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Our Aulpit.

The Story of Moses.

No. 9

TRIALS IN THE WILDERNESS

SERMON PREACHED BY

REV. A. J. MOWATT.

In St. Paul's Church, Fredericton, Sunday evening March 3rd. 1889.

"And Moses led Israel onward from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water."-Exodus XV. 22.

fault-finding. What he has to put up healeth thee." to tell it as it was.

I. THE WILDERNESS OF SHUR.

You will remember we left Israel a week ago keeping thanksgiving-day at the crossing-place of the Red Sea, or tell us that it is a lovely spot, wellwatered, shaded with palms, and carpeted with verdure. Close by is the gulf, The Books of Euripides. Hall's Book Store
The Books of Horace... Hall's Book Store
of Jebel Atakah, and beyond the land of their bondage on which they have turned their backs forever. Loud and The Books of Sophocles. Hall's Book Store Let the Irish poet Thomas Moore sing The Books of Juvenal...Hall's Book Store it for us. It has the right sort of ring Let the Irish poet Thomas Moore sing was flowing through it. At this place the oasis was there then as well as now. about it.

> Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea! Jehovah has triumphed—His people

are free. Sing-for the pride of the tyrant is

broken, His chariots and horsemen, all splendid

and brave, How vain was their boasting!—the Lord

hath but spoken,

And chariots and horsemen are sunk in the wave.

Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's Jehovah has triumphed His people are

Praise to the Conqueror, praise to the

Lord, His word was our arrow, His breath was

our sword ! -Who shall return to tell Egypt the story

Of those she sent forth in the hour of

her pride? For the Lord hath looked out from His

pillar of glory,

And all her brave thousands are dashed in the tide.

Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's

Jehovah has triumphed, His people are

Perhaps the people for the time made themselves believe that they were saved, nothing more to fear, no more enemies to fight, no more trials. But alas! their trials are only beginning. They have the wilderness to traverse; Canaan is still afar off. And early next morning

the word comes to move forward. At Ayrm Musa they are in the wilderness of Shur. As soon as they are across the Red Sea they are in the wilderness of Shur. It is a plain of sand, some eight or ten miles wide, stretching along down the gulf of Suez. On the left are the hills of Raha, and on the right the gulf. It is a treeless waste, excepting where a wady crosses it. It is subject to sand-storms, the blizzards of the desert, and it is as hot as an oven. Such is the wilderness of

You see yonder the great Hebrew caravan awaking into life and activity in the early morning. Their waterskins are all filled, their asses and camels loaded, and all is bustle and cones. Cloth, full gilt, only \$1.00,
b mail, sealed. Illustrative samples free to all
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the National Medical Association. Address
P O Box 1895, Boston, Mass., or Dr. W. H.
BARKER, graduate of Harvard Medical Clogo 25 years practice in Boston, who may be

rusion. Over the desert rises the gionacross the gulf with his glory. The
caravan moves slowly, cumbrously,
spreading itself wide out on the plain.
All the morning hours they trudge
wearily forward, some well in advance ge 25 years practice in Boston, who may be ansulting confidentially. Speciality, Diseases Man, Office, No. 4 Bulanch Street.

All the morning hours they trudge wearily forward, some well in advance of the main body looking out for suit.

distance of some forty miles.

On the third day they arrive at a uries. pasturage for their flocks and herds, and this wilderness, stage after stage, now you can imagine with what a joy they crossing a sand plain, now skirting a come to it after their fatiguing thirsty mountain, now winding through a wady, journey. I see the people hurrying now out on the sea-shore, now inland. forward to quench their burning thirst. They would pass near where Egypt had But what a disappointment when it is her copper-mines, and they may have found that the water is so brackish and stopped at wady Mukatteb to read and nauseous that it cannot be drunk. In- write some of the curious and foolish stantly murmurings loud and deep on inscriptions found written there today. all sides are beard. They are sorry From Mukatteb they would make 8.45, A. M.—Express for Fredericton Junction hands. God's work never interferes thing more of God's care and kindness. Khattatin. with our work. Very far from it. Moses makes use of it to bind the peo- Travellers tell us what a thirsty Moses has to bear on his heart the bur- ple to the Lord. There he made for region it is. Not far off is the beautiful 6.50, A M.-Mixed for Woodstock, and

be so bitter to us.

still tepid and brackish. Elim is pro- Meribah.

