

And to distressed Jonah, said the Lord,
Dost thou well to be angry for the gourd?
And he unto the Lord made this reply,
I do well to be angry e'en to die.
Thou hast had pity, Jonah, on the gourd,
For which thou didst not labour, said the Lord,
Nor madest it to grow, which also came
Up in a night, and perish'd in the same.

And should not I extend my gracious pity
To Nineveh, so populous a city,
Where more than six score thousand persons dwell,
Who 'twixt their right hand, and their left can tell
No difference, wherein are also found
Cattle which do in multitudes abound.

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH,

TAKEN OUT OF THE LATTER PART OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

CHAP. XXXVII.

WHEN Jacob from his brother Esau fled,
He by the hand of providence was led
To Padan-aram, in Assyria, where
He serv'd his uncle Laban twenty year;
During which time he was in all things blest,
And with a num'rous issue 'mongst the rest:
Amongst whom none so pleasing in his sight
As Joseph was, who was his chief delight:
Who by the time that Jacob was return'd
Into the land, where's fathers had sojourn'd,
Was full arriv'd at seventeen years of age;
And by his hopefulness did then presage,
He was endued with a noble mind,
That would to virtuous actions be inclin'd;
For being sent to feed his father's flock,
Among his brethren he great notice took
Of what they did, and if in any sort
They did amiss, he thereof made report
Unto his father, and did thus create
His father's favour, but his brethren's hate.
His father loved him better than the rest,
As being the son wherewith his age was blest.
And that his kindness might the more appear,
Made him a party colour'd coat to wear.
But as it often haps, his father's love
Did in his brethren greater hatred move.
But that which most incens'd them was his dreams,
By which, in a prophetic way, he seems
Their low submission, and his future state
Of greatness plainly to prognosticate.
For to his brethren thus his dreams he told,
And said, As we were binding sheaves, behold,
My sheaf arose and stood up in the field,
And all your sheaves stood round about, to yield
Obeisance unto mine: And what, must we
Indeed, say they, be subject unto thee?
Their wrath increas'd, this added to his crime,
And Joseph dream'd yet a second time;
And said, Behold, I saw the sun and moon,
And the eleven stars to me fall down.
At which his father highly was offend'd,
And for these words, the lad he reprehend'd,
And said, Fould youth, dost thou pretend to shew
That I, thy mother, and thy brethren too,
Must all submit to thee? Thou dost but dream:
But Jacob kept his words, and thought of them.

Now Jacob's sons did feed their flocks in Shechem,
And he desired Joseph to go seek them,
And find them out, and come again and tell
If all things with them and their flocks were well.
So Joseph went, and wander'd here and there,
But could not find out where his brethren were,
Until a man had told him their intent
Of going to Dotham, where he also went.
And when his brethren at a distance saw him,
They held a consultation how to slay him,
And said, Here comes the dreamer, we shall see
What the event of all his dreams will be;
For we will kill, and in a pit will hide him,
And say some beast or other hath destroy'd him.
But Reuben somewhat tend'rer than the rest,
Endeavour'd to persuade them to desist
From murder, saying, Into this pit let's cast him,
And this he said in hopes to have releas'd him.
And now when Joseph came not dreading ought,
They stript him of his party colour'd coat,
And led him to a pit that was hard by,
And threw him into't, but the pit was dry.
And sitting down to eat, they chanc'd to spy,
A company of Ishmaelites pass by,
Who with balm, myrrh, and spice, their camels lading,
From Gilead came, and were to Egypt trading.
Then Judah said, 'Twill do us little good
To slay our brother, and conceal his blood;
Come therefore, brethren, be advis'd by me,
Let's sell him to these Ishmaelites, for he
Is our own flesh, and 'tis a cruel deed,
To kill him, and to this they all agreed.
Their brother then out of the pit they hale,
And to these merchants offer'd him to sale:
Who, him for twenty silver pieces bought,
And with them to the land of Egypt brought.
But Reuben, ignorant of what was done,
Came to the pit, and seeing the lad was gone,
He rent his clothes in a great consternation,
Returning back with heavy lamentation.
And now that they might make their story good
They kill'd a kid, and dipped in the blood
Their brother Joseph's coat, and home they came,
And to their father's view expos'd the same,
And said, This we have found, now thou dost know
Whether it be thy son's coat, yea or no.
And Jacob knew the coat full well, and said,
Now hath some evil beast devour'd the lad;

Joseph is torn in pieces without doubt,
 For, too, too well I know this is his coat.
 He rent his clothes, and putting sackcloth on,
 He for a long time mourned for his son.
 His children striving to assuage his grief
 Endeavour'd to administer relief:
 But he refus'd, and said, Since he is gone, }
 I will in sorrow to the grave go down. }
 Such lamentation made he for his son. }

CHAP. XXXIX.

And now these merchants, sons of Ishmael,
 Again did poor afflicted Joseph sell,
 To an Egyptian, named Potiphar,
 The captain of King Pharaoh's men of war.
 And God was with him, and did greatly bless,
 And crown his undertakings with success.
 Whereof his master being well aware,
 Committed all he had to Joseph's care;
 And made him overseer of his house,
 And, from the time his master us'd him thus,
 The Lord was pleas'd to give him to partake,
 So many blessings, e'en for Joseph's sake:
 Of that with plenty he was hedg'd about,
 And prospered within door and without.
 Such was his master's love, and he so just,
 That all things were committed to his trust.
 Now Joseph was grown up to manly stature,
 Of goodly presence, and most comely feature.
 Wherefore his mistress, with a lustful eye,
 Beheld his beauty, and resolv'd to try,
 If to unchaste embraces she could gain
 The youth, but her endeavours prov'd in vain:
 For he refus'd, and said, My master knows,* }
 In all the house of nothing that he owes,* }
 For his concerns are all at my dispose: }
 There's not a thing that he hath kept from me
 But all is in my hand, save only thee;
 Then how can I commit so foul a fact,
 And the displeasure of my God contract?
 Yet still she sued, and still did he deny her,
 Refusing to be with her, or lie by her.
 Now on a time when all the men were gone
 Out of the house, and she was left alone:
 And Joseph at that instant coming in,
 About some business he'd to do within;
 She took advantage of their being together,
 And held his clothes to force him to lie with her.
 But Joseph strove, and from her hands got loose,
 And left his coat, and fled out of the house.
 And when she saw that he had made's escape,
 She call'd her servants, and proclaim'd a rape:
 Come see now how this Hebrew slave, said she,
 Your master's favourite, hath affronted me.
 He came to violate my chastity,
 And when he heard that I began to cry,
 And call for help, afraid lest you should find him,
 He's fled, and left his garment here behind him.
 And now to give her words the greater credit,
 Until her husband's coming home, she hid it,
 To whom she spake, and said, Why hast thou brought
 This Hebrew here, to set me thus at naught?

