

passed. His grandfather Isaac has passed away, sorrowing for his grandson, who had often cheered him by his boyish talk and play. Jacob is an old man of 121 years. His life has been shadowed by grief since Joseph's death.

And what of the poor slave boy himself? We visit Egypt in this lesson. Shall we see Joseph? Where shall we look for him? Surely in some low and menial place. Nay, we find him next the throne, virtual ruler of Egypt.

What a checkered thirteen years! The first ten were spent in Potiphar's service; the second three in prison, and from that he vaulted to power.

Remember that while he was exalted by a miracle, God telling him how to interpret a dream, yet the reason that he was thus honored was because he was faithful to God, and truth, and right, in the lowly places which he had filled. Wherever he was he tried to be useful, hopeful, and true. His one aim was to please God, and every one who does that, though they may not rise to a high place among men, will be guided and cared for by God.

When he first went to Egypt, the Medianites sought a market for their slave, and as he was a handsome young man, they went to a high place to get a good price, and they sold him to Potiphar, a captain of the guard, a man of great power.

Joseph was so wise and faithful, while other servants were often deceitful, that he gradually trusted more and more into his hand until the servant had practically the whole management of his affairs.

All this seemed to show the favor of Providence, but now when all seemed bright he was suddenly and falsely charged with wrong doing, and cast into prison. It seemed a poor reward for his faithfulness, but this too was Providence. The hard trials as well as the bright times are from God's hand. His very imprisonment made him a better man.

Although wrongfully imprisoned he did not fret or complain, but went to work to make the best of it, and made himself so useful that here, as in Potiphar's house, he came to be a trusted helper.

Then came Pharaoh's strange dream which none could interpret, until the king's butler remembered how Joseph had interpreted his dream in prison, and how unthankful he had been, and he told Pharaoh about him. Joseph was called. God revealed to him the meaning of the dream. He told the king and advised him what to do. Pharaoh rightly judged that no other man was so fitted to carry out the proposed plan, and appointed Joseph to the prison. From the prison he is raised next to the throne; and now at thirty

years of age, Joseph makes laws for Egypt, gathering up some of the rich harvest of the plenteous years to store it for the coming years of famine.

We might think it strange that some time in these years Joseph had not tried to let his father know where he was, as he was only 250 miles from home, but to do so would expose the sin of his brothers and make more trouble at home. Besides there were no mails in those days, and he could not go or send a messenger. He waited God's time, doing faithfully what God gave him to do. That he tenderly loved that home we see from the way in which he received his father and brethren in later years.

We learn from this lesson that the trials of youth often train for after life. The poor boy that is left to make his own way in the world sometimes makes the smartest, strongest man.

Another lesson:—If we do our duty where we are and trust God, He will lead us to the place, be it high or low, which he wants us to fill and to the work He wants us to do.

A still more precious lesson we learn, that God will never forsake those who put their trust in Him.

April 29.

JOSEPH FORGIVING HIS BRETHREN.

Les. Gen. 45: 1-15. Gol. Text, Luke 17: 3.
Mem. vs. 3-5. Catechism Q. 100.

Nine years have passed since last lesson. That was at the beginning of the seven plenteous years. These have gone by. Much of their rich plenty has been saved by Joseph, in store cities in different parts of the kingdom. The famine has begun. It is now the second year of that awful time. The date is 1707 B.C. Twenty-two years have passed since he was sold to the Medianites. He is now thirty-nine years of age.

Jacob is still living, 130 years old. The famine is felt in Canaan as well as in Egypt. Jacob and his family are scarce of food and wonder what they shall do. News comes to them that there is plenty in Egypt. It is a long journey, more than 200 miles, but they must have food, and at length the ten sons, most of them in middle life, some from fifty to sixty years of age, start to Egypt to buy food.

One day the governor of Egypt is told that ten strange men wish to see him. They speak a foreign tongue. The court interpreter is called. They are brought into the presence of Joseph, and with astonishment that he can scarcely control he sees before him the brothers who had sold him into slavery. They come and bow themselves before him, and now is fulfilled those dreams of many years before.