrapped in that thick fog, and now they were all on the other side.

The Egyptians however were not going to lose their prey so easily. They started in pursuit. But their chariot wheels began to get clogged with mud and tangled with reeds and some of them came off, and as the army was floundering along, the wind turned and blew the water back. Deeper it grew. The Egyptians tried to escape for life, but in vain. They were all drowned; and from their place of safety, the women of Israel, led by Miriam, Moses' sister, sang their song of gladness and praise to God, "The Lord hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he hath thrown into the sea."

The God who did these wonderful things is the same God yet, and from this story we may learn some things with regard to Him.

1. Though He permits his people to pass through difficulties, He will bring them safely through.

2. When any duty calls us to go forward, God will take care that we are led through.

A picture is suggested by this story. A great number of young people are travelling on in life. Satan is pursuing them. He wishes to win them as his own. God has provided a way of escape, and every boy and girl who trusts Christ and follows Him has had a grander deliverance than Israel had. Can you sing of the freedom which Christ gives.

### BE THOROUGH.

"I never do anything thoroughly," Mary said to me the other day. She had just been competing for a prize in composition. "I only read my composition once after I wrote it, and I never practiced it in the chapel at all."

She was naturally far more gifted than Alice, who was her principal competitor. Alice wrote and rewrote her article, and practiced it again and again.

The day came. Alice read her composition in a clear, distinct voice, without hesitation or lack of expression. It was condensed and well written. Mary's could not be heard beyond the fifth row of seats, and was long and uninteresting. Alice won the prize. One remembered and the other forgot the truth so trite, but so aptly put by Carlyle: "Genius is an immense capacity for taking trouble."

One by patient, persistent effort obtained what the other relied upon her natural talent to win for her.

Whatever you do, whether you sweep a room or make a cake or write an essay or trim a hat or read a book, do it thoroughly. Have a high standard for everything. Not alone because only thus can you win honor and distinction, but because this is the only honest, right, Christian way to use the gifts God has bestowed upon you. To be honest before him we must be thorough.—Sel.

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