The slave attempted to defile my bed,
 And when I ery'd, he left his coat and fled,
 See here it is. Which when he saw, and heard
 The heavy accensation she preferr'd,
 He was exceeding wroth at his behaviour,
 And utterly cashier'd him from his favour;
 Nay more, he cast him into prison, where
 In fetters bound, King Pharaoh's pris'ners were.
 But Joseph's God, who never yet forsook
 Him in extremity, was pleas'd to look
 With great compassion on his injuries,
 And gave him favour in the keeper's eyes;
 So that he was entrusted with the care
 And charge of all the pris'ners that were there:
 All were committed unto Joseph's hand,
 And what was done, was done at his command.
 The prison-keeper took no care at all,
 Of ought that he entrusted him withal;
 Because he saw that God was with him, and
 All things did prosper that he took in hand.

CHAP. XL.

And now, whilst Joseph in confinement lay,
 It came to pass upon a certain day,
 That Pharaoh King of Egypt, being wroth
 With his chief butler, and chief baker both,
 For their offences, put them both in ward,
 In the house of the captain of the guard:
 Into the place where Joseph was confin'd,
 Unto whose custody they were resign'd;
 And he attended on them in the prison.
 And there they were continu'd for a season,
 During which time it chanced both of them
 Did in the same night dream each man his dream:
 Which dreams, according to interpretation,
 Had to themselves particular relation.
 And Joseph coming early the next day,
 Into the room where Pharaoh's servants lay,
 Beheld their countenances much dejected:
 Wherefore he said, What evil hath effected
 This melancholy frame, what is't that causes
 These marks of discontentment in your faces?
 Then said they, We have dream'd each man his dream,
 And there is no man to interpret them.
 Then Joseph said, Your dreams to me make known,
 Interpretations are from God alone.
 Then unto Joseph the chief butler told
 His dream, and said, Methought I did behold
 A vine, whereon three branches did appear,
 Which seem'd to bud, to blossom, and to bear
 Clusters of full ripe grapes, which to my thinking
 I press'd into the cup for Pharaoh's drinking.
 And Joseph said, Thy dream doth signify,
 Thou shalt enjoy thy former dignity:
 The branches which thou sawest are three days,
 In which King Pharaoh will his butler raise
 And to thy place again will thee restore,
 And thou shalt serve him as thou'st done before:
 But do not, when it shall be well with thee,
 Forget me, but show kindness unto me,
 And unto Pharaoh represent my ease,
 That I may be deliver'd from this place;
 For I was stol'n out of the Hebrew's land,
 And also here am wrongfully detained.

* 'He owes,' a contraction for 'he owneth.'—ED.

Then the chief baker having understood,
That the interpretation was so good,
He told his dream to Joseph too, and said,
Lo, I had three white baskets on my head,
And in the uppermost there seem'd to be,
Of baked provision, great variety,
Fit for King Pharaoh's table, and there came
A flock of birds, and seem'd to eat the same.
And Joseph said, Thy dream portends thy fall,
For at the end of three days Pharaoh shall
Lift up thy head, and hang thee on a tree,
So that the birds shall feast themselves on thee.
And on the third day Pharaoh made a feast
Unto his servants, and among the rest
The butler and the baker were brought forth,
The day being kept in memory of his birth.
And to his place King Pharaoh did restore
His butler, and he served him as before.
But the chief baker he condemn'd to die,
According unto Joseph's prophecy.
Yet though the butler had regain'd his place,
He was unmindful of poor Joseph's case.

CHAP. XLI.

And now when two years' time was fully past,
And Joseph from confinement not releas'd,
It came to pass that Pharaoh dream'd, and
He seem'd by a river-side to stand,
Whence he seven fat well-favour'd kine beheld,
Come up and grazed in the neighbouring field.
And after them there came up seven more,
Lean and ill-favour'd, and did soon devour
The seven fat kine which came up just before. }
So Pharaoh 'woke, and mus'd awhile, and then
Soon as his sleep his dream returned again:
Wherein he saw upon one stalk there stood
Seven ears of corn exceeding rank and good,
And seven others, with the east wind blasted,
And withered, sprang up, and quickly wasted
The seven good ears, and quite devour'd them:
And Pharaoh 'woke, and lo, it was a dream.
And in the morning he was discontent,
And for the wise men and magicians sent,
To ease his mind; but there was none of them
That could interpret to the king his dream.
Then the chief butler, making his address
Unto King Pharaoh, said, I now confess
My former faults, for when the king was wroth
With his chief butler, and chief baker both,
It pleas'd him, to put us both in ward,
In the house of the captain of the guard:
And in one night we dream'd a dream, each one
According to 's interpretation:
And there was then an Hebrew there in ward,
A youth that serv'd the captain of the guard:
To whom we told whereof we had been dreaming,
And he interpreted to us the meaning;
And what he said fell out accordingly, }
Me he restored to my dignity, }
But told the baker he should surely die. }
Then Pharaoh sent a messenger in haste,
And Joseph from the dungeon was releas'd:

And having shav'd himself and chang'd his clothes,
Into the presence of the king he goes.
To whom king Pharaoh said, I have been told
Thou canst the meaning of a dream unfold:
Now I have dream'd a dream, and there is none
Can give me the interpretation.
And Joseph said, I cannot do this thing
Myself, but God shall answer thee, oh king.
Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, In my dream,
As I stood by a river's side, there came
Up from the river seven well-favour'd kine,
And fed upon the banks, all fat and fine,
And after them there came up seven more,
Lean and ill-favour'd, and exceeding poor:
Such as the land of Egypt never bred,
And on the seven well-favour'd kine they fed,
And eat them up, but 'twas not to be seen
That they had eat them, they look'd still so thin.
So I awoke, and mus'd awhile, and then
Soon as my sleep, my dream return'd again;
Wherein I saw upon one stalk there stood
Seven ears of corn, exceeding rank and good:
Then seven others, with the east wind blasted,
And withered, came up, and quickly wasted
The seven good ears, and quite devour'd them.
And being unsatisfied about my dream,
I sought unto the wise men of the nation,
But they could give me no interpretation.
And Joseph said, Thy dream, oh king! is one,
God shew to Pharaoh what he will have done.
The seven fat kine and seven good ears agree
To shew, seven years of plenty there shall be.
The seven lean kine, and seven blasted ears,
Denote there shall be famine seven years.
This I declare to Pharaoh, God doth shew
To thee, oh king! what he's about to do.
Behold seven years of plenty are at hand,
Which shall be very great throughout the land.
And after them seven years of famine shall
Arise, and shall consume the land, and all
The former plenty shall not be perceiv'd,
So much the land with famine shall be griev'd.
And since the dream was doubl'd to the king, }
It is because God hath decreed the thing, }
And on this land the same will shortly bring: }
Now therefore if I may the king advise,
Let him look out a man discreet and wise,
And make him overseer of the land:
And substitute men under his command
To gather a fifth part for public use,
Of what the seven plenteous years produce;
And in the cities lay it up for store,
Against the famine in the land grows sore;
And let it be repos'd in Pharaoh's hand,
That so the famine may not waste the land.
And when king Pharaoh and his servants heard
The propositions Joseph had preferr'd,
They were acceptable in Pharaoh's eyes,
And in the eyes of all his court likewise:
So that he said, Can such an one be found?
A man in whom God's Spirit doth abound.
And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Forasmuch
As God's great kindness unto thee is such,

As to reveal this thing to thee, I know
 No man so wise or so discreet as thou.
 Be thou therefore the ruler of the land,
 And let my people be at thy command ;
 Thou shalt in all things be as great as I,
 Save only in the royal dignity.
 Behold this day I have advanced thee
 Said he, to be a man of high degree
 Throughout the land. And therewithal the king
 Bestow'd on Joseph his own royal ring ;
 And him with robes of state did richly deck,
 And put a chain of gold about his neck,
 And in his second chariot made him ride,
 And as he past, Bow down the knee they cry'd, }
 With so great honour was he dignif'd. }
 And Pharaoh said moreover, I am king,
 No man shall dare to purpose any thing,
 Or move his hand or foot in all this nation,
 Unless it shall be by thy approbation.
 He also gave to Joseph a new name, }
 And for a wife gave him a princely dame, }
 Who was the daughter of a priest of fame. }
 (Now Joseph had attained his thirtieth year,
 When he before king Pharaoh did appear.)
 And he went out from Pharaoh's presence, and
 Began his progress over all the land.
 Now in the seven plenteous years, the field
 Did its increase in great abundance yield.
 And Joseph gather'd all that plenteous crop,
 And in th' adjacent cities laid it up :
 Which like unto the sand upon the shore, }
 Did so abound that he could count no more, }
 Such was the plenty that the earth then bore. }
 And unto Joseph there was born a son, }
 Even by the daughter of the priest of On, }
 Before the years of famine were begun ; }
 The which he call'd Manasseh, for, said he,
 God makes me to forget my misery,
 And all my father's house. And after him
 Was born another he called Ephraim ;
 For God, saith he, hath made me to possess
 Abundance in the land of my distress.
 And when the seven plenteous years were gone,
 The seven years of famine next came on,
 As Joseph said, and there was a great dearth
 In every nation throughout all the earth ;
 But in the land of Egypt there was bread.
 And when the people almost famished,
 Complained to the king, he bade them go
 To Joseph, and whate'er he said to do.
 And now the famine daily waxing sore,
 Joseph began to bring forth of his store,
 Which he had laid up for the public good ;
 To whom th' Egyptians came and bought their food.
 And people from all countries far and near }
 To Egypt came to buy provision there ; }
 For in all lands the famine was severe. }

CHAP. XLII.

And now, behold, when Jacob had been told
 That there was corn in Egypt to be sold,
 He said unto his sons, Why stand ye thus ?
 Go down to Egypt and buy corn for us ;

That so our craving stomachs may be fed,
 And not be here and die for lack of bread.
 Thus Jacob's ten sons were to Egypt sent,
 But Joseph's brother Benjamin ne'er went.
 For why, his father said, I will not send him,
 Lest peradventure some ill chance attend him.
 And Joseph's brethren came among the rest
 To buy provision, for they were distress'd.
 Now he was governor of all the land,
 And all the corn of Egypt in his hand.
 Wherefore his brethren, when they came to treat
 With him for corn, bow'd down e'en at his feet :
 And he no sooner saw them but he knew them,
 And show'd himself extremely strange unto them :
 And very roughly asked who they were,
 From whence they came, and what their business there.
 And they made answer, We thy servants from
 The land of Canaan to buy food are come.
 Now tho' they knew him not, yet he knew them,
 And calling now to mind his former dream,
 He said, I do suspect ye're come as spies,
 To see in what distress our country lies.
 But they reply'd again, My Lord, we're come
 Only to buy some food to carry home.
 Think not thy servants spies, but true men rather
 For we are all the children of one father.
 Nay, nay, said he, but ye are come to pay
 Into the nation's great necessity.
 But they reply'd again, Thy servants are
 Inhabitants of Canaan, and declare,
 That we're twelve brethren, whom one man begot,
 The youngest is at home, and one is not
 Well then, said Joseph, hereby shall I know,
 Whether ye're spies, as I have said, or no ;
 Now by the life of Pharaoh do I swear,
 Until your brother come I'll keep you here.
 Send one of you and fetch the lad to me,
 And you shall be confin'd, so shall there be
 A proof of what you say before mine eyes,
 Or by the life of Pharaoh ye are spies.
 Then he for three days put them all in ward,
 And on the third day said, I have regard
 To equity, therefore if ye are true
 And honest men, do this ; let one of you
 Be bound in prison here, and let the other
 Go carry corn home and bring me your brother ;
 So shall ye be approv'd and shall not die.
 And they prepared to do accordingly.
 And as they were discoursing to each other,
 They said, We were in fault about our brother,
 In that we saw his soul in great distress,
 And yet were so exceeding pitiless,
 As not to hearken to his earnest cries :
 This is the cause of these our miseries.
 And Reuben said, You know I did forewarn,
 And beg that you would do the child no harm ;
 But you would not do then as I desir'd,
 And now his blood is at our hands requir'd.
 Thus they discours'd about the cause that brought
 Their present trouble, but they little thought
 That Joseph knew of what they did confer,
 Because he spake by an interpreter.
 And he being moved at their words withdraw
 To weep, and then returned to renew

