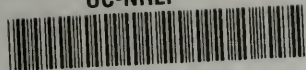


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THE  
TABERNACLE<sup>OF</sup> ISRAEL  
IN THE DESERT

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*JAMES STRONG, S.T.D., LL.D*

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A Monumental Work on an Important and Interesting Subject.



*THE*  
*TABERNACLE of ISRAEL*

*IN THE DESERT.*



By JAMES STRONG, S.T.D., LL.D.



# THE TABERNACLE OF ISRAEL

## IN THE DESERT.

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This is an entirely original treatise on a theme that has hitherto baffled the skill of every interpreter. At last, it is believed, all its problems have been satisfactorily solved, and the whole matter is clearly expounded. This monograph is destined to be the standard henceforth, with all candid inquirers, on the topic which it discusses. The entire production consists of two closely related parts.

I. There are six magnificent colored Lithographs, each 30 by 42 inches in size, showing everything plainly across an ordinary lecture-room. A glance at these graphic plates will convey a more just and life-like idea of the Tabernacle, with its appointments and surroundings, as they actually were, than any other representation extant. They are accurately and artistically drawn, and exhibit respectively :

1. A ground-plan of the Tabernacle and its court, with a bird's-eye sketch of the Desert and the route of the Israelites ; also an elevation of the eastern entrance.

2. A landscape view of the Tabernacle, as pitched before Mount Sinai.

3. A landscape scene of the erection of the Tabernacle at a stopping-place in the Desert.

4. Front views of the exterior of the Sanctuary, of the interior of the Holy Place, and of the interior of the Most Holy Place, with one of the wall curtains extended.

5. The furniture of the Tabernacle, all on a uniform scale.

6. The vestments of the Tabernacle:—Levite, priest and high-priest in official costume, with details of the last.

II. There is, accompanying these pictures, a neat volume of letter-press, with appropriate wood-cuts, explaining and corroborating the details of the lithographs, and constituting a complete exposition of the whole subject. This is divided into chapters, treating respectively the following branches of the subject :

1. An *introduction* to the Tabernacle, setting forth the occasion, method, and purpose of the book.

2. The *authorities* on the Tabernacle, giving an account of the literature and leading works on the subject, with the original sources of information.

3. The *history* of the Tabernacle, and of the articles contained in it, from the time of Moses to the Babylonian Captivity.

4. The *structure* of the Tabernacle, elucidating and vindicating the fabric and mode of combination in minute detail, so that it could be perfectly reconstructed from these specifications. This comprises the larger part of the volume, which is not bulky in all ; and the particulars are given with a thoroughness and exactitude not heretofore attempted. Everything is proved, on the plan proposed, to come out with perfect exactness and propriety ; and the harmony, compactness, beauty and stability of the edifice, as well as its convenience for transportation, are a full demonstration of the correctness of the details. The key of the puzzle has evidently been discovered. The Scriptural description is shown to be true and definite to the last particular, and all concurrent statements of other parts of the Bible are found to be consistent. The whole is given in language free from technical scholarship, and intelligible to ordinary readers, yet embracing the results of the best modern philology and archæology. The author has extraordinary advantages in this line, and has made the subject a study for a life-time of professional pursuits in this direction. Oriental customs are introduced, as throwing a flood of light on many points inscrutable to the older explorers in this field. Among the most important discoveries of the author under this head may be mentioned the form and adjustment of the "corner-boards," a failure in which has led all previous interpreters astray at the foundation ; the relation and application of the sixth goats'-hair curtain, which has never before been explained in conformity with the phraseology of the sacred text and the obvious needs of the case ; the fitting size, the mode of suspension, and the peculiar folds of the colored curtains, with the position of the figures embroidered on them, and especially the distribution of their colors ; the shape and posture of the cherubim ; and the style of the various pieces of apparatus and costume, including the mysterious Urim and Thummim.

5. The *symbolism* of the Tabernacle has been treated with remarkable fullness, and yet with great caution. The significance of the different emblems has been based, not upon fantastic conjecture, or traditionary caprice, but upon Scriptural warrant and sound common sense. The central meaning of the whole, and of its several parts and elements, has been developed in such a way as cannot but commend it to the piety and good taste of Christian believers. Among the most striking discoveries in this department may be mentioned the functional import of the gradually increasing sanctity of the several apartments, from the outer court to the inmost shrine of the awful Majesty, with its cherubic figures standing as sentinels at the entrance and around the walls; the cherubic statues, as representatives of the *natural* laws of God, guarding the receptacle of His *moral* law; and above all and through all, the sacred colors, "blue and purple and scarlet," always named in the proper Hebraic order, with the "gold" (yellow) and the "fine linen" (white), spelling out the worthy hierogram of the Atonement, "HEAVEN'S ROYAL BLOOD *purchases purity*" for the fallen race of man. This central legend, emblazoned on every avenue to the divine Presence, and also on the drapery of the pontifical plenipotentiary, silently proclaimed to the devout worshipper the grand secret of the one true faith, devised in the eternal counsels of the Almighty.

The work is timely for the elucidation of the International Sunday-school Lessons of the present year, which embrace this portion of the history of Israel; and it will be indispensable to the equipment of every minister's and Bible student's library for all time to come.

The price for both parts of the work complete is \$5.

**HARRIS, JONES & CO., Publishers,**

**PROVIDENCE R. I.**



THE  
TABERNACLE OF ISRAEL  
IN THE DESERT;

A COMPANION VOLUME TO THE PORTFOLIO OF PLATES,

EXPLANATORY OF THE PARTICULARS,

WITH DETAILED PLANS AND DRAWINGS, AND LETTER-PRESS  
DESCRIPTIONS.

BY JAMES STRONG, S.T.D., LL.D.



HARRIS, JONES & CO.,  
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

1888.

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## COLORED LITHOGRAPHS.

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PLATE I. GROUND-PLAN OF THE TABERNACLE, with Elevation of the Door-way to the Court, and a Bird's-Eye Sketch of the Desert of Sinai and the Surrounding Regions.

PLATE II. THE TABERNACLE AS PITCHED BEFORE MT. SINAI.

*Explanations.*—The view is from the North. The wide plain in the foreground is that of er-Râhah. The central mountain in the background is Jebel Mûsa (in the wider application of the name), of red granite, seamed and cracked as if by fire; and the pinnacle immediately in front is Ras Sufsâfeh. At the right is Jebel Ghubsseh, of dark porphyry, with the valley of the Lejah between. At the left is Jebel ed-Deir, inclosing the valley of the same name, so-called from the monastery of St. Catherine situated in it. The tents scattered around are those of the leading Israelites, the upright octagonal one being supposed to be that of Moses himself. (The regular encampment around the Tabernacle is not here exhibited, as that arrangement appears to have been made for the march at a later period than the first erection at Sinai.) The plain has a few stunted bushes, and a couple of rills issue from the valleys on either side of the middle cone. In the foreground is a side-view of the Tabernacle (enough of the front being shown to give a general idea of its form), surrounded by the Court. The cloudy Pillar is resting on the roof over the Mercy-seat. A Levite is raking together the embers on the Altar of Burnt-offering, and a priest is washing his feet at the Laver. Outside the high-priest is taking the scape-goat to the man who is to lead it away into the wilderness.

PLATE III. ERECTION OF THE TABERNACLE AT A STOPPING-PLACE IN THE DESERT.

*Explanations.*—The view is from the South. The background is the pass of Wady el-Ain (in the heart of the Desert east of Mt. Sinai), so called from a spring that sends a small stream through the valley.\* The mountains rise about 3,000 feet perpendicularly. The Levites are seen busy in unloading the wagons, rearing the walls of the Tabernacle, and bringing the poles, the sockets and the various pieces of furniture. A few priests (Aaron's sons) are sitting or standing by, superintending the work. All are in the common Oriental habiliments of secular life, as the sacred order wore their distinctive costumes only when on official duty. The ladder in the foreground, obviously needful in adjusting the fixtures to the tops of the planks, is like those depicted on the monuments as used by the ancient Egyptians in scaling the walls of hostile cities. The cloudy pillar hovers in the air, indicating the spot for the encampment.

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\* It is not certain that the main line of the Israelites, including the Tabernacle, actually passed through this particular gorge, although they must once at least have journeyed very near it; but it is strikingly graphic of the character of the central region of the Sinaitic peninsula. All the features of the landscape, even to the minutiae of the human faces cut by nature in profile on the edges of the left-hand rocks, are faithfully copied from the original photograph.

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- D. One of the Wall-Curtains (extended).

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*Explanations.*—The Levite holds the tools usual for putting up a tent (a mallet and a pin), the priest the instruments of sacrifice (a knife for slaying the victim, and a bowl for catching the blood), and the high-priest the utensils for performing the rites on the day of annual atonement (a censer and a bowl for blood).\* The articles of his apparel separately exhibited are of such a form or in such a position as could not be fully shown on his person. The lettering on his frontlet and breastplate is in the archaic Heb. character, substantially after the style of the Siloam inscription (the earliest extant, but the latest discovered), which we have accommodated to our purpose by a somewhat greater uniformity in the size and slope of the principal strokes.

\* According to the natural interpretation of Lev. xvi, 4, 23, 24, and the Rabbinic usage, the high-priest wore only a special suit of plain (apparently unbleached) linen apparel (including the innermost girdle), when he went into the Holy of Holies for these functions (which required several distinct entrances into that apartment—all of them, however, on that single day, Heb. ix, 7), also when he gave the scape-goat into the

custody of the person (apparently within the Court) to take it away to the wilderness; but for the sake of distinctness we have, in our pictures, invested him with the complete official attire in both cases, and have made the latter act take place outside the Court. This is the more allowable, inasmuch as he was thus fully equipped during the other services of that day.



# WOOD-CUTS.

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# THE TABERNACLE OF ISRAEL.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE TABERNACLE.

