Hagar and Ishmael away, giving them bread and water for their journey; for, as I told you, there were no inns in those days where travellers could get a meal.

"I don't know whether Hagar lost her way; but we read, 'She wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.' Who can tell what a wilderness is?"

All were silent, till Mr. Brown looked at Harold.

"I think, papa, it's a sandy place, where there are no people, or trees, or water."

"Yes, that is a pretty good account of a wilderness. It is lonesome to have no people there; and when the sun shines it is bad to have no shady trees to sit under; but far the worst trouble of a wilderness is having no water. The thirst is so dreadful to bear, that people go almost mad for water. They don't care how bad it is, if they can only find water of any sort. Camels are such useful creatures to travel in the wilderness, not only because heavy water-skins full of water can be carried by them, but because their own supply for several days is carried inside them. Their stomachs are divided into different parts, each of which is filled with water, and used by degrees as the camel wants it. Travellers ready to die with thirst have been known to kill their camels, in order to get at this hidden store.