

entreaty; and the Israelites were hurried out of the land, carrying with them the gold, silver, and raiment which they had borrowed from the Egyptians. Thus did the Lord, with a mighty hand, bring his chosen people out of the land of their oppressors, in which they had sojourned for many years, as he had promised to Abraham in the very hour when he fore-warned him of their foreign yoke. In remembrance of the mercy which had been shown to the families of Israel, at the time when the Lord smote the first-born of Egypt, they were commanded to set apart their own first-born for the service of God. But, at a future period of their history, an arrangement was made, according to which the entire tribe of Levi was set apart for that purpose, and the first-born were redeemed by the sacrifice of a lamb, or two pigeons, or doves.

But the heart of Pharaoh was humbled only for a very short time; for no sooner had the first alarm subsided than he repented that he had let the children of Israel go, and resolved to follow after them and bring them back. Accordingly he raised a great army, and pursued and overtook them just as they had encamped on the shore of the Red Sea. Seeing themselves thus completely hemmed in, without, as they thought, the possibility of escape, the people were loud in their murmurs against their leader. "Fear ye not," was the reply of Moses; "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you to-day, for the Egyptians whom you have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever."

As he spoke these words, the pillar of fire which had hitherto gone before them on their way, now