

of this breach of promise. His uncle pretended to justify it, alleging that by the custom of their country, the younger sister must not be married before the elder; but he promised that if his nephew would serve him seven years more, he should have the younger also to wife. With this condition Jacob complied, and at the end of the week, during which the marriage-feast lasted, received Rachel. So Jacob became in process of time the father of twelve sons and one daughter. By another agreement which he made with Laban, namely, that he should have all the speckled goats and brown sheep for taking care of the flocks, he became very rich in herds. His wealth at last excited the envy of Laban and his sons; and he, therefore, determined to fly from Padanaram and return home with his family and his flocks and herds. No sooner was his flight discovered, than Laban set forth in pursuit of him; but the Lord appeared unto him by the way, and warned him not to touch Jacob; so that when he at length overtook his nephew at Mount Gilead, where he had pitched his tent, he offered him no violence, but pretended to chide him for going away without giving him intimation, that he might have shown him due respect at his departure. He then entered into a covenant with Jacob for the protection of his daughters, Leah and Rachel, when far from their father's land, of which a pillar, which they there set up, was to be a memorial. On the following morning, Laban returned in peace to his own land.

But Jacob had no sooner parted with Laban, than he began to dread another enemy in his