FOR more than thirty years the subject of this work has been an earnest study with the Author, and in the course of his investigations and comparisons he has procured and carefully examined every book of note treating upon it. In his article under that head in the *Cyclopædia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature* he embodied in a condensed form the results of these researches up to that time (1881), and he has since continued to pursue them with unabated interest. When therefore the publishers of this work proposed to him, in May, 1887, the preparation of a series of wall-sheets exhibiting the whole edifice and its connections on a large scale and in its minutiae, together with a brief Manual elucidating the same, he could not well decline so congenial a task, as it seemed likely to prove useful to Bible readers and students, especially in view of the International Sunday-School Lessons embracing this topic. Accordingly he determined to explore the whole subject afresh, and to sift every particular to the bottom, aided by all the light that modern erudition and the latest researches can afford. This he has done faithfully and impartially, and he has endeavored to set forth the results in as clear and simple, yet as scientific and comprehensive language as he can command, with the best facilities of artistic co-operation.\* How far he has succeeded in unravelling the entanglements which have hitherto baffled the skill and learning of interpreters, and in making the whole plain to the average comprehension, the intelligent reader, who will take the pains to follow him in his elucidations, will be able to judge for himself. He has here brought together everything thus far ascertained, that he judges adapted to be of service in conveying a just idea of that remarkable building, the first and (including its later development, the Temple of Jerusalem) the only one immediately devised and directly authorized by the Almighty himself as his place of special worship for his chosen people. As such it has ever since held a conspicuous position in the eyes and thoughts of saints, and in these later days of archaeological science it has still

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\* The lithographs and engravings have been scrupulously copied from photographs, sketches, and colorings made by the Author himself, carefully reproduced and improved by an experienced and skilful draughts-

man under the Author's immediate superintendence, and the most minute pains have been taken to make them both graphic and accurate.

retained its hold upon the reverent curiosity of an intelligent world. Great pains have been taken by learned men to restore it as fully as possible to the apprehension of modern Occidentals; and the present effort, it is hoped, will not be regarded as over-ambitious in aspiring to do this more completely than heretofore for popular purposes. The Author has no pet theory to establish, nor any doctrinal influence to bias him; he has simply aimed to collect, weigh and combine the information afforded by every source accessible, to incorporate whatever new features his own discoveries and comparisons have introduced, and to present everything really pertinent in as lucid and systematic a form as the topic allows.\* He does not, in this little volume, think it worth while to controvert the various opinions expressed by others, so much as to indicate the conclusions which on the whole he believes will commend themselves best to the common sense of general readers, after they have been put in possession of the facts in the case.†

\* We have studied the utmost possible brevity in our phraseology, and for the same reason have thrown most of the minute discussion into foot-notes.

† Some of the combinations, that require to be resolved in the reconstruction of this unique specimen of architectural skill for a movable seat of worship, will be found so elaborate and profound as to argue a source higher than mere human ingenuity, and to evince, to the devout inquirer, that pervading simplicity and yet harmony which characterize whatever is the product of divine contrivance. If it be not

deemed presumptuous in Saint Bernard of Clugny to aver that he never could have composed his famous "Jerusalem the Golden," in its peculiarly difficult metre, without special inspiration, we trust that we may not be charged with a lack of modesty in cherishing the thought of some measure of that spiritual aid in expounding this portion of Scripture, which we believe the sacred penman more fully enjoyed when he indited it. The Author—as he thinks he may without irreverence be permitted to say—seems to himself to have caught a glimpse of that model which was shown to Moses in the "mount of God."

## CHAPTER II.

### AUTHORITIES ON THE TABERNACLE.

I. WE naturally take these up in the order of time.

1. The most trustworthy, as well as the fullest and most definite source of information concerning the Israelitish Tabernacle is of course the Bible, especially the classic passage (Exod. xxv—xxviii), which minutely prescribes the construction of the edifice and its apparatus, together with the parallel passage (Exod. xxxv—xl), which describes, in almost the same words, the execution of the task. The phraseology of the original record, although remarkable for its terseness, will be found, when minutely examined, to convey or to imply precisely enough to guide the intelligent reader in every important particular.

Considerable additional light is thrown upon the subject by the specifications later made in the Scriptural account of the Temple of Solomon (1 Kings vi; 2 Chron. iii, iv), including that seen in vision by Ezekiel (xl—xlii), both of which were modelled, in all their most essential features, after the plan of the Tabernacle, as we shall have occasion to see. Scattered notices are occasionally given elsewhere in Holy Writ, which serve to confirm, complete or correct our inferences from these main fountains of specification.

2. Of profane authorities in ancient times the principal one by far is Josephus, who in his well-known description of the earliest sacred building of the Jews (*Antiquities*, III, vi, 2—vii, 7), repeats, with some variation and a few original suggestions, the statements of Scripture on the subject.

Very little information is contained in the Rabbinical writings of the Jews, which could aid us in reconstructing the Tabernacle,\* and none at all in the literature of any heathen nation of antiquity, except the Egyptians, whose temples were evidently a type, but only in the most general sense, of the Tabernacle and the Temple. For although both these edifices were expressly planned by the divine Architect (Exod. xxv, 40; 1 Chron. xxviii, 11, 12, 19), yet the triple arrangement of a shrine within a fane, and this again within an outer inclosure, was a marked feature of the noted temples with which the Hebrews had become familiar in Egypt. It is true that these structures, the remains of which have survived to the present day, were built at a much later date than that of the Exode, but they are doubtless successors of earlier edifices resembling them in their main outlines.

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\* Paine (in his second edition) has given a full translation, with copious annotations, of a curious old Hebrew document anonymously entitled *Sippur-enu* (i. e., "Our Record"), in which the unknown author's opinions corroborate some of his own conclusions.



In a similar way the sacerdotal regalia of the ancient Egyptians, and their sacrificial implements, as depicted upon their monuments, give us a partial clew to the intricacies of some of the Jewish priestly services and garments, especially that curious article called the *ephod*, and its mysterious accompaniments. (See Fig. 34.) Likewise the sacred Ark, with the cherubic figures upon it, is illustrated to some extent in the hieratic boat sketched on the sculptures as borne in procession by the Egyptian priests, and then deposited in the *adytum* of their temple. (See Fig. 26.) Assyriology also furnishes a few hints as to some particulars.

From a most unexpected quarter there has come a clear ray to determine some of the vexed questions concerning the utensils of the Tabernacle, especially the Golden Candelabrum. Delineations of the successors of these objects, taken by the Romans on the fall of Jerusalem, appear upon the memorial arch of Titus at Rome, and are the more valuable as being undoubtedly authentic, and carved by contemporaries. (See Fig. 1.) They are probably more elaborate, as was true of all the apparatus in the Herodian Temple, than those in the Solomonian structure, and still more so doubtless than the severe style of the earlier Tabernacle; yet they serve a most important use in deciding where particulars are elsewhere lacking or uncertain. These specimens were copied by the indefatigable A. Reland in the last century, when they were perhaps less dilapidated than now; and his drawings were printed in his learned monograph on the subject (*De Spoliis Templi*, etc., Utrecht, 1716, small 8vo; 2d ed. by Schultze, 1775.) (See Figs. 20, 22.) This little work of Reland, like all his other archaeological investigations, is well-nigh exhaustive of the special topic on which it treats, so far as information was attainable in his day. The present appearance of the Arch of Titus is shown with photographic exactness in many published volumes, and the actual remains are open to the inspection of every tourist.

Oriental usages, which, although ascertained chiefly by modern travellers, are of so permanent a character that they may fairly be ranked with antiquarian researches, aid us to a great extent in forming an accurate conception of the Tabernacle and its appliances.

II. Writings of our own time are of course secondary in their authority on such a subject as this, but they cannot safely be ignored. On the contrary the wise and candid archaeologist will welcome and carefully weigh every new suggestion of other minds, earnestly devoted to the solution of the many problems still undeniably left on these difficult particulars. He may not, indeed he cannot, accept all their conclusions, for they often widely conflict with one another, and not unfrequently contradict plain inferences from the language of the ancient record, or probable necessities of the case.

1. Among the works of a general antiquarian character, that bear specially upon this topic, we first mention, as probably the most important, K. W. F. Bähr's *Symbolik des Mosaischen Cultus* [Symbolism of the Mosaic Worship] (Heidelberg, 2 vols. 8vo, 1837-39; 2d ed. 1874), which, with much learning and judiciousness, discusses most of the architectonic as well as symbolic questions relating to the Jewish Tabernacle (i, 56), and has been the chief treasure-house for more recent explorers in the



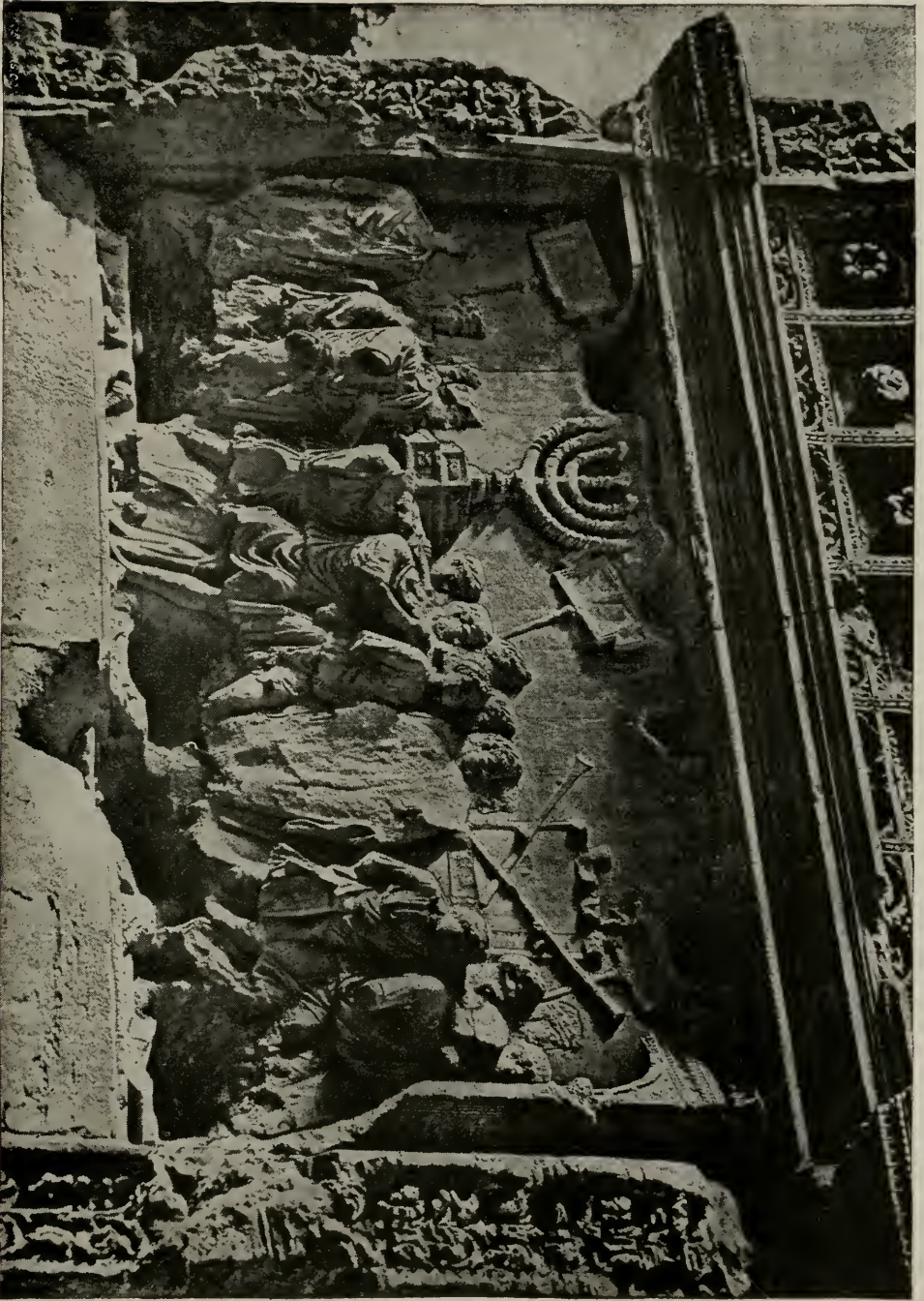


FIG. 1.—The Jewish Utensils on the Arch of Titus at Rome. (From a Photograph.)  
The square heads of the poles held by the soldiers are the Roman standards.