His former talk; and choosing Simeon out,
 Before them all he bound him hand and foot.
 And gave command to fill their sacks with grain,
 And to restore their money to 'em again;
 And for their journey gave them food to eat;
 In such sort Joseph did his brethren treat.
 Then with their asses laden towards home
 They went, and when into their inn they come
 As one of them his sack of corn unty'd,
 To give his ass some provender, he spy'd
 His money in his sack again return'd;
 Wherefore he call'd his brethren and inform'd
 Them that his money was returned back.
 Behold, said he, it is here in my sack.
 On sight whereof their hearts were sore dismay'd,
 And being very much affrighted said,
 What is the thing that God's about to do,
 That we do thus these troubles undergo?
 Then coming to their father they related,
 After what sort they were in Egypt treated:
 And said, the man that's lord of all the land,
 And hath the store of corn all in his hand,
 Spake roughly to us, and affirm'd that we
 Were come the weakness of the land to see.
 To whom we said, We are all honest men;
 We are twelve brethren, whereof here are ten,
 And two elsewhere, all which one man begot,
 The youngest's with our father, one is not.
 Then said the ruler of the land, Hereby
 Shall I make proof of your integrity:
 Let one of you continue here with me,
 And take provision for your family;
 And get you gone and bring the youngest hither,
 That so I may be satisfied whether
 Ye are true men, as you make protestation, }
 Then I'll release him, and give toleration }
 To you to come and traffic in the nation. }
 And now behold as they their sacks unloos'd
 To empty out their corn, there was unelos'd
 In each man's sack his money therein bound,
 As when they came from home, which when they found,
 Both they and their old father were afraid;
 And to his sons afflicted Jacob said,
 You of my children have bereaved me,
 Joseph and Simeon now do cease to be;
 And of my Benjamin you would deprive me,
 These things do cv'n into distraction drive me.
 Then Ruben said, My father I resign
 To thy disposing these two sons of mine;
 Give me the lad, and let them both be slain,
 If I do not return him safe again.
 But he reply'd, I will not let him go,
 For why his brother is deceas'd you know;
 And if upon the way some evil thing
 Should happen to the lad, you then will bring
 These my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave;
 For he's the only comfort that I have.

CHAP. XLIII.

And now the famine still continuing sore, }
 And having spent all their late purchas'd store, }
 Their father bids them to go down for more }
 To whom when Judah had himself address'd,
 He said, The man did solemnly protest,

If we without our brother came again,
 To seek his face would be for us in vain:
 If therefore thou wilt send him, well and good,
 Then will we willingly go down for food;
 But if thou wilt not, we must let thee know,
 We are resolved that we will not go:
 For, as I said before, the ruler swore
 Without him we should see his face no more.
 Then Israel said, Why were you so unkind
 To say you had a brother left behind?
 The man, said they, was so inquisitive,
 He asked if our father were alive,
 Or if we had a brother, whereunto
 Accordingly we answer'd, could we know }
 If he would bid us bring the lad or no? }
 Moreover Judah to his father said,
 If thou wilt but entrust me with the lad,
 We will begone, that so both thou and we
 May be preserved with our family:
 I will be surety for him, if I fail
 To bring him back, on me the blame entail;
 For if we had not lingered, we had been
 By this time here the second time again.
 Well then, said Isr'el, if it must be so,
 My sons, take my advice before you go;
 Provide some of the best fruits of the land,
 To give the man a present from your hand;
 Balm, myrrh, and spices, and a little honey,
 Some nuts and almonds, and take double money,
 For peradventure it was a mistake,
 In that your money was return'd back,
 And take your brother Benjamin and go,
 And God Almighty grant the man may shew
 You mercy, that you may bring back again }
 Your other brother, and my Benjamin, }
 And if I am bereav'd, so have I been. }
 Then did the men prepare the present, and
 They took their money double in their hand
 With Benjamin, and down to Egypt went,
 Who unto Joseph did themselves present.
 Who, when he saw that Benjamin was come,
 Order'd his steward to conduct them home,
 And to provide a dinner, for, said he,
 I do intend these men shall dine with me.
 Then did the steward as his master said,
 And brought them home, whereat they were afraid,
 And said, The man hath caus'd us to come in,
 Because our money was return'd again;
 To take occasion now to fall upon us,
 And make us slaves, and take our asses from us.
 Unto the steward they drew nigh therefore,
 And thus communed with him at the door:
 O sir, say they, we came at first indeed
 To buy provision to supply our need;
 And in our inn as we our sacks unloos'd,
 We found our money therein all inclos'd
 In its full weight, whereat surpris'd with fear,
 Not knowing who had put our money there,
 We now have brought it in full weight again,
 And other money too, to buy more grain.
 Peace, peace, said he, let not fear seize upon you
 For I had the disposing of your money:
 God, unto whom you and your father bow,
 Hath giv'n you treasure in your sacks I trow.