Israel encamps to rest and refresh themselves before again facing the desert.

It is thus a new starting-point.

II. THE WILDERNESS OF SIN.

broad, and beautiful with flowers and and they muster to repel the invaders. shrubbery. On both sides the moun-

cut into all sorts of fantastic shapes. ever it does not fall, and that day it can | iority of numbers. be kept from the day before. This The men of Israel are only partially feeds them with angels' food.

of the main body looking out for suit. just when the people begin to hunger for Flocks of these birds come up, then, panied with Aaron and Hui, Miriam's

able feeding-places for the cattle, and fresh meat, and just when they begin to halting places. But if the wilderness of remember the rich stews they used to Shur was then what it is now, not many have in Egypt. Thus the people are halting-places would be found. For almost indulged in the hungry wilderthree days they drag along, covering a ness. They have not only the necessaries of life; they have even the lux-

place where water is to be had, and The people journey slowly through

they ever left Egypt. They blame their way towards the beautiful oasis of Moses for everything. But he knows Feiran. This is believed to be ancient what to do. He goes to the Lord with Rephidim. Somewhere on this route Tonight we are to follow Moses step this new trouble, and the Lord they suffer from want of water. Tradiby step as he leads the people through directs him what to do. He is to use tion has located the spot. A huge piece the wilderness towards Sinai. He has means to sweeten the bitter waters, of rock that has fallen down into the a big task on his hands, one to try all God always honors the use of means. wady from the mountain side is pointed the might of the man, and under God | He uses means Himself, and He wants out as the rock Moses struck with his 11.35 A. M.—From Fredericton Junction. much depends upon his patience and us to use means. He points out a tree rod. It is fifty-seven feet long, twelve skill whether he will succeed or fail. growing near that possesses the virtue high, and eighteen broad. Down its The cloud of God, it is true, is there to of sweetening the bitter waters. Then face is a groove half an inch at the top, guide, but the cloud does not take either the people drink and are refreshed. but gradually widening and deepening to the work or the responsibility of the And better still, their souls are refresh- the bottom. But no water is there tos'upendous undertaking out of Moses' ed as well. Trey have learned some day. The rock is called Hesi el-

den and wants of God's people, and them a statute and an ordinance, and oasis, but at the time it is in the hands Don't forget to buy your Boots | many a time he is ready to sink under | there he proved them; and he said, If of the Amalekites, the shepherd people the crushing weight of all he has to bear | thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the deserts, and the people of Israel and do. When the people are dis- of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that have to encamp where there is no water, couraged, they go to Moses about it. which is right in his eyes, and wilt give and no want in the Sinaitic Peninsula is H. D. McLEOD, When they are hungry, he hears of it, ear to his commandments, and keep all more terribly felt than that. The people and is blamed for it. When they are his statutes, I will put none of the dis are ready for violence. They strive with thirsty, or the water bad it is to Moses eases upon thee, which I have put upon Moses. He tries to bring them to they go clamoring, murmuring, fretting, the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that reason. But their thirst is maddening, and they will listen to nothing he has to with and meekly accept at their hands! Oh my hearer, there are Marahs still say. Again, as at Marah, and when They make it as hard for him as they in the wilderness of our life—bitter they entered the desert of Sin where can, and the more trouble and annoy-ance they can give him they seem to ences, bitter trials, bitter tears. But to him, as if Egypt had been a paradise like it all the better. But his meek- there is a tree now as then which poss- to them instead of a land of bondage as ness triumphs. The story of his labori- esses the virtue of sweetening our bitter it was. They tell him to his face that it ous leading ought to be of thrilling in- waters. That tree is the cross, and it is to kill them he has led them there, so terest to us, and I will do what I can is where we are, so that life need not unreasonable are they, and reckless in what they say. Moses cries to the Lord, From Marah they proceed to their and the Lord is not slow to hear him. halting place which is Elim. Here they He directs him to take the rod that has find twelve springs of water and seventy | been of such service to him in the past, palms. It is not easy satisfactorily and in the presence of the elders of locating the places mentioned, but pro- Israel he is to strike the rock Horeb. near it. The place would be what is bably Ain Hawara is the ancient Marah. This he does, and the water gushes out called today Ayrm Musa, the wells of It is the first water you come to after freely, abundantly. He calls the place Moses. Those who have been there leaving Ayrm Musa. And the water is in memory of their sin Massah and

bably Gharandel, and is an hour's ride | Some travellers think the stream of from Ain Hawara. Wady Gharandel water flowing today farther on in the has still plenty water. A recent travel. same wady, the finest stream in the ler, one of our own ministers says, he whole region, causing the Oasis of counted forty three palms, and eight Feiran, is the permanent results of that wells in the wady. A stream of water miracle. Others, however, are of opinion fourteen feet wide and six inches deep that the miracle was special, and that