To face p. 4.



same line. The subject is treated in most works on Hebrew Antiquities, such as those of H. Lund (Hamburg, 1695, 1738, 8vo), and J. L. Saalschütz (Königsb., 1855-6, 2 vols. 8vo); also in the critical commentaries on Exodus, especially those of M. Kalisch (London, 1855), C. F. Keil (translated, Edinb., 1866), and J. G. Murphy (reprinted, Andover, 1868); and of course in all Bible Dictionaries, from Calmet to Herzog. Kitto, in his *Pictorial Bible* (notes on Exodus), and Pailloux, in his *Monographie du Temple de Salomon* (Paris, 1885; chaps. xi and xii), have made some attempt at a reconstruction of the Tabernacle; but they have elicited little if anything new or valuable on the subject.

On special points, besides the work of Reland, noticed above, there are several, all in the olden style, of which the most important is that of J. Braun, *Vestitus Sacerdotum Hebræorum* [The Clothing of the Hebrew Priests] (Leyden, 1690, small 4to; 2d ed. much improved, Amsterdam, 1698). Braun's treatise fails chiefly, like most similar ones of his time, from lack of the light which modern travel and research have shed upon the subject. Its mode of discussion is rather from the European than the Oriental point of view. A similar criticism is applicable to the otherwise complete dissertation of Antonius Bynæus on ancient Hebrew shoes (*De calceis Hebræorum*, Dort, 1682, 12mo; 1715, 8vo), which has some pertinence here. The treatise of Dr. S. I. Curtiss, Jr., entitled *The Levitical Priests* (Edinburgh, 1877, 8vo), is a reply to the objections of the destructive critics (Colenso, Kueneu, etc.) against the authenticity of the Pentateuch founded on the alleged discrepancies in the statements concerning the Mosaic cultus, and therefore discusses the archæology of the subject but incidentally.

2. The earlier monographs on this subject, such as those of G. Peringer (*Historia Tabernaculi Mosaici*, Upsala, 1668, 8vo), C. Mel (*Gründliche Beschreibung der Stiftshütte*, Frankfort-on-the-Oder, 1709, 4to), Conradi (*De Tabernaculi Mosis Structura*, Offenbach, 1712, 4to), S. Van Til (*Commentarius de Tabernaculo Mosis*, Dort, 1714, 4to), A. Driessen (*Mosis Tabernaculum*, Utrecht, 1714, 4to), B. Lamy (*De Tabernaculo Fiederis*, Paris, 1720, fol.), A. Schultens (*Mysterium Tabernaculi Mosis*, Franeker, 1729, 4to), and J. G. Tympe (*Tabernaculi e Monumentis Descriptio*, Jena, 1731, 4to), being based almost exclusively upon traditionary or conventional interpretation and speculation, have long since become wholly obsolete. The same remark applies with nearly equal force to most of the essays on special points connected with the Tabernacle, such as those of J. J. Leone (*De Cherubinis*, Amsterdam, 1647; Helmstädt, 1665; in the original Spanish, Amsterdam, 1654, 4to), the same author, *Del Arca del Testamento* (Amsterdam, 1653, 4to); C. Geissler (*De Cherubim*, Wittenberg, 1661, 4to), A. Calov (*De Urim et Thummim*, Wittenberg, 1675, 4to), G. Thym (*Labrum Aeneum*, Schwandorf, 1675, 4to), D. Weimar (*De Suffitu Aromatico*, Jena, 1678, 4to), G. D. Ziegler (*De Oleo Unctionis Sacro*, Wittenberg, 1680, 4to), J. B. Werner (*De Propitiatorio*, Giessen, 1695, 4to), G. Stillmann (*De Candelabro Aureo*, Bremen, 1700, 4to), J. ab Hamm (*De Ara Interiore*, Herborn, 1715, 4to), H. G. Clemens (*De Labro Aeneo*, Utrecht, 1725; Groningen, 1732, 8vo; also in Ugolino's *Thesaurus*, xix), A. Clant (*De Labro Tabernaculi*, Groningen, 1733,



4to), C. L. Schlichter (*De Mensa Facierum*, Halle, 1738, 4to; also in Ugolino's *Thesaurus*, x), C. G. F. Wolf (*De Urim et Thummim*, Leipsic, 1740, 4to), C. L. Schlichter (*De Lychnucho Sacro*, Halle, 1740, 4to), C. W. Thalemann (*De Nube super Arca*, Leipsic, 1752, 4to; 1771, 8vo), J. F. Stiebritz (*De Urim et Thummim*, Halle, 1753, 4to), C. L. Schlichter (*De Suffitu Sacro Hebræorum*, Halle, 1754, 4to), S. Rau (*Nubes super Arca Fæderis*, Herborn, 1757; Utrecht, 1760, 4to), J. K. Velt-husen (*Von den Cherubinen*, Brunswick, 1764, 8vo), W. F. Hufnagel (*Der Cherubim*, Frankfort-on-the-Main, 1821, 8vo), J. J. Bellermann (*Die Urim und Thummim*, Berlin, 1824, 8vo), T. P. C. Kaiser (*De Cherubis Mosaicis*, Erlangen, 1827, 4to), C. L. Hendewerk (*De Seraphim et Cherubim*, Königsburg, 1836, 8vo), G. Smith (*Doctrine of the Cherubim*, London, 1850, 8vo), and A. McLeod (*Cherubim and the Apocalypse*, London, 1856, 8vo), the majority of which we have directly perused, besides numerous disquisitions in more extended archæological works, in commentaries and in periodicals.

Of later treatises expressly on the Jewish Tabernacle as a whole, the following is a nearly complete list, comprising those which we have personally and minutely examined.

(1.) *Symbolik der Mosaischen Stiftshütte* [Symbolism of the Mosaic Tabernacle]. Eine Vertheidigung Dr. Luther's gegen Dr. Bähr. Von Ferdinand Friederich, Pastor zu St. Johannis in Wernigerode. Mit 23 Tafeln Abbildungen (Leipzig, 1841, 8vo, pp. 369 and vi). This, as the title states, is in opposition to Bähr's idealistic symbolism, and reduces the Tabernacle to an enlargement of the human body, the proportions of which are fantastically compared with it.

(2.) *The Tabernacle in the Wilderness; the Shadow of Heavenly Things*. Four Engravings, Coloured, and Inlaid, with Gold, Silver, and Brass, according to the Texts of Scripture, With Explanatory Notes. By W. G. Rhind (2d edition, London, 1842, small folio, pp. iii and 36). This is but a more elegant reproduction of the older schemes, plans, and figures, with a few Scriptural and practical elucidations.

(3.) *Lectures on the Typical Character of the Jewish Tabernacle, Priesthood, and Sacrifice*, Preached during Lent, 1850. By Forster G. Simpson, B.A., Curate of Ickworth, Suffolk (London, 1852, 12mo, pp. viii and 335). This, as the title shows, is a general exposition of the Levitical economy, from the popular Christian point of view, and therefore enters but slightly into critical details.

(4.) *Die Stiftshütte*, von Wilhelm Neumann (Gotha, 1861, 8vo, pp. vi and 173). This elucidation proceeds almost entirely upon the analogies of Assyrian antiquities, which are far less synchronous and familiar with the Israelites than those of Egypt. The details are wrought out with much ingenuity, but are often highly grotesque. None of the essential problems of the structure are really solved.

(5.) *Die Mosaische Stiftshütte* [The Mosaic Tabernacle], by Prof. Dr. Ch. Joh. Riggerbach; with three lithographic Plates (Basel, 1862; 2d ed. 1867, 4to, pp. 63). This is a brief, but scholarly treatise, presenting the essential features of the Tabernacle in a clear and succinct manner, but not attempting to solve all the abstrusities of the subject.

(6.) *Solomon's Temple ; or, the Tabernacle ; First Temple ; House of the King, or House of the Forest of Lebanon ; Idolatrous High Places ; the city on the Mountain* (Rev. xxi) ; *the Oblation of the Holy Portion ; and the Last Temple*. With 21 Plates of 66 Figures, accurately copied by the Lithographer from Careful Drawings made by the Author, T. O. Paine, LL.D., a Minister of the New Jerusalem Church (Boston, 1861, large 8vo., pp. 99 ; 2d ed. greatly enlarged, with new title, 1885, pp. 200). This is by far the most imposing and profound work on the sacred edifices of the Jews hitherto published. The author is a careful scholar, and an acute thinker, and he has grappled with the difficulties of the Tabernacle in a masterful way. We regret our inability to coincide with all his conclusions,\* but we gladly accept many of them as the only ones that appear to meet the exigencies of the case. He is singularly reticent on the symbolism of the subject.

(7.) *The Holy Vessels and Furniture of the Tabernacle of Israel*, by H. W. Soltan, author of "An Exposition of the Tabernacle," "the Priestly Garments and the Priesthood ;" etc. (London, 1865, oblong 4to, pp. viii and 67). With ten colored plates. Also, *The Tabernacle of Israel Illustrated*. By H. W. Soltan (London, 1870, oblong 4to, pp. 22). With nine colored plates. These are splendid little volumes, but lacking in critical value. They are altogether popular in their character.

