

M. C. 1571.

July 10.

LESSON II.—THE COMING DELIVERER; or, The Choice of Faith.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

For a whole generation of years the hand of oppression has been resting upon Israel, and the spirits of the people sink lower, while their numbers as steadily increase. At last the cruel edict goes forth that all male children of the hated race are to be destroyed. An Israelite mother looks upon her babe, and boldly ventures upon a plan for its protection. Thinking that if once the eyes of the king's daughter fall upon the sweet face of her little one, she will not have the heart to leave it to perish, the mother frames a little boat of wicker work, making it impenetrable to the water, and lays her babe in it. Then she commits it to the river, just at the place and time where Pharaoh's daughter is wont to bathe, and leaves its elder sister to watch its fate. The little vessel, bearing the destiny, not only of a nation, but of the world as well, floats among the flags at the margin of the river, until the princess, seeing it, orders it to be brought. The fair face and the pleading cries of the babe are more eloquent than words, and it is adopted as the child of Pharaoh's daughter, though sent to be nursed by its own mother. Thus, in the palace of Pharaoh, fed at the royal table, grows up the destined deliverer of the Lord's people. Forty years pass, and the founding of the Nile, whose name, Moses, proclaims his origin, now stands once more among his own people, having renounced the honors of Egypt for a place among the despised people of God. He strikes a blow for liberty, expecting that his fellow-countrymen will rally round his standard. But their hearts are too craven, and their spirits are sunk too low to respond to his call. They would rather endure bondage in Egypt than seek their own inheritance in Canaan. So the coming deliverer is compelled to take refuge beyond the reach of Pharaoh's vengeance, and, sitting by the well of Midian, awaits the development of the divine plans.

Exod. 2. 5-15.

Memory Verses 9-10.

5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

Acts 7. 21: When he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.

6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

Luke 10. 33, 34: A certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him... and took care of him.

7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL.

Verse 5. The daughter of Pharaoh. Her name is not known with certainty, though given by Josephus as Thermuthis. **To wash herself.** Probably an act of religious worship, as the Nile received divine honours, and was believed to give fruitfulness and long life to those who bathed in its waters. **Her maidens.** Female servants in attendance upon the princess. **Saw the ark.** A basket of paper-reeds, cemented by bitumen or Nile mud, in which the infant Moses had been placed by his mother. **Among the flags.** The sedge-grass, growing along the margin of the river. **Sent her maid.** 1. Upon what small incidents do great results to the world depend! The chosen nation finds a founder, law giver, and leader, from the curiosity of an Egyptian princess.

6. Opened it. It was probably covered in order to prevent the little one from falling out. **Saw the child.** Literally, "and she saw him, the child; and behold, a male infant, weeping." **She had compassion.** That very child was, long after, the writer of this story, and there is a tenderness in his recollection of the princess, his adopting mother. 2. It is fortunate that character is not always hereditary; a cruel father may have a compassionate daughter. **One of the Hebrews' children.** From the complexion and appearance of the babe, she recognized its nationality. The word *Hebrew* has been defined by some as "a crosser over," or "from beyond," referring to the origin of the race beyond the Euphrates, and by others as "a descendant of Eber, or Heber," who was the great-grandson of Shem, and the ancestor of Abraham.

7. His sister. Miriam, who was then a girl twelve years old, and intelligent beyond her years. 3. How much even a child may do to help others! **Shall I go.** The young girl was near at hand, watching over her baby brother, and showed wonderful courage and tact by the plan which she suggested and carried out. 4. Let young people learn a lesson of thoughtfulness and helpfulness, especially in the care of younger children. **Nurse the child for thee.** Whether the princess had already determined to protect and adopt the infant, or whether she received the suggestion from Miriam, it was equally a matter of divine ordering. 5. How seemingly minute are the elements which enter into the divine providences!

8, 9. Pharaoh's daughter said. In her conduct she