

treacherous river ever since. The results are sufficient to have discouraged less persevering men; and indeed, they have discouraged the greater number of those who first located there. But when such men as J. H. Richards, John Bushman, J. C. Hansen and H. M. Tanner feel that they have a special mission to fill, they do not give up when obstacles begin to appear, but go earnestly to work to surmount them.

This is strikingly true in the present instance. The men whose names appear above, with not more than half a dozen faithful associates, have toiled on dam after dam, only to see their work crumble and disappear under the force of mighty, periodical freshets. No wonder then they rejoice at the completion of what appears to be a substantial one.

All the available help of the town has been employed for five weeks in an effort to complete the dam. Knowing that they would have accomplished this much desired object on the 10th inst., the wives, mothers and sisters of the laborers, together with the few men who were at home, (two besides the writer) concluded to celebrate the occasion by a surprise in the form of a picnic dinner for them. Accordingly all hands responded; and a table of boards, spread out on the hillside near the dam, fairly groaned under the load of good things that covered it. This bounteous repast, together with the appearance of rosy-cheeked, well-clad children, of whom the greater part of the company was composed, showed plainly that the people were by no means destitute, if they had been laboring on ditches and dams so much for the last eighteen years.

Dinner over, the whole company assembled on the dam, where short speeches were made by the leading men, expressing acknowledgments for divine aid and support; after which the structure was dedicated to the Almighty Father. The prayer was characteristic of them: "Oh Lord! we pray that this dam may stand if it be Thy will, if not, let Thy will be done."

The larger part of the dam consists of a huge mountain of earth 98 yards long, 100 feet wide at the base, 22 feet high, and 12 feet wide at the top. It is well protected by brush and rock on each side, and a great crib of large timbers bolted together and filled with rock, serves as a protection to the end where the water passes. Thus the stream is turned out of its quick-sandy channel, and made to run over a bed of solid rock. Here another crib sixty-seven yards long, bolted to its stony foundation, raises the surface of the water a few feet to the level of the canal. A stone, planted on the highest part of the dam, bears this inscription: "Saint Joseph No. 8 Dam, Commenced 1891, Completed 1894." The other seven have gone down the river.

"What is the cost of all these dams?" Well, they have expended over \$1200 in labor and material, for repairs and completion this spring. This sum is probably not more than one sixtieth of their total outlay upon such work. With the exception of possibly \$1000, this little community has borne the entire expense; and, best of all they have done it uncomplainingly.

Respectfully,
JOSEPH W. SMITH.

The national debt is at present estimated to be about \$73,000,000.

Written for this Paper

AKIBA AND REBECCA.

In the year 120, when the beautiful city of Jerusalem was under the domination of the Romans, my hero and heroine lived. Their paths in life were widely different, but destiny interwove them until they became one. In the vales near Jerusalem there wandered a youth of fine physical appearance. His eyes were brown, his locks were like the raven's, and his stature was above the average. His brow was noble, and when one looked at him the thought occurred that he was fitted for better things than that of tending flocks. This shepherd lad, instructed chiefly by lessons from nature and so plainly nurtured, was destined to play a very important part in the history of his country.

Those were stirring times; it was an age in which heroes could rise and fall. The Jews chafed under the Roman yoke; they longed for freedom, and this epoch was so variable that men of the lowest rank could rise to be at the head of the nation, if they had any talent. In periods of danger men's energies are more active, and latent genius is apt to become apparent more quickly in perilous days than in days where all is sunshine and prosperity. Our hero had many opportunities for distinguishing himself, so we need not be surprised that he gained all that men strive for.

One summer day, while all was serene and nature seemed at her best, a fair maid came along the path. She had all the loveliness of her race. Her eyes were large and black, she was of graceful form, and her skin was of lily whiteness. She showed by her bearing that her station in life was lofty. She saw Akiba, and to see him was to love him, although he was of lowly birth. The maid cared not for wealth, nor rank, she thought only of the qualities of the man on whom she would bestow her hand and heart. Being noble herself, she was attracted by the fine elements of Akiba's character. Men and maids lived and loved in those days as they do today; sometimes I think that they loved more faithfully than we.

The fair Rebecca lived in luxury. Her father was a great man in his city. She had attendants to minister to every one of her wants. Fine dresses and jewels were hers, but though reared in all this splendor, her heart was free from pride, and her mind equalled her beauty. If wealth makes happiness, she certainly possessed it, for her wishes were granted as soon as they were known.

After seeing Akiba this luxury became distasteful to her, because she knew his life was ordered in a different manner. Her affections were centered upon him. By day and by night she thought of the noble man whom she saw by the brookside.

Often did she seek those green lanes, and soon they became well acquainted. Before many weeks elapsed, in the midst of the grassy plains and beside the murmuring stream, they vowed eternal love, nor was their love but common dross; it was pure and heartfelt, it was not merely a verbal pledge, but it was a love which endureth forever.

When Rebecca's father, Jochanan, heard that she loved a shepherd, he was exceedingly wroth. What, said

he, shall my daughter marry a stupid beggar? The daughter who is the pride of my house, the daughter for whom I hoped to obtain a better position than even I can give her, shall not demean herself if I can prevent it.

On Purim, when the whole nation rejoices because Hayman's machinations failed through the intervention of the good Queen Esther, Nurse Sarah told Rebecca that her father wished to speak with her. She went to his study, and as soon as she entered, her father, a man of commanding mien, arose and fixed upon her a stern and unrelenting eye. Foolish maid, dost thou think of wedding a beggar? Thinkest thou that the great house of Jochanan will degrade itself by an alliance with the common herd? Know that our name has been unsullied for centuries, our family has ranked with princes, and now, thou, the daughter on whom I relied for solace in mine age, thinkest of deserting father and home for a beggar. If thou wilt wed that shepherd, my house will be forever closed against thee. Choose between father and riches on the one hand, and beggary and your stupid shepherd on the other hand.

O, father, said the weeping maid, speak not so unkindly of Akiba; even if his fathers did not dwell in palaces, that does not make him of the common herd. Your daughter would not wed a man who was unworthy of her. His character makes him equal to any prince. Gold and rank do not make the man. In my estimation, integrity and purity of thought and action ennoble a man, not birth nor ancestry. Though Akiba is poor, he is nobler than many of our friends whom thou art glad to welcome to our house.

Long they argued. The father was inflexible, and the daughter would not yield. Then Jochanan assembled his household, and solemnly declared unto them, "Henceforth I am childless, my daughter disobeys me, so I declare unto you and before God that she is no daughter of mine, let her go her way, I know her not."

Slowly Rebecca left the home of her childhood. Not one glance did she cast behind, nor did she waver in her purpose. She was willing to exchange pomp for a loving heart, for she knew that wealth cannot buy this great treasure. A love that outlasts beauty, station and riches was worth more to her than gold or finery. Love laughs at threats, and in her heart there was nothing but contentment and pleasure, for now she could wed Akiba. Her lover was an honorable man, and would not seek the wealthy heiress, but he would not hesitate for a moment to wed the poor and homeless stranger.

She came to Akiba's hut and said, "My father has cast me off; I am as poor as thou art." Then said Akiba, "If thou wilt wed me, whatever I have I will willingly share with thee. I cannot offer thee a palace to reign over, but thou canst rule my heart, and as long as I live will I remember that for me thou didst forsake home and kindred." They were married. Their wedding was simple as became shepherd folk. Rebecca exchanged her fine raiment for the coarse gown of a shepherdess. She sighed not for her lost splendor, for she knew that wealth and fame are useless, if one lives unloved. Love sheds a genial glow over a person's life, and without it all is a