(8.) *The Tabernacle and its Priests and Services described and considered in relation to Christ and the Church ; with diagrams, views and wood-cuts* : by William Brown (2nd ed. Edinb. 1872, 8vo, pp. xv and 168). This is an honest attempt to elucidate the whole subject treated, and is executed with a very creditable degree of earnestness and precision. Some of its suggestions are original and ingenious ; but in many points it singularly fails to meet the just requirements of the case. The resources at the writer's command appear to have been limited, and his conclusions are therefore liable to be overthrown by a wider range of induction.

(9.) *History and Significance of the Sacred Tabernacle of the Hebrews*, by Edward E. Atwater (New York, 1875, 8vo, pp. xiv and 448). With Illustrative Plates. This work contains little that is original, and therefore contributes but slightly to the elucidation of the subject beyond its predecessors. It is, however, a fair popular presentation of the theme, without aiming at any very critical purpose. The mechanism of the structure is very imperfectly wrought out.

(10.) *The Temples of the Jews, and the Other Buildings in the Haram Area at Jerusalem*, by James Fergusson, Esq., D. C. L., F. R. S., V. P. R. A. S., etc. (London, 1878, 4to, pp. xviii and 304). Illustrated by many Plans and Engravings. This superb volume treats but incidentally of the Tabernacle, summarizing the results previously arrived at by the author in his *History of Architecture*, and in his article on the *Tabernacle* in Dr. Wm. Smith's *Dictionary of the Bible*. As a professional architect, and a writer of much scholarly attainment, his views are entitled to great consideration. They are all ingenious, some of them well-founded, but others

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\* His mode of forming the "corner boards" | adjoining side boards) deranges the harmony of the (hinging them whole, by means of rings, to the | building, and makes a misfit of both sets of curtains.

preposterous. The book as a whole is infected with an excessive leaning to subjective opinions in favor of modern styles of architecture, which often disparages the ancient authorities.

(11.) *Ham-Mishkan, the Wonderful Tent; an account of the Structure, Signification, and Spiritual Lessons of the Mosaic Tabernacle erected in the Wilderness of Sinai*: by Rev. D. A. Randall, D.D. Illustrated by several plans and views (Cincinnati, 1886, 8vo. pp. xlv and 420). This work, as the author himself states in his preface, "is not intended as a book for scholars and critics." It is a popular and pleasing presentation of the main features of the subject, chiefly in the form of a series of imaginary dialogues or lectures by a learned and devout Rabbi, whom the author actually met during a journey through the Sinaitic Desert. No great amount of research or fresh information, of course, is to be expected from its scope and purpose.

(12.) W. E. Stephens, of St. Louis, Mo., circulates "Christ in the Tabernacle," an engraving, reduced by photo-lithography from a large colored lithograph, entitled "The Tabernacle in the Wilderness," published by W. F. Broom, 25 Paternoster Square, London. It represents the Tabernacle (in the old style, with no details) as pitched on the plain of Mt. Sinai, with the tents of the tribes of Israel about it.

Besides the works enumerated in the above review, we are aware of the existence of only the following that bear directly upon the general subject; and of these, although we have been unable to procure a copy, we know enough to be satisfied that they contribute nothing material to the elucidation of the Tabernacle: P. D'Aquine, *Dissertation du Tabernacle* (Paris, 1623, 4to; and later); J. J. Leone, *Afbeeldinge van den Tabernackel* (Amsterdam, 1647, 4to; the original Spanish, *ibid*, 1654, 4to); J. Recchiti, *Chokmath ham-Mishkan* [Wisdom of the Tabernacle] (in Hebrew, Mantua, 1776, 4to); J. Kitto, *The Tabernacle and its Furniture* (London, 1849, 4to); J. Popper, *Der Biblische Bericht über die Stiftshütte* (Leipsic, 1862, 8vo); T. Wagnemann, *Die Bedeutung der Stiftshütte* (Berlin, 1866, 8vo.)



## CHAPTER III.

### HISTORY OF THE TABERNACLE.

I. It appears (Exod. xxxiii, 7) that the name "Tabernacle of the Congregation" \* was originally applied to an ordinary tent, probably the one officially occupied by Moses himself; and that this was at first set apart by the token of the divine presence at its door-way as the regular place of public communication between Jehovah and the people. (See Fig. 14.) This was prior to the construction of what was afterwards technically known as the Tabernacle, which of course superseded such a temporary arrangement.

II. Soon after the arrival of the Israelites in the centre of the Sinaitic mountains, Moses was directed by Jehovah to prepare a special building for his worship, according to a pattern shown him during his stay of forty days on the summit of the mount. Accordingly orders were immediately issued for contributions to this end, the materials were freely offered by the people, a chief artificer, "Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah," with "Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan," as his assistant (Exod. xxxi, 2, 6), was selected to have immediate charge of the task, and after about eight months' labor, the Tabernacle, with all its equipments, was completed and erected on the first day of the first month (Nisan) of the second year after the departure from Egypt (Exod. xl, 17). The cloudy Pillar of the divine Shekinah doubtless indicated the precise spot of its location by resting over the central object of the entire worship, the sacred Ark beneath the Mercy-seat. During the journeys and the halts in the Wilderness, as well as throughout the campaigns in Moab, the Tabernacle marked the head-quarters of the Israelitish host, and on the arrival in Canaan it accompanied Joshua in most of his expeditions against their enemies. In all these migrations it was taken down piecemeal, carried on vehicles constructed for the purpose and drawn by oxen, in charge of the priests assisted by the Levites, and was re-erected at every stopping-place. (See Plate III.) The position of the several tribes of Israelites was regulated by divine prescription around it, both on the march and in the encampment, the signal

\* The Heb. phrase here employed is *ôhel mō'ed*, lit. "tent of meeting," which, however, is often used synonymously with *mishkân ha-edûth*, lit. "dwelling of the assembly," to designate the edifice itself. Strictly speaking, the terms "tent" (*ôhel*) and "tabernacle" (*mishkân*) are found to be carefully discriminated (as we shall eventually see), denoting respectively the canvas roof and the wooden walls of the compound structure; never for both, except as the

one implies the other; and absolutely never for each other. The expression, "tent of meeting" (often falsely rendered "tabernacle" in the A. V.), is especially appropriate from the fact that the representatives of the congregation of Israel were required to assemble for the divine commands at the "opening" (Heb. *péthach*, A. V. "door") of the tent; for there was no *mishkân* or wooden part at the front of the building.

for starting or halting being the motion or the resting of the mute guide, the Pillar cloudy by day and fiery by night.\* In the latter part of Joshua's administration it was set up at Shiloh (Josh. xviii, 1), where it remained during the troubled period of the Judges, down to the days of Eli,† when the sacred Ark was taken out of the building (1 Sam. iv, 4), and never returned. It is probable that the timber of the wooden part of the edifice (the curtains of course having been often renewed) was by this time so worn and decayed (although of durable wood and thickly plated with gold) as to be unservicable, and Talmudic tradition speaks of its replacement by a permanent stone structure, traces of which, it is thought, are still discoverable on the site of Shiloh (Conder, *Tent-work in Palestine*, i, 84). However that may be, there are no further distinct indications of the existence or locality of the original building, although evidences occur of the transfer of the worship, under Samuel's administration, successively to Mizpeh (1 Sam. vii, 6), and elsewhere (1 Sam. ix, 12; x, 3; xx, 6; Psa. cxxxii, 6). In David's day the show-bread was at one time kept at Nob (1 Sam. xxi, 1-6), which implies the existence there of at least one of the sacred utensils of the Tabernacle; especially as the priests largely lived there (xxii, 11), and some part of their residence appears to have served, in so far at least, the purpose of a sanctuary (xxi, 7, 9); and even down to the close of David's reign the "high place that was at Gibeon" possessed some fragments of the original Tabernacle, with its altar of burnt-offering (1 Chron. xvi, 39; xxi, 29; comp. 1 Kings iii, 4; 2 Chron. i, 3-6). This is absolutely the last mention of the edifice itself.

III. Meanwhile a rival establishment to the one last named had been set up by David on Mt. Zion at Jerusalem, whither he had finally transported the sacred Ark,‡ and gathered around it the sacerdotal ministrations in a new sanctuary, especially constructed for it, but which, as it is simply called a *tent* (1 Chron. xv, 1; xvi, 1; 2 Sam. vi, 17, A. V. "tabernacle"), would seem to have lacked the wooden walls of the earlier one (2 Sam. vii, 2; 1 Chron. xvii, 1). (See Fig. 14.) This of course was in turn superseded by the famous Temple not long afterwards erected by Solomon, into which was doubtless gathered all that remained of the original furniture of the Mosaic Tabernacle (2 Chron. v, 5). The Candelabrum, however, if still extant, was replaced, in this edifice, by ten others, probably of a more gorgeous style (1 Kings vii, 49), with at least a repeating of the altar of incense and the table of show-bread (1 Kings vii, 48). The Laver, having probably long since been broken up, was also

\* As a slowly-burning pyre (Exod. iii, 2) shows white like smoke in the daylight, but red like flame at night. Occasionally (Exod. xiv, 20) it was dark on one side, and bright on the other.

† From the narrative in 1 Sam. iii, it would seem that the original court was replaced or at least occupied by permanent dwellings for the ministrant priests (see Keil, at the place).