III. THE BATTLE WITH AMALEK.

The Sinaitic Peninsula was peopled at the time by two widely different peoples, the Kenites and the Amalekites. The Near Elim the mountains come close | Kenites were a branch of the Midianites. to the sea-shore, so that it is necessary and were Moses' wife's people. They for Israel to go inland across wadies. They were through his wife Keturah. They were a peaceful pastoral people, inhabiting bases of mountains and over passes steep a peaceful pastoral people, inhabiting and rugged, to wind in and out and both sides of the gulf of Akabah. The about perhaps all of ten miles to go Amalekites, on the other hand, were a ahead one, may give us some idea what powerful warlike people. They fed Seasonable Goods, Large Stock and need Moses has for all his meekness and their flocks and herds all over the patience to lead two millions of people, western part of the peninsula. They with all their herds and flocks and moved about from place to place in household effects, through such a tangle search of pasture, and at the time of the of mountain paths. Some places only exodus the main body of the people may two or three can go abreast. Other have been far inland in the wilderness of wadies, however, are like great high- Tih. But word is sent to the chiefs of ways. Tayibeh is two hundred feet the nation that their country is invaded,

At first they hang on Israel's rear, tains tower up perpendicularly, and are and cut off stragglers, steal cattle and sheep, plunder the baggage, and annoy Down Tayibeh probably they make and distress the people no little. But at their way to the encampment by the Rephidim or Wady Feiran they resolve sea, and enter the wilderness of Sin. to make a stand, and give battle. At It is now a month since they set out the Oasis of Feiran, which is the lovelifrom Egypt, and their bread is exhausted, and they feel themselves lost among the mountains, and their murmurings are louder than ever. They are sorry they ever left Egypt. They remember Kadesh and En-Mishpat, from the bow full fed. how full-fed they were there. The work was hard, but there was plenty to eat. But now they see only want before them. It is here therefore the Lord sends them the Manna. It is a white round substance, not unlike hoar-frost. It falls thinly on the ground slings, and shields. Some are are substanced in the waters and En-Mishpat, from the wadies of the Tih and South Palestine, they come with their warriors, to Rephidim. You see them mustering in the valley, those stalwart sons of Amalek, aimed to the teeth with bows and arrows, and spears, and clubs, and frost. It falls thinly on the ground slings, and shields. frost. It falls thinly on the ground slings, and shields. Some are mounted during the night, and they gather it, on camels, but the main body are on and grind or pound it into a sort of foot. They are trained to fight, and flour, which is baked into cakes and loaves. It cannot be kept long, as it breeds worms. On the Sabbath, how-

Manna continued to fall for some forty armed. They stripped the dead warriors years, until in fact they came to Canaan. of Egypt, which the sea cast up, of their Thus the Lord cares for His people, swords and shields and spears, but only a few know how to use them effectively. Here also by the sea the Lord brings them the quails. The bird is migratory, and comes north in great numbers.

It is to be their first battle, and Moses has his fears for them. He gives his instructions, appoints their officers, but he himself with They are said to take advantage of a he himself will not head the army. He south wind to cross the gulf of Suez, as appoints a rising young man of Ephraim they are weak on the wirg, flying close to the water or ground. They are shall hear more of, a born soldier. His easily captured. The bird looks like a partridge, but is smaller and fatter. The flesh is said to be delicious, and is the bottle mith A solution as wise as the bottle mith A solution. This is his first battle, but not his last. Joshua is as wise as the bottle mith A solution with A solution. easily preserved by drying in the sun. the battle with Amalek to him. Accom-

Continued on third page.



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St. John and points East. 3.10 P. M.—From Fredericton Junction. Vanceboro, Bangor, Portland, Boston, and points West, St. An

drew's, St. Stephen, Hourson Wood-

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