And then releasing Simon, who had been
 Confin'd in Joseph's house, he brought them in
 And set them water, and they wash'd their feet;
 And gave their asses provender to eat.
 Then they made ready, against Joseph came,
 Their gifts, in order to present the same
 At noon; for they were told he did design
 To have their company with him to dine.
 And now when Joseph was returned home,
 Into his presence they with reverence come,
 And brought their presents in and laid before him,
 And fell down at his feet for to adore him.
 Then he inquired if they all were well,
 And said, When you were here I heard you tell
 Of an old man, your father, how does he?
 Is he in health, or doth he cease to be?
 Whereto in humble sort they thus repli'd,
 Thy servant, ev'n our father, doth abide
 In perfect health, which having said,
 They bowed their heads and great obeisance made.
 And Joseph viewing Benjamin his brother
 (They being both the children of one mother)
 He asked if he were the lad of whom
 They spake, then said, God give thee grace, my son.
 Then making haste to find a secret place
 To weep, because his bowels yearn'd apart
 Upon his brother, to his chamber went,
 Where having giv'n his trouble'd spirit's vent,
 He washed his face, and did himself refrain,
 And to his brethren then came forth again,
 And bade his servants they should set on bread.
 At his command the tables were all spread;
 One for himself, and for his friends another,
 And for the Egyptians one apart from either, }
 That so they might not eat bread altogether; }
 For it is held a great abomination
 For them to eat among the Hebrew nation.
 And they were plac'd as their age required,
 The eldest first, wherent the men admired.
 And from his table Joseph sent them messes;
 But in a larger manner he expresses
 To Benjamin his kindness, which was such,
 That he appointed him five times as much
 As to the rest: and they drank plentifully,
 Till they were merry in his company.

CHAP. XLIV.

And to his steward Joseph spake, and said,
 Give these men corn as much as they can lade;
 And in their sacks bind each man's money up,
 And in the youngest's put my silver cup
 Besides his money: and he made haste and did
 According as his master had commanded.
 And in the morning by the break of day,
 With asses laden they were sent away:
 And now, e'er they had scarce the town's end pass'd,
 He sent his steward after them in haste,
 And said, Go, follow them, and ask them why
 They have dealt by me so ungratefully?
 And say unto them, You have done great evil
 To rob my master, who hath been so civil,
 And steal the eup wherein he drinks his wine;
 Is it not it whereby he doth *divine?

Then he pursu'd and quickly overtook
 Them, and these very words to them he spoke.
 To whom they said, Why hath my lord such thought?
 Oh, God forbid that we should be so †naught;
 Behold, thou know'st we brought the money back
 The which we found bound up in each man's sack,
 Which shews that we had no design to cheat;
 How then should we now steal your master's plate?
 With which of us thy servants it is found
 Let him be slain, and we to slavery bound.
 Now as you say, said he, so let it be,
 He shall be bound, but you shall all go free.
 Then they unladed ev'ry man his beast,
 And to his view expos'd their sacks in haste.
 And he from first to last them searched round,
 And lo, the eup on Benjamin was found:
 Thereat surpris'd, each man his garment rent,
 And lades his beast, and back again they went.
 And now when Judah and the rest were come
 To Joseph's house, (for he was yet at home) }
 They fell before him to the ground, to whom }
 He said, What deed is this that you have done?
 Are you not sensible that such a one
 As I, can certainly thereof make trial?
 Then Judah said, My lord, there's no denial:
 We cannot clear ourselves. The Lord hath sent,
 For our misdeeds, this heavy punishment.
 Behold, to be thy slaves we all are bound,
 Both we, and he on whom the eup was found.
 Then Joseph said, The Lord forbid that I
 Should exercise so great severity:
 For he with whom 'tis found, and he alone
 Shall be my servant, you may all be gone.
 Then unto Joseph, Judah drawing near,
 Said, O my lord! I pray be pleas'd to hear
 Thy servant speak, and be not angry now,
 For as king Pharaoh is ev'n so art thou.
 My lord did bid thy servants to discover
 Whether we had a father or a brother;
 And we made answer that thy servants had
 An ancient father and a little lad,
 The child of his old age, who was our brother,
 And he the only child left of his mother,
 His brother being dead; and that this lad
 Was all the comfort that our father had.
 Then thou wert pleas'd to bid thy servants bring
 The lad, that thou might'st have a sight of him.
 And we made answer, if the lad should leave
 His father, it would bring him to his grave:
 And thou didst then protest it was in vain
 For us without him to come here again.
 Then towards home thy servants went their way,
 And told our father what my lord did say.
 And in a while, when all our corn was spent,
 Thy servant, ev'n our father, would have sent
 To buy more food; to whom thy servants said,
 We cannot go except thou send the lad.
 Because the man did solemnly declare,
 Unless we brought him we should not come there.

to try. וְיִדְוֹן יָדָאֵם בְּיָדָאֵם וְיִדְוֹן יָדָאֵם v. 5, may be rendered, 'And he will search deeply for it; and in v. 15, 'Know ye not that a man like me would search deeply,' alluding to the certainty of detection, but not by divination.—Ed.

* The word דִּיבָנִים, translated 'divine,' means to eye subtly, to search,

† 'So naught,' so corrupt, bad, or worthless.—Ed.

And then thy servant, ev'n our father, said,
 Ye know that by my wife two sons I had,
 And one of them went forth and came no more,
 Which made me think some beast did him devour:
 And if I now should also condescend
 To let this go, and mischief should attend,
 You will with sorrow bring me to my end,
 When to my father I shall come therefore,
 And he shall see that I do not restore
 The lad again, he certainly will die,
 (Since in his life my father's life doth lie)
 And we shall bring him to his grave thereby:
 For I became a surety for the lad
 Unto my father, unto whom I said,
 If I do not in safety him deliver,
 Then let me bear the blame to thee for ever.
 I humbly pray thee, therefore, to accept
 Me in his stead, and let me here be kept
 My lord's bond-slave, and let the lad go free:
 For how can I, thy servant, bear to see
 The evil that shall on my father come,
 If that the lad return not safely home.

CHAP. XLV.

Then Joseph, who by no means now could hide
 His brotherly affection longer, cry'd,
 Put all men forth; and he was left alone
 When to his brethren he himself made known.
 Then Joseph weeping lifted up his voice
 So loud, that Pharaoh's servants heard the noise.
 And to his brethren did himself discover,
 And said, Lo! I am Joseph your own brother;
 And doth my father live? Whereat amaz'd,
 They could not speak, but at each other gaz'd.
 Then Joseph said, Come near, I pray, behold,
 I am your brother Joseph whom ye sold
 To Egypt, be not grieved now therefore,
 Nor vex yourselves, for God sent me before
 To save life; for these two years there hath been
 A famine, and five more to come, wherein
 Seed time nor harvest shall at all be seen.
 The Lord, I say, hath sent me to provide
 A place, and strangely save your lives beside.
 So now ye sent me not, but it was rather
 The Lord, and he hath made me as a father
 Unto the king, lord of his household, and
 A ruler over all this spacious land.
 Unto my father, therefore, go your way,
 And tell him, Thus doth thy son Joseph say:
 The Lord hath rais'd me to a high degree
 In Egypt, tarry not, but come to me,
 And thou shalt dwell in Goshen and be nigh me,
 And with provision there will I supply thee;
 Both thou and thine, flocks, herds, and all thou hast,
 (For yet these five years will the famine last)
 Lest otherwise, provision being scant,
 Thou and thy family may come to want.
 Behold, both you and Benjamin my brother
 Do see that it is I and not another.
 Go tell my father this amazing story,
 And bring him hither to behold my glory.
 Then falling on his youngest brother's neck,
 And he on his, they o'er each other wept.

And to the rest he did likewise, wherefore
 They now were more familiar than before.
 And now whilst they discours'd, the report
 Of their arrival came to Pharaoh's court,
 And he was pleas'd thereat, wherefore he said
 To Joseph, let thy brethren straightway lade
 Their beasts with corn, and thus unto them say,
 Unto your native country haste away,
 And fetch your father, and your households, and
 I'll feed you with the good things of the land;
 And since you are commanded by the king,
 Take waggons with you hence wherein to bring
 Your wives, your little ones, and come down hither,
 Your father, you and yours altogether;
 And never heed to bring your household stuff,
 For here in Egypt you shall have enough.
 Then did the Is'r'elites accordingly:
 And Joseph ordering them a large supply
 Of necessaries for their journey, sent
 Waggons according to the king's intent.
 And to each man he gave a suit of clothes,
 But on his brother Benjamin bestows
 Five suits, and as a token of his love,
 A sum of money over and above.
 And thus he sent ev'n for his father's use,
 Of the best things that Egypt did produce,
 Ten asses load, and ten she asses load
 Of bread and meat, to spend upon the road.
 Then sending them away, he said, I pray
 See that you do not fall out by the way.
 And leaving Egypt with their numerous train,
 Unto their father they returned again;
 To whom, as soon as e'er they did arrive,
 They said, Our brother Joseph's yet alive,
 And lord of all the land, which sore dismay'd
 Him, for he scarce believed what they said.
 Then they of all that pass'd gave him relation,
 And shewed the waggons for a confirmation
 Which being manifest before his eyes,
 He rais'd himself, and said, It doth suffice;
 Joseph my son is yet alive, and I
 Will go to see him once before I die.

CHAP. XLVI.

Then Is'r'el setting forward on his way
 With all his household, came to Beersheba;
 And offer'd sacrifice there to implore
 The God his father Isaac did adore.
 And in the visions of the night God spake
 To him, and said, Fear not to undertake
 This journey into Egypt, for I am
 The God of thy forefathers, Abraham
 And Isaac; to the land of Egypt I
 Will go with thee, and there will multiply
 Thy offspring, and of thee will surely make
 A mighty nation, and will bring thee back;
 And thy son Joseph there thine eyes shall close.
 After which vision he from thence arose,
 And in the waggons which king Pharaoh sent,
 He and his family to Egypt went:
 His sons, their wives and children, and the rest
 Of their concerns, whereof they were possess'd
 When they in Canaan dwelt, and they were then
 No more in number but threescore and ten.

And when to Egypt Israel drew near
 He sent before him Judah, to prepare
 His way to Goshen, which when Joseph heard,
 Immediately his chariot he prepar'd;
 And unto Goshen he directly went,
 And to his father did himself present:
 And being over-joy'd fell on his neck,
 And for a good while thereupon he wept.
 Then Jacob said, Since thou yet liv'st, and I
 Have seen thy face once more, now let me die.
 And Joseph said, My brethren I will go
 Unto king Pharaoh, and will let him know
 That you, and all my father's house are come;
 And that your occupation when at home,
 Hath been in feeding cattle altogether,
 And that you've brought your flocks and herds all hither.
 Now therefore when you come before the king,
 And he should ask you what your trade hath been,
 Say thus: Thy servants from our youth till now
 Have dealt in cattle, we and our fathers too,
 That he may let you dwell in Goshen, for
 Th' Egyptians do a shepherd's life abhor.

CHAP. XLVII.

Then to king Pharaoh Joseph went and said,
 My father and his sons, with all they had
 In their own country, are come down to me,
 And in the land of Goshen now they be.
 Five of his brethren also with him went,
 Whom he unto king Pharaoh did present.
 And Pharaoh asked them about their trade,
 And they unto the king reply'd and said:
 We and our fathers while we were at home
 Were shepherds all, and now behold, we come
 With all our flocks, to get some pasture here,
 For in our land the famine is severe.
 We therefore pray thee to appoint a portion
 Unto thy servants in the land of Goshen.
 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I empow'r thee
 To use thy pleasure, Goshen is before thee;
 Settle thy father and thy brethren there, }
 And if among them active men there are, }
 Commit my cattle to their special care. }
 And Joseph brought his aged father in
 Before the king, and Jacob blessed him.
 And Pharaoh asking him about his age,
 He said, The years of my life's pilgrimage
 Are but an hundred thirty, very few
 And evil, nor have I attain'd unto
 The years of my forefathers longer age,
 Which they pass'd thro' in this their pilgrimage.
 And Jacob bless'd the king again, and then
 Out of his presenee he return'd again.
 And Joseph plac'd his father and relations
 In Egypt, and appointed them possessions
 In the best of the land, ev'n in the land
 Of Rameses, according to the king's command:
 And there he nourished them with fit supplies
 Of bread, according to their families.
 And now the people having spent their store,
 And famine still increasing more and more,
 Egypt and Canaan too, for want of bread,
 Were sore distress'd and almost famished.

And Joseph took the money they did bring
 To buy their corn, and kept it for the king.
 Wherefore the people came to represent
 Their case to him, both corn and coin being spent.
 And Joseph said, If money be grown scant,
 Bring me your cattle and ye shall not want.
 And they brought horses, asses, and their flocks
 And herds of cattle, ev'n all their stocks,
 And gave to Joseph in exchange for bread,
 For which the people he for that year fed:
 And when that year was past, the second year
 They came again, and said, We can't forbear
 To let thee know our want, my lord doth know
 Thou hast our money and our cattle too,
 And there is nothing left (so hard's our fate)
 But only each man's person and estate:
 If thou wilt give us bread, into thy hands
 Will we resign our persons and our lands:
 And be the servants of the king for ever.
 From death therefore our hungry souls deliver,
 And take some pity on our wretched state,
 Lest we die, and the land be desolate.
 And the Egyptians sold each man his field,
 Because the famine over them prevail'd;
 And all their lands became the king's possession,
 And Joseph placed them at his own discretion.
 But the land of the priests he purchased not,
 For Pharaoh had assigned to them their lot:
 And they received their food from Pharaoh's hands,
 Wherefore they had no need to sell their lands.
 And Joseph said unto them, Now behold,
 You and your lands are unto Pharaoh sold:
 Lo! here is seed to sow in each man's field,
 And when the land its ripe increase shall yield,
 A fifth part shall belong unto the crown,
 And the other four parts shall be your own,
 For seed to sow your lands, and for supplies
 Of food convenient for your families.
 And they said; Thou hast sav'd our lives, my lord, }
 Thy gracious favour unto us afford, }
 And we will do according to thy word. }
 And Joseph made it a decree, to stand
 Ev'n to this day throughout th' Egyptian land;
 That Pharaoh should have a fifth part, except
 The priests' lands, which unto themselves they kept.
 And in the land of Egypt ev'n in Goshen,
 Did Isr'd dwell, and therein had possession;
 And grew and multiply'd exceeding fast.
 And Jacob liv'd till seventeen years were past:
 So that the sum of Jacob's age appears
 To be an hundred forty-seven years.
 And when the time approach'd that he must die,
 He called Joseph, unto whom he said, If I
 Have now found favour in thy sight, I pray,
 Swear thou unto me that thou wilt not lay
 My bones in Egypt, for I fain would lie
 Among my ancestors when e'er I die,
 And not be bury'd here; therefore fulfil
 This my desire; and he reply'd, I will:
 And he said, Swear unto me, which he did:
 Then Jacob bow'd himself upon his bed.

CHAP. XLVIII.

And now when Joseph heard his father lay
 Even at the point of death he hastes away
 To visit him, and took along with him
 His son Manasseh, and's son Ephraim.
 Whereof when Jacob heard he strengthened
 Himself, and rose and sat upon the bed:
 And thus to Joseph said, Lo! God appeared
 To me at Luz in Canaan, and declared,
 That he would bless, and make me a great nation,
 And give my seed that land for a possession:
 And Jacob said, Behold, these sons of thine
 As Reuben and as Simeon shall be mine;
 And all the rest that shall be born to thee
 Hereafter, shall be thine, and they shall be
 Call'd by the name of their own family. }
 Behold thy mother died upon the way,
 When I from Padan came, near Ephratah,
 The which is in the land of Canaan, where,
 To wit, in Bethlem, did I bury her.
 And Jacob seeing Joseph's sons were there,
 He asked of him who the children were.
 And Joseph said, My father, lo! these be
 The sons, God in this place hath given me.
 Then Jacob said, I pray thee bring them nigh
 To me, and I will bless them e'er I die.
 (Now Jacob's eyes, by reason of age, were dim)
 And Joseph brought his sons near unto him,
 And Jacob kissed and embraced them:
 And said, I never thought to see thy face,
 And lo! the Lord hath shewn me of thy race.
 And Joseph from between his knees brought forth
 His sons, and bow'd himself even to the earth:
 And in his right hand held up Ephraim,
 Towards his father's left hand guiding him
 And in his left hand to his father's right,
 He held his son Manasseh opposite.
 And Isra'l stretching out his right hand, laid
 It on the youngest, namely Ephraim's head:
 And laid his left hand wittingly upon
 Manasseh's head, although the eldest son.
 And Jacob blessed Joseph, saying, The God
 Of heaven, in whose paths my fathers trod,
 Who all my life hath nourish'd me, even he
 Who from all evil hath redeemed me,
 Bless both the lads, and let them bear my name,
 And the name of my fathers Abraham
 And Isaac, and let them multiply
 In the midst of the earth exceedingly.
 And Joseph seeing his father's right hand laid
 On Ephraim's head, he was displeas'd, and said,
 Not so, my father, lay this hand upon
 Manasseh's head, for he's the eldest son:
 And therewithal attempted to have laid
 His father's right hand on Manasseh's head
 But he refus'd and said, I know't my son,
 I know't full well, he also shall become
 A people, and be mighty: But indeed
 His younger brother shall him far exceed, }
 And many nations shall come from his seed. }
 Thus Jacob blessed them, and said, In thee
 Shall Isra'l bless, and say, God make thee be

Like Ephraim and Manasseh. Thus did he
 Prefer the youngest to the first degree.
 And Isra'l said to Joseph, Lo! I die,
 But God shall visit you, and certainly
 Shall bring you back unto your father's land.
 And thou shalt have a portion from my hand,
 Above thy brethren, which with sword and bow
 I took from th' Amorite, my deadly foe.

CHAP. XLIX.

And Jacob called all his sons together,
 And said, Ye sons of Jacob come you hither:
 And hearken what your aged father says,
 Who tells you what shall be in the last days.
 Reuben my first born, of my strength the flowers,
 The excellency of dignity and power:
 Unstable as water, be for ever vile,
 Because thou did thy father's bed defile.
 Simeon and Levi're brethren. Instruments
 Of cruelty are lodged in their tents.
 Come not, my soul, their secret councils nigh,
 My honour, with them have no unity:
 For in their wrath they caused a man to fall,
 And in their self-will digged down a wall.
 Curs'd be their anger, fierce, yea curs'd be
 Their wrath, for it was full of cruelty.
 In Jacob therefore let their seed be spread,
 And every where in Isra'l scattered.
 Judah shall have his brethren's praise, and they
 Shall bow before him; he his foes shall slay.
 Judah's a lion's whelp return'd from prey,
 He stoop'd, he couch'd, and as a lion lay;
 As an old lion, who shall dare molest,
 Or rouse him up, when he lies down to rest.
 The sceptre shall from Judah never start,
 Nor a lawgiver from his feet depart;
 Until the blessed Shiloh come, to whom
 The scatter'd people shall from all parts come:
 Binding his foal unto the choicest vine,
 He wash'd his garments, all of them in wine:
 His eyes shall with the blood of th' grapes look red,
 And milky whiteness shall his teeth o'erspread.
 Lo! Zabulon shall dwell upon the sea, }
 A haven for the ship's security, }
 And unto Zidon shall his border be. }
 And Issachar is a strong ass between
 Two burdens crouching, who when he had seen
 That rest was pleasant, and the land was good,
 His servile neck unto the yoke he bow'd.
 Dan as a judge shall over Isra'l sway,
 He shall be as a serpent in the way,
 To bite the horse, and cast the rider down.
 O God! I have look'd for thy salvation.
 Gad by a troop shall be o'ercome, but he
 Shall at the last obtain the victory.
 The bread of Aslur shall be fat indeed,
 And royal dainties shall from him proceed.
 Like to a hind let loose is Naphtali,
 He speaketh all his words acceptably.
 Joseph's a fruitful bough, whose branches tall
 Grow by a well, and over-top the wall:
 By reason of hatred which the archers bore,
 They shot at him and griev'd him very sore,

But Joseph's bow in its full strength abode.
 And by the arm of Jacob's mighty God,
 He was indu'd with strength, from whence alone
 Is Isra'l's shepherd, and chief corner-stone:
 Ev'n by my father's God, who shall assist
 Thee, by th' Almighty God shalt thou be blest,
 With blessings from above, and from below,
 With blessings of the breast, and womb also.
 Thy father's blessings have prevail'd beyond
 My ancestors. Unto the utmost bound
 Of the perpetual hills, yea let them rest }
 On Joseph's head, and let him be possess'd
 Of all, who was divided from the rest. }
 Young Benjamin shall wolf-like take his prey,
 And part by night what he hath took by day.
 All these are the ten tribes of Israel,
 And thus their father did their fate foretel:
 And blessed every one of them apart,
 According to their personal desert.
 Moreover he gave them a charge and said,
 Lo! I shall die, but let my bones be laid
 Among my ancestors in Canaan, where
 Of Ephron, Abraham bought a sepulchre,
 Together with a field, to be a place
 Of burial, for him and all his race.
 (There Abraham and Sarah lie, and there)
 They Isaac and Rebecca did inter,
 And there when Leah died I buried her.) }
 The field was purchas'd of the sons of Heth.
 Thus having said, resigning up his breath
 To him that gave 't, his feet into the bed
 He drew, and so was number'd to the dead.

CHAP. L.

And Joseph fell upon his father's face,
 And did with tears his lifeless lips embrace:
 And sends for his physicians and advises
 Them to embalm his father's corpse with spices.
 And they did so, and forty days did pass. }
 (For so the manner of embalming was)
 And the Egyptians mourned for the space }
 Of three score and ten days, which being expired
 He spake to Pharaoh's servants and desired,
 That they would please to speak in Pharaoh's ear,
 And tell him that my father made me swear,
 That I should bury him in Canaan, where
 He hath provided his own sepulchre.
 I therefore pray thee that I may obtain
 Thy leave, and I will soon return again.
 And Pharaoh said, Since thou hast sworn, fulfil
 Thy oath, according to thy father's will.
 And Joseph went up to accompany
 His father's corpse with great solemnity.
 And with him went up Pharaoh's servants, and
 The prime nobility of all the land,
 And Joseph's household, and his brethren all,
 Only their flocks, and herds, and children small

Were left behind. Moreover there went up
 Chariots and horsemen, ev'n a mighty troop.
 And they came up to Atad's threshing floor
 Beyond the river Jordan, where full sore
 They mourned for him till seven days were past;
 So long their mourning in that place did last.
 Which when the Canaanites beheld they said,
 Surely some eminent Egyptian's dead.
 Wherefore they call'd it Abel-mizraim.*
 Thus did his sons as he commanded them.
 For to the land of Canaan they convey'd
 Him, and in Machpelah near Mamre, laid
 His body in the cave which Ephron sold
 To Abraham, for him and his to hold.
 And thus when Joseph fully had perform'd
 His father's will, to Egypt he return'd,
 Together with his brethren, and with all
 Them that came with him to the funeral.
 Now Joseph's brethren being well aware
 That they were fatherless, began to fear
 That he would hate them, and requite them all
 The evil they had treated him withal.
 Wherefore to him they sent a messenger
 And said, Behold our father did declare
 Before he died, that we should come and say,
 Forgive thy brethren's trespasses, I pray;
 And their misdeeds, for they have been unkind.
 And now we humbly pray thee be inclin'd
 To pardon our offenses, and the rather
 For that we serve the God e'en of thy father.
 And Joseph wept when they thus spake, and they }
 Came nearer, and before him prostrate lay, }
 And said, We are thy servants all this day.
 And Joseph bad them not to be afraid,
 For in the place of God am I he said:
 For though you meant me ill, God meant it good,
 And sent me hither to provide you food.
 Now therefore trouble not yourselves, for I
 Will nourish you, and all your family.
 After this manner did he satisfy,
 And treat them with extreme civility.
 And Joseph and his father's house remain'd
 In Egypt, and he liv'd till he attain'd
 An hundred and ten years, and liv'd to see
 Of Ephraim's children to the third degree.
 And Macher's children of Manasseh's tribe
 Were also born some time before he died.
 Then Joseph said, My brethren, lo! I die,
 But God will visit you undoubtedly;
 And to that land again whereof he spake
 Unto our ancestors, will bring you back.
 And Joseph also made his brethren swear,
 That they would not inter his body there.
 And thus he ended his life's pilgrimage,
 Being an hundred and ten years of age;
 And was embalma'd, and in a coffin laid,
 In Egypt, till he could be thence convey'd.

* מִצְרַיִם הָאֵבֶל the mourning of Egypt.—Ed.