‡ This central object of the Jewish worship, after its seven months' adventures among the Philistines (1 Sam. vi, 1) under Eli, had been deposited at Kirjath-

jeirim (1 Sam. vii, 1), where it remained twenty years (ver. 2) until Samuel's establishment at Mizpeh (ver. 6). After its removal by David, first from Kirjath-jeirim (where by some means it had got back meanwhile apparently by way of Bethlehem [comp. Psa. cxxxii, 6; 1 Sam. ix, 14] to the house of Obedom, and afterwards to Jerusalem (2 Sam. vi; 1 Chron. xiii-xvi), we have no record of its leaving the Holy City, except for a few hours on the breaking out of Absalom's rebellion (2 Sam. xv, 24-29).

magnificently replaced (1 Kings vii, 23, 27). On the demolition of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar's general, such pieces of the sacred furniture as had survived all previous changes and catastrophes probably shared the fate of the other valuables there, being all carried away to Babylon (Jer. lii, 18, 19), whither some articles of the kind had already preceded them (2 Chron. xxxvi, 7). There they remained till the downfall of that city (Dan. v, 2, 3), when the conqueror Cyrus delivered them to the Jewish "prince of the exiles" (Ezra i, 7-11), and they were among the treasures soon afterward permitted to be transported to Jerusalem (Ezra v, 14, 15; vii, 19), where they safely arrived under Ezra's administration (Ezra viii, 33). They seem at this time, however, to have consisted exclusively of the smaller but very numerous "vessels" for sacred uses, and no mention is made, in any of these later enumerations, of the Ark or the more important pieces of furniture. Evidences of a tradition appear in much later Hebrew literature to the effect that, on the capture of Jerusalem, or perhaps rather its final despoliation, the Ark was hidden away by Jeremiah, to be restored only on his return with the final dominion of Israel; but this is doubtless unfounded. The precious palladium of the Holy City (1 Sam. iv, 3) seems to have attracted the cupidity of some one of the foreign or domestic marauders who at various times violated the sanctity of the shrine (2 Kings xii, 18; xviii, 16; 2 Chron. xxv, 24; xxviii, 24) down to the period of the Babylonian invasion (2 Kings xxiv, 13). There is distinct mention of the Table of Show-bread in the reign of Hezekiah (2 Chron. xxix, 18), and in that of Josiah allusion is perhaps made to the autograph copy of the Law originally deposited in the Ark (2 Chron. xxxiv, 15), but after this date all direct traces of any of the sacred apparatus constructed in the Desert vanish from history.\*

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\* The few extra-Biblical notices of the furniture of the Herodian Temple, some pieces of which may possibly have been the same as those of the Tabernacle, will be considered in treating of their original construction. (See Chap. iv.)

## CHAPTER IV.

### STRUCTURE OF THE TABERNACLE.

IN this, the main portion of the present volume, our aim will be to explain as succinctly as possible the various parts of the sacred edifice and their adaptation to each other, chiefly from the Scripture record, accompanied by suitable diagrams, without entering into any unnecessary controversy of the opinions of others who differ from us as to the proper mode of reconstruction. Our chief purpose throughout is not simply to justify our own delineation, but rather to aid the reader in his conception and apprehension of it. If it shall then appear consistent, it will be its own best vindication.

The sacred narrative begins with a *prescription* of the central object of sanctity, the Ark, and proceeds outward to the less holy precincts; but, as ours is a *description*, we pursue the reverse order, in accordance with modern methods. The inspired writer develops his subject from an interior point of view, but common mortals can only look upon it from without.

I. The Court was a space inclosed around the Tabernacle itself in the midst of each camping-ground, for the exclusive use of the priests and Levites in their sacred ministrations, and was always so arranged as to face the East. The first encampment on which it was laid out was of course immediately in front or north of Mt. Sinai (as in Plate II), where the fine plain of Er-Ráhah stretches on an average a mile and a half wide and about three miles long—besides its continuation, through side-valleys, to the very foot of the majestic hills on all sides towering about 3,000 feet sheer above it. The central peak, directly opposite, is now called Ras Sufsâfeh (*Willow Top*, from a small tree of that kind in a cleft of its summit), and is doubtless the very spot—plainly visible in the clear atmosphere to the whole camp at its base—where the Law was delivered amid flashes of lightning; while the rear peak—somewhat higher, but hidden at this point of view by its forward fellow—is still designated as Jebel Mûsa (*Moses's Mount*), being no doubt that on which the Hebrew lawgiver held his prolonged interview with Jehovah.

1. This outer (and only) court of the Tabernacle was 100 cubits long and 50 wide (Exod. xxvii, 9, 12, 18), or, reduced to English measure,\* an oblong of about 172 by 86 feet. (See Plate I.)

\* We may here state, once for all, that our estimate of the length of the Hebrew cubit, in this treatise, is the same as that finally adopted by the late celebrated Egyptologist, Sir John Gardner Wilkinson, namely, 20.625 inches or 1.719 feet (*Ancient Egyptians*, Harper's ed. ii, 258). This substantially agrees

with the following ancient specimens of the cubit still extant, which the author has personally examined and measured.

Nilometer at Elephantine (average) . . . . .	20.627 inches.
Copper Rule in Turin Museum . . . . .	20.469 "
Wooden Rule in Turin Museum . . . . .	20.563 "
Stone Rule in Turin Museum . . . . .	20.623 "



The area was inclosed by a curtain or hanging, of corresponding length, suspended upon pillars 5 cubits high (Exod. xxvii, 18). These fence-posts, as we would call them, were doubtless of acacia ("shittim," sing. "shittah"), like the other wooden portions of the edifice, and probably round, as their type in nature (a tree), and economy of weight for a given degree of strength, seem to require. We may safely estimate their diameter at one fourth of a cubit, or about 5 inches. Like the other columns of the building, they appear to have been of the same size from top to bottom. Their foot was held in place by a socket or plate\* of copper (A.V. incorrectly "brass," for zinc, which is used in that alloy, was unknown to the ancients),† evi-

The Turin copper cubit-rule has evidently shrunk in cooling from the mould in which it was cast. The wooden one may have worn away somewhat. The stone one is rather irregular at the edges of the ends. The cubits marked on the stairway at Elephantine differ considerably from each other. Other cubit-rules exist varying, according to published measurements, from 20.47 to 20.65 inches. An approximation to the exact standard is all that can now be determined.

The above cubit-rules at Turin, together with others preserved in the various museums of Europe and elsewhere, have been carefully delineated and analyzed by R. Lepsius (*Die alt-ägyptische Elle und ihre Eintheilung*, Berlin, 1865, 4to), who estimates the ancient Egyptian full cubit, from these specimens and a comparison of the dimensions of the Pyramids (presumed to be in even cubits, as given by ancient writers, and proportional, both outside and in), as equivalent to 1 foot and  $8\frac{2}{3}$  inches English (p. 5), or very slightly in excess of the conclusion adopted by us. (The paper, however, on which they are printed has shrunk in drying from the lithographic press, so that they are  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch shorter than the actual length. This is confirmed by the fact that he computes the entire cubit, on the same plan, at 525 millimètres, i. e. 20.67 inches.) That the Hebrew cubit was the same, can hardly be questioned. The Egyptian cubit-rule was divided into 28 equal *digits* (finger-breadths), the first 15 of which were graduated into fractional parts (from the half to the sixteenth respectively). Four digits made a *palm* (hand-breadth, exclusive of the thumb); three palms made a *small span*, or three and a half a *large span*, four palms a *foot*, five palms an *elbow* (from the wrist), six palms a *short* (or, "moderate," i. e. medium-sized person's) *cubit* (including the length of the palm only), and seven palms the *full* (or "royal," i. e. full-sized man's) *cubit*, from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow, i. e. the entire lower arm. Thus each of the parts, as well as the whole, was determined by a natural type (Rev. xxi, 17). These subdivisions were regularly numbered from

right to left, and most of the surfaces were embellished with emblematical and mythological hieroglyphics. The favorite shape was that of a flat rule with one edge beveled, the digit marks being incised on most or all of the faces, and the fractions on the thin edge. None are jointed, for folding. The distinction last noted, namely, between the scant and the normal cubit, seems to explain the remark in Ezek. xliii, 13, "The cubit is a cubit and an hand-breadth," i. e. the full cubit, and not the short one, is intended (so in Ezek. xl, 5).

\* The Heb. word (ver. 10-18) is *eden*, "a base," used also of the similar underpinning (as we shall see) of the Tabernacle walls, and elsewhere only of the foundation of the earth (Job xxxviii, 6), or the pedestal of a statue (Cant. v, 15). The weight of the superstructure, or a slight excavation, would settle these somewhat into the ground, and thus prevent the foot of the entire structure from sliding. The old-fashioned idea (apparently corrected under the rendering "socket"), that they were hollow pointed receptacles, is an utterly impracticable one; for such could not have been driven accurately (to fit the tenons) in the hard gravelly and stony soil of the Desert, and they would soon have been battered to pieces; nor would they have been of any use, since the tenons themselves might as well have been pointed, and driven in at once.

† The monuments show that the ancient Egyptians were familiar with the processes of metallurgy, and the mines of Surabet el-Khadim, in the desert of Sinai, are known, from old papyri, as well as the *débris* and inscriptions in the vicinity, to have been worked by them from a very early period. It is probably to these operations that the book of Job (chap. xxviii) refers, a work which Moses himself, who doubtless often witnessed the miners during his exile in Midian, is believed to have edited. The copper was smelted, no doubt on the spot, from the malachite there obtained. There would, therefore, be no difficulty in the Israelites effecting these castings at Sinai.

dently laid flat upon the ground, doubtless with a mortice or hole (probably square, in order to prevent the pillar from revolving) in the centre, to receive a corresponding (copper) tenon in the end of the pillar. They were stayed upright by cords (Exod. xxxv, 18) fastened to pins (xxvii, 19)\* of copper driven into the ground, which would be necessary both on the inside and on the outside; while the curtains with their attachments (especially the rods presently to be considered) would keep the tops at a proper distance apart, and the corners would brace the whole line. There were 60 of these pillars in all, namely, 20 on each side, and 10 on each end, with an equal number of sockets (ver. 10–12). This allows exactly 5 cubits' space between the pillars (from centre to centre), the corner-pillars of course being counted only once (and set half their thickness nearer the adjoining ones), whether in the side or the end.† Accordingly the eastern or front end is said to have 4 such spaces in

\*The Heb. word is *yéther*, everywhere used of a tent-pin. It was probably round and pointed, with a head or notch to keep the cord from slipping off.

†This disposition of the pillars, which is the modern workmanlike method in dealing with fence-posts, harmonizes the numbers and dimensions of the sacred narrative, and meets all the proprieties in the case. The question raised as to the mode of reckoning is a mere dispute about words, which has led some to make more and some less than 60 posts, and many to assign fractional and even different spaces between them. The exact truth is that the corner posts belong one half to the side and one half to the end (and so of the door-way posts and their wings), so that the language of the sacred writer is strictly correct. In counting the pillars of the respective sides of the rectangle and those of the door-way, both extremes are neither included nor both excluded, but (as every one's experience must have taught him to do in such cases) one is included and the other excluded. A careful inspection of both accounts (Exod. xxvii, 9–16; xxxviii, 9–19) shows that the number of the pillars is never predicated of the *sides* of the court, but always either of the court itself or (usually) of the *hangings*; and so likewise not of the opening of the door-way, but of its screen. This justifies the phraseology, inasmuch as the curtains, being continuous, would count (so to speak) the *spaces* rather than the pillars which they represented. Or perhaps we may more clearly apprehend the reason of this mode of reckoning, if we bear in mind that it was prescriptive and constructive, and not as erected; the materials being indicated—so many pillars prepared for such a length of curtain, care being taken not to duplicate or omit anything. The execution of the directions was left to the common-sense of the workmen, and the interpreter has need to exercise

his own in the exposition. We will find a similar enumeration employed, for the sake of uniformity, in the loops attached to the exterior curtains of the building; and Matt. i, 17, may be cited as an analogous case.

That the above interval is the true one is rendered certain by the length of the door-way curtain, 20 cubits for 4 pillars (xxvii, 16; xxxviii, 18, 19), as well as by that of each of the side-curtains, 15 cubits for 3 pillars (xxvii, 13, 14; xxxviii, 14, 15), thus making up the entire end of 50 cubits for 10 pillars (xxvii, 12, 13; xxxviii, 12, 13). The corner pillars of the door-way are not counted twice, although both the colored and the plain curtains hung on them; but, precisely as in the case of the corner pillars of the court, where the two sections of curtains meet, they are accurately attributed one half to either side of the dividing line in their middle. This is the only way in which the door-way can be brought in the centre of the front, as it evidently was meant to be. There were clearly 10 *spaces* of 5 cubits each, from the centres of the pillars severally. Any other distribution is complicated and unnatural. In fact, aside from the question of the regularity of spacing, the only consistent and uniform method of counting the pillars possible is to include in each enumeration one of the means, but not the other; for if both be included, there will really be but 98 around the whole court, since two of the corners must be counted twice; or, if both extremes be excluded, there will be 104 in all, since the four corners must be left out altogether; similarly on the front, if both extremes be included on the entire line, as well as at the entrance, there will be but 8 in all; or if both be excluded there will be 12. Paine arbitrarily assumes that both extremes are to be included in the sides of the court, but excluded from the ends; yet he is compelled to include one extreme only in the side-curtains of the front end.



the middle for a door-way (20 cubits wide), and 3 spaces or 15 cubits on either side of these (ver. 14–16). From the parallel passage (Exod. xxxviii, 17, 19) we learn that all the pillars were capped with silver, probably a curved plate to protect the top. Two other parts or appendages to these pillars are mentioned, namely, “hooks” and “fillets,” both of silver (ver. 10, 12, 17). The former of these\* obviously were to serve the purpose of holding up the other parts of the screen, and the latter† can only be a *rod*, not designed to sustain the curtain by means of loops or rings in its top edge, no such contrivances being anywhere mentioned in the text (as they invariably are whenever used); but intended to keep the tops of the posts at a proper distance apart, being hung upon the hooks, apparently by means of eyes at each end (these last implied in the statement of their corresponding hooks, just as mortices in the sockets are taken for granted to fit the tenons of the posts and planks). The hooks were set one each in the middle of the round face of the pillar a little below the cap, and probably another near the bottom. The stay-ropes on either side might readily be fastened around the top of each pillar by a hitching-noose in the middle, which the hooks would keep from slipping down.

The curtains thus hung upon the pillars were sheets of “fine twined linen,”‡

\* Heb. *vav*, the name of the sixth letter of the alphabet, formed thus, ם, which indicates the shape of the hook or peg, being driven horizontally into the pillar. It was probably made of wire, or at all events round. Paine (for a reason apparent below) figures the antique style of the letter (adopting this form, ם), but this will make little difference, for in old inscriptions it appears in forms not essentially different from the above printed shape (for example on the Moabitic stone quite as often thus, ם, and in the very earliest specimen hitherto discovered, namely the Siloam inscription, exclusively thus ם, which is substantially the same as on old coins, thus ם).

† Heb. *chashúk*, something “fastened,” i. e., a pole; used only of this object, and a word of similar form *chishshúk*, of the spoke (A. V. “felloe”) of a wheel (1 Kings vii, 33). As the rods of the Tabernacle door-way were overlaid with gold (Exod. xxxvi, 38), and were consequently not solid metal, but only a wooden pole incased (like the bars of the planks to be presently considered), these silver rods were probably constructed in a similar manner; and the eyes at their extremities for the hooks must have been driven into their ends. Paine inserts the hooks upright in the tops of the pillars, and hangs the curtains upon the rods; but this arrangement, by drawing the curtains partly around the pillars, shortens them and prevents their hanging smooth. We shall also see that it will not apply to the description given of the innermost screen, called “the veil” by way of eminence. The etymology of the words is no objec-

tion to placing the hooks horizontally, any more than the knobs.

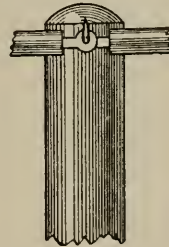


FIG. 2.—Pillar, with Rods and Hooks.

‡ Heb. *shesh moshzár*, lit. “white twisted” cloth, i. e., bleached material of two-stranded thread, doubtless of flax. *Shesh* seems to denote any very white substance, and is applied even to marble (Esth. i, 6; Cant. v, 15). The proper word for linen is *bad*, which as distinguished from *shesh* would be the unbleached stuff of its natural color. The fineness of the thread is not involved in either term.

of unusual body and brilliancy (i. e. *duck*), probably sewed endwise together so as to form a continuous screen from the door-way all around the corners to the door-way again. This would most conveniently be hung on the outside of the pillars, and being 5 cubits wide (Exod. xxxviii, 18),\* it would clear the ground, if stretched smooth by eyelets in the upper and lower edges for the hooks. The door-way curtain, 20 cubits long, in the middle of the eastern end, however, was a different kind of stuff, "blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework" (ver. 16), i. e., as we were the first to interpret it, the warp (or lengthwise threads) of bleached linen cord, and the woof (or filling) of alternate bars (running as upright stripes) of wool dyed blue-purple (violet), † red-purple (Tyrian), ‡ and crimson (cochineal), § with hand-embroidery superimposed. ¶ From their mode of attachment it is clear that none of these curtains (not even that of the door-way, which is explicitly stated to have been

\* From this passage it appears that all the curtains around the court were of the same height. The singular expression there used, "The height in the breadth," means that the height was occasioned by the width of the cloth, which ran horizontally.

In the arrangement which we have adopted, all the rods (or *rails* we might call them) for this fence are of the same length, inasmuch as they are carried entirely across the corner-posts, and these latter are set wholly within the line. It is only necessary to have the single hook in these posts (at the extreme angle of course) not driven in so far into the post, i. e., projecting farther from its face.

† Heb *tekéleth*, the *helix ianthina*, a very thin, flat and coiled, round shell, found on the Mediterranean, the envelope of a colorless, jelly-like animal, which when crushed or punctured emits a beautiful violet liquid.

‡ Heb. *orgamán*, the *murex brandaris*, a large spiral shell, found in the Mediterranean, a particular part of the animal inhabiting which contains a creamy fluid, that turns a brilliant purple after exposure to the air.

§ Heb. *shani*, often with the addition of *toláath*, a *worm* or grub; the *coccus ilicis*, a parasite on the Tyrian oak, the wingless female of which furnishes the *kermes* of commerce, and yields a rich red color, very closely resembling that of the *coccus cacti* or true cochineal (which came from Mexico), being somewhat less brilliant but more permanent.

¶ It should be noticed that in neither case is the substance, of which these two parts of the fabric was composed, explicitly mentioned. (Compare the enumeration of the same materials first in chap. xxv, 4.) That it was first woven in a loom, and afterwards worked with a needle, is obvious. Besides this the different colors only are named. The "bleached" was the basis, that is, the warp, as being

the stronger, and for this purpose "double-twisted." That it was linen is to be inferred from the fact that it was bleached. On the other hand wool only will take rich colors well, especially animal dyes (the two purples are from shell-fish, and the bright-red from an insect). The cross bands of these three shades of red (as we may style them) would be softened by the admixture of the white foundation. On these the embroidering was performed, as the contrast would thus be very effective. The color of the embroidery would, we presume, be yellow, of silk thread, we suppose (as gold is not mentioned here), apparently on the "right" or outer side only. The figures do not seem to have been cherubim, as these are mentioned in connection with the inner tapestry only, where they would be more appropriate. We are forbidden by the second commandment (although not yet promulgated) to think of any actual object, and must therefore conjecture that the needlework consisted of purely fancy patterns, such as abound in Oriental tapestries, ceilings and rugs—perhaps what is known as "mosaic." The order of the colors, as systematically named, leads us to conceive that the violet stripe was first, the purple in the middle and the crimson last, the white underneath and the yellow over the whole. The three primary colors (blue, red and yellow) are thus represented, but not in their prismatic order. The symbolism is of a less scientific nature, as we shall eventually see. The rain-bow has its own symbolism (Gen. ix, 12-16), but it is entirely cosmical. Josephus suggests (*Antiquities*, III, vii, 2) that the *linen was the warp*, but he says nothing about the woof, nor the order of the colors; he seems to have thought these were only used for the embroidery: "It [the high-priest's robe] is embroidered with flowers of scarlet, and purple, and blue [reversing the colors], and fine-twined linen; but the warp was nothing but fine linen" (Whiston's translation).

a single piece) were intended to be parted or to slide for admission; entrance could therefore only be effected by lifting them at the bottom and passing under them (as they were 5 cubits, or more than  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet, high), and this moreover was not possible with any degree of facility (on account of the tightness of the long lines) except at the door-way, where the break in the continuity of the curtain and its comparative shortness allowed it to be easily raised, especially at the (lower) corners.

2. Within this limited but sufficiently capacious area, besides the principal object, the Tabernacle itself, there were only two others normally belonging to it, namely, the "Brazen Altar," and the Laver.

(1.) The former of these, often styled the Great Altar (in later literature), or more appropriately the Altar of Burnt-offering, to distinguish it from the smaller Altar of Incense, was made strong and light for convenient transportation, thus

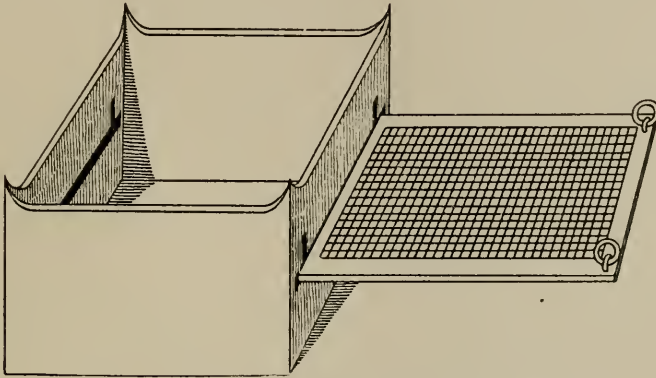


FIG. 3.—Altar of Burnt-offering, with the Grate drawn out.

superseding all former structures of the kind, but not exclusive of still larger earthen or stone altars, as in subsequent times (Exod. xx, 24, 25). The one under consideration was a hollow box\* of acacia (shittim wood), 5 cubits square, and 3 cubits high (Exod. xxvii, 1, 8), cased all over its surface with sheets of copper (ver. 2). It had a "horn" (i. e. an upright, tapering projection) at each corner, apparently formed by a triangular extension of the sides at their junction (ver. 2). This was an ornamental and significant, rather than a strictly needful appendage. An essential addition was the grate, † consisting of a copper net-work, ‡ movably by a copper ring in each corner (ver. 4), and placed below the top of the

\* "Hollow with boards" (xxvii, 8; xxxviii, 7), Heb. *nebúb lúchóth* (lit. "a hollow [bored through, like a tubular column, Jer. lii, 21] of slabs [a different word from that used for the planks of the Tabernacle walls])." Their thickness was no doubt some definite proportion of a cubit, as we shall find all the dimensions about the structure to be (since, as Paine justly remarks, "A carpenter always works by his

rule-measure"); in this case probably, one-eighth, or about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches—not too great for so large a box, and one exposed to much hard service.

† Heb. *mikbár*, lit. "plaiting," used only of this contrivance; but a kindred term, *makbér*, is once applied to a coarse cloth (2 Kings viii, 15).

‡ Heb. *résheh*, a term constantly applied to a net for catching animals.



altar, half-way down the inside (ver. 5). It thus appears that there was no cover to the altar at all, and probably no bottom, but only the grating, evidently for the fire, across it at the middle; and this latter was supported by sliding through slits in the opposite sides of the altar, the rings projecting outside.\* Through these rings were passed the copper-cased side-poles used for carrying the whole on the march like a hand-barrow (ver. 6, 7; comp. xxxviii, 5-7), while the grate was held fast by the rings and staves. The entire surface of the altar was therefore sheeted with copper inside and out, including the horns, so that the heat could not affect it; and the priests standing about it could conveniently manage the sacrificial fire, sliding the grate far enough out to take up the ashes that fell through it. The flame would be concentrated by being confined within the upper part of the altar-box, and sufficient air to keep up a draught would enter by the crevices around the grate, especially those left to allow the rings to pass through, or additional holes might be made for that purpose, if found to be necessary.† There was no occasion for steps or an inclined plane to reach it.‡ (See Plate V, A.)

The utensils named (ver. 3) in connection with the Altar, all of copper, are "pans to receive [i. e. remove] the [greasy] ashes of the sacrifices,"§ shovels (for taking them up), basins (for holding the blood of victims, with which the horns of the altar were smeared), flesh-hooks (for handling the roasting sacrifices, and managing the fire), and fire-pans (for carrying coals for incense or other purposes).||

The Great Altar probably stood in the centre of the open space of the court,

\* This is the arrangement of Paine in the last edition of his work, and entirely obviates the serious objections against all previous interpretations and conjectures. The Heb. word rendered "compass" is *kirkób*, an obscure one, used only of this particular object, and designates the upper *margin* of the altar (which, as we shall see, was entirely different from that of the Altar of Incense). The word rendered "midst" is lit. *half*, as often elsewhere. Since the rings were *cast* (like those of all the other pieces that were similarly furnished—for this is expressly stated of all except the Incense-altar [and the wall-planks], and "made" is there equivalent to "cast," as appears from a comparison in the other cases) and therefore solid, they must have been attached to the grate (which was likewise cast) by means of staples upon its face (as the Heb. invariably has it, in this as well as all the other cases).

† As the altar stood in the open court, and the fuel was above the centre of the broad fire-box, an ample supply of air would come in over the sides for ordinary purposes of combustion; and for the greater part of the day, and during the whole night, the fire was to be merely kept smoldering alive. On extraordinary occasions, the current would naturally be increased by excavating openings under the sides, and

these could conveniently be closed by a stone at pleasure. A mound of earth might be raised on either side for ascending to the top whenever necessary.

‡ This altar was doubtless set directly upon the ground, and so might not inappropriately be called "an altar of earth" (Exod. xx, 24). The gold-plated pieces of furniture indoor were probably (as Paine suggests) placed upon fur rugs spread upon the ground. These skins were no doubt the same, or at least of the same character, as those that (as we shall eventually see) were used to cover up the sacred furniture on the march.

§ Heb. *dashshén*, a special word for these fatty ashes.

|| From the fact (Num. xvi, 38, 39) that similar vessels to these last (Heb. *machtóth*, *receptacles* for fire, A. V. "censers") on one occasion (apparently not very long after the removal from Sinai) were readily used as additional plates for the Altar of Burnt-offering (probably on the edges of the fire-pot, where the wear would soonest tell), it would seem that these were simply square copper sheets folded at the corners (in gores like modern sheet-iron pans), and furnished with a plain handle (doubtless of the same, merely riveted on).

about half-way between the entrance and the Tabernacle itself,\* (where it would be convenient of access to all worshippers, and leave room enough for the sacrifices). Upon it was maintained a perpetual fire of selected wood, except of course while on the march.†

(2.) Midway of this latter interval (Exod. xxx, 18), still in the medial line, stood the other conspicuous piece of apparatus for the service, namely, the Laver, which would there be immediately at hand for the priests to bathe ‡ before entering the Sanctuary, or approaching the Altar (ver. 19–21). It consisted of two parts, the Laver proper, § and its Foot ¶ or pedestal. Neither the form nor the size is given. ¶ Both parts were obviously round, as the vessel was in fact merely a bowl with a base connected by a tapering neck, like a flat goblet. That it was shallow, and raised but little from the ground, may be inferred from its use, which was to wash the feet as well as the hands; and that it was comparatively small may be inferred from the fact that it was not intended for washing the entire person (ver. 19, 21). It was probably about two cubits in diameter, and one and a half cubits high. Like all the utensils of the court, it was of copper, but in this case apparently somewhat alloyed; for it was a casting made of the metallic mirrors contributed by the female members of the congregation (xxxviii, 8), such as the Egyptian ladies are known to have used.\*\* (See Plate V. D.)

II. The Sanctuary or sacred fabric itself was situated at the front edge of the

\* Exod. xl, 29 is not determinative of the exact spot.

† The Arabs who conduct travellers through the Desert of Sinai always keep up a fire during the night with the drift-wood or brush which the winter rains bring down from the sides of the mountains. This is partly for company and partly for a sense of protection against surprise. The monkish local guides who escort tourists over the summit of Sinai are in the habit of touching a match to any dry shrub that they meet on the way; which seems a sort of reminiscence of the burning bramble that Moses saw. But the wild-sage bushes, with which the plain and hill-sides are dotted, are unmolested, although they stand quite dry, but still perfectly retaining their green color to the middle of March.

‡ Heb. *racháts*, used of laving either the whole body, or any part.

§ Heb. *kiyór*, a cooking *dish*, used generally of a pot, basin or pan.

¶ Heb. *ken*, lit. a "stand" or support, evidently an expansion of the shaft, probably with a turned-up rim so as to catch the drip from a faucet in the upper reservoir; for Orientals wash the hands by pouring water upon them from an ewer, and not by plunging them into a basin, which would defile the whole.

¶ Something, however, may be deduced from the etymology of the Heb. term, and its use in other passages. It is derived from a root that seems prima-

rily to mean *excavation by hammering*, and this would naturally yield a semi-globular hollow, which form is confirmed by the convenience for a lavatory, like a wash bowl or basin, and by the similar shape of the molten sea and the smaller lavens, which took its place in the Temple (1 Kings vii, 30, 38, 40, 43; 2 Kings xvi, 17; 2 Chron. iv, 6, 14), and which are denoted by the same word. It is likewise applied to a *chafing-dish* for live coals (Zech. xii, 6), and to a platform or *rostrum* (2 Chron. vi, 13), which, although probably covered (as the other utensils seem not to have been), doubtless had the same urn-like form, and could not have been high, since no steps are spoken of in connection with it. In 1 Sam. ii, 14, it is named first of four kinds of receptacles for boiling flesh, which seem to be enumerated in the order of their size, but could not have differed very much in their shape; namely, *kiyór* (prob. a *caldron*, A. V. "pan" here), *dud* (a large *pot* [lit. *boiler*], Job. xli, 20; Psa. lxxxi, 6; "kettle," here, "caldron," 2 Chron. xxxv, 13; also a "basket," 2 Kings x, 7; Jer. xxiv, 2), *kalláchath* (from a word that seems to indicate *pouring*; a *kettle*, A. V. "caldron," here and in Mic. iii, 3), and *parâr* (from a root significant of *hollowing by fracture*, a deep *pan*, as rendered in Num. xi, 8; "pot" here and in Judg. vi., 19).

\*\* Wilkinson (*Ancient Egyptians*, ii, 345–7). These *specula* were of various metals, usually mixed, but not always nor properly bronze.

rear half of the entire inclosure, probably leaving equal spaces on either side and behind between its walls and those of the Court. It consisted of two portions, called respectively the Holy and the Most Holy places, the former occupying the forward room, and the latter one half the size in depth behind it (as will eventually appear).

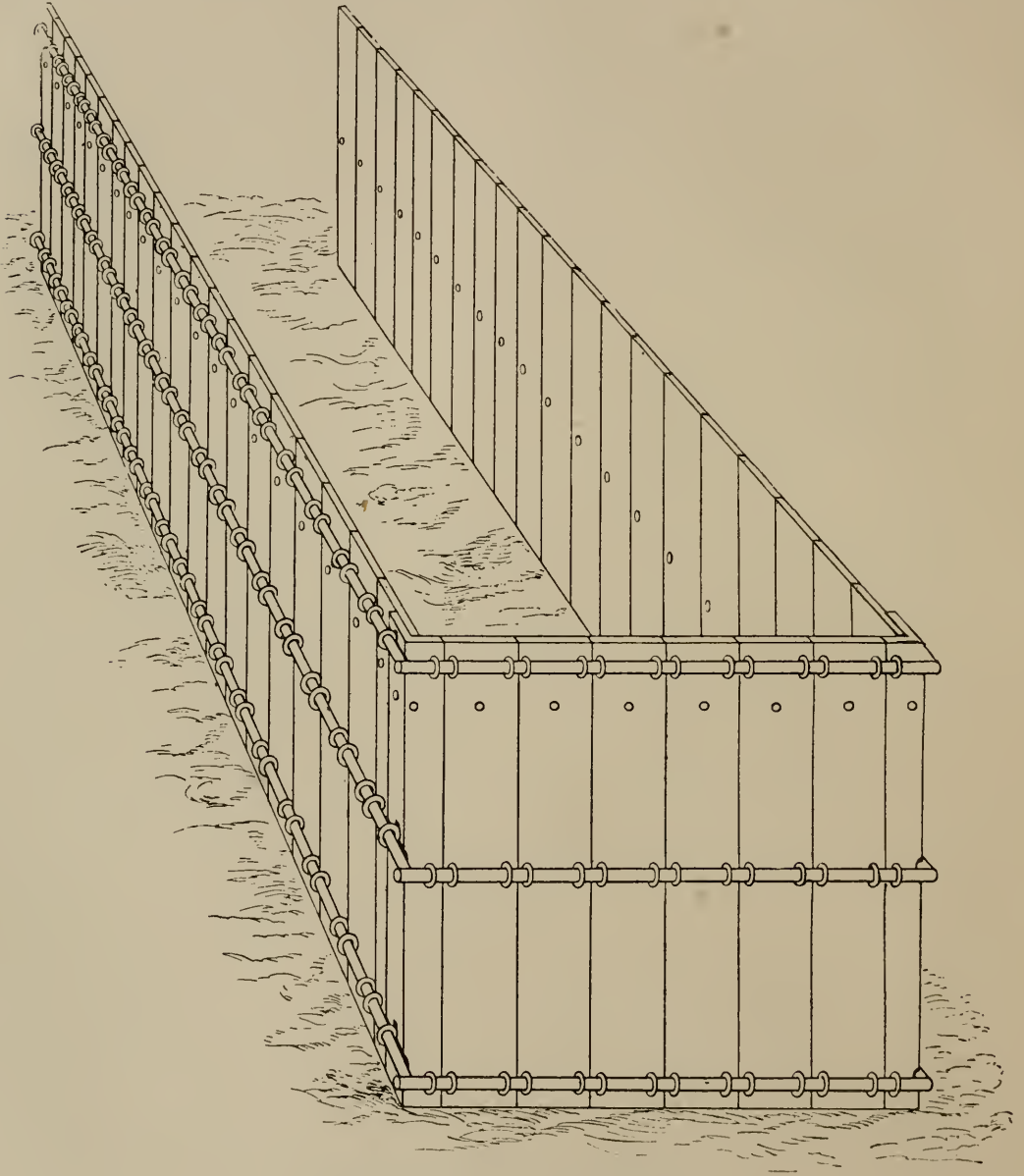


FIG. 4.—Wooden Walls of the Tabernacle.



As both these were of the same width and general construction, we may most conveniently consider them together in point of architecture, and afterwards discuss their special features separately. (See Plate IV.)

1. The walls (which distinctively composed the *mishkán* or "Tabernacle") were of a character, like all other parts of the edifice (if so we may term this migratory temple), to be easily taken down and re-erected whenever the divine signal should be given to that effect. (See Fig. 4.)

(1.) They essentially consisted of planks or "boards" \* of the acacia or slittim wood † before mentioned, each 10 cubits long, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubits broad (xxvi, 16). Their entire surface was plated with sheets of gold. Twenty of these formed each side-wall (vers. 18, 20), held in a perpendicular position (ver. 15) by means to be described presently, each plank having two tenons ‡ in the foot to attach it securely to the ground as in a sill. The rear planks were 8 in all (ver. 25), of which 6 were like the foregoing (ver. 22), and 2 of peculiar construction for the corners (ver. 23). To form each of these last, a plank exactly similar to all the rest was divided

\* Heb. sing. *kéresh*, as being *heun* out: used only of these planks and of the deck of a vessel ("benches," Ezek. xxvii, 6). They were in fact almost logs, like floor-timbers. The "boards" of xxvii, 8 are a different word in the original, being that usually rendered "table," when this means merely a plate or slab.

but in the cognate languages is applied to the *rounds* of a ladder, and seems to mean *regularly* occurring, i. e., at equal intervals (for this is the most essential feature of ladder rounds); and thus we have arranged them, except those of the corner-plank, which are likewise two, but necessarily in a somewhat different

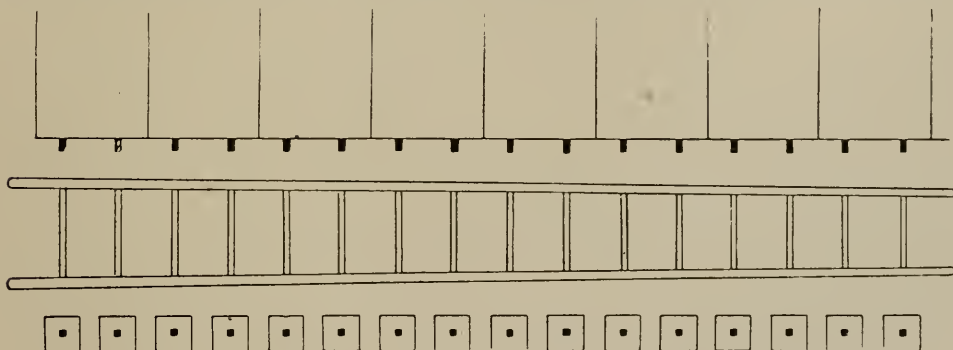


FIG. 5.—Comparison of the Tenons and Mortices of the Wall-planks with the Rounds of a Ladder.

† The (Arabic) *seyál*, common in the Sinaitic desert, a thorny tree of moderate size, with firm and durable wood, closely resembling our yellow locust. The bark is smooth, and that of the limbs yellow, like the ailanthus. (See Fig. 39.)

‡ Heb. sing. *yad*, a "hand," as often elsewhere rendered. The analogy of the other curtain posts leads us to conclude that they were of solid metal (therefore small) like that of the sockets, i. e. in the present case silver. These tenons are said to be "set in order," Heb. *meshulláb*, a word that occurs nowhere else in Heb. (except in *shaláb*, a "ledge," 1 Kings vii, 28, 29),

position. In the parallel passage (xxxvi, 22) it is rendered "equally distant," and this is confirmed by a coincidence which can hardly be accidental. If these tenons (and the corresponding mortices) were equi-distant, they would be  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a cubit apart (from centre to centre) or about  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches, which actually is the most convenient and customary space between the rounds of a ladder. This correspondence to the natural type is illustrated by the annexed diagram. (See Fig. 5.) The tenons were probably square, so as to keep the sockets from revolving out of line, and of silver, so as to match the sockets.

throughout its length into two parts, one of them two-thirds of a cubit wide, and the other the remaining five-sixths of a cubit wide; these parts were then joined together

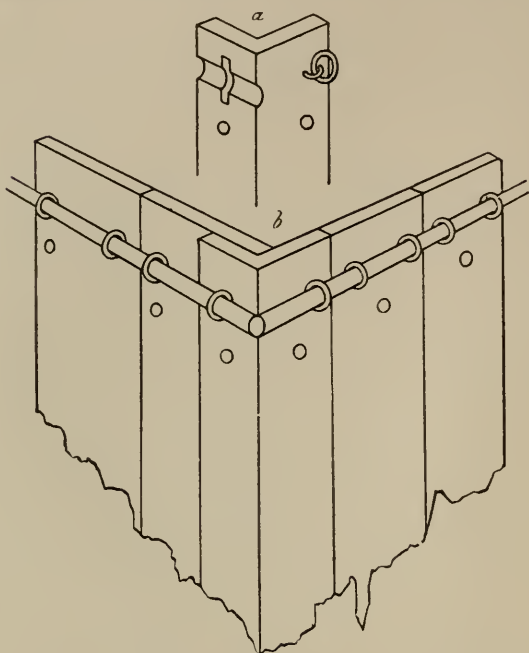


FIG. 6.—Corner-plank of the Tabernacle. (N. W. angle.)  
a. Separate. b. Combined.

at right angles by the edges, so as to form a “corner-board,” externally  $\frac{5}{6}$  of a cubit on each side (one way that width already, the other  $\frac{2}{3}$  plus  $\frac{1}{6}$ , because including the thickness of the associate plank), and internally  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a cubit each way (one side being that width of itself, and the other  $\frac{5}{6}$  minus  $\frac{1}{6}$ , as excluding the thickness of the attached plank).\* These corner-planks, being applied flush to the other rear-planks, but extending around the corner over the rear edge and part of the breadth of the last side-plank, completely fulfill the conditions of the case, and yield a satisfactory solution of several otherwise inexplicable problems. (a.) The thickness of the planks themselves is proved (by the above calculation) to have been  $\frac{1}{6}$  of a cubit, which agrees with the statement (apparently from tradition or conjecture) of Josephus (“four finger-breadths,” *Antiq.* III, vi, 3). (b.) The requisite (interior) dimensions of the two apartments (Holy and Most Holy places) are secured. The proportional decimal character of all the measurements in the Court and its structures, and especially of the Sanctuary itself, and indeed the correspondence with these portions in the subsequent Temple (which were doubles of them, 1 Kings vi, 2), point clearly to the conclusion that the width of the building (inside) was one-third its length; so that the Most Holy place was exactly square, and the Holy place just twice as long as it was broad. The six full planks of the rear of the Holy of Holies ( $6 \times 1\frac{1}{2} = 9$ ), added to that part of the split plank at each corner not taken up in covering the edge of the last side-plank ( $2 \times [\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{2}] = 1$ ), make exactly the 10 cubits called for.†

\* This jointing of the corner-planks is suggested by Keil and adopted by Brown, but is yet of little avail with them, in consequence of the excessive thickness assigned by them to the planks themselves, although the latter writer makes the corner lap over the side. So near have some plans come to the correct solution of this part of the problem, without effectually accomplishing it at last.

† It is noteworthy that the dimensions of the Tab-

ernacle itself are nowhere explicitly given, but are left to be inferred from a combination of the details; because, as we opine, there would be uncertainty as to whether the internal or the external size were meant. Accordingly measurements are definitely given with regard to the Court, the Ark, the Table, and the two Altars because there could be no doubt on this point concerning them. This shows the minute carefulness of the sacred description.

Moreover, in this way the corner-joint is neatly closed, which would otherwise show on the side, instead of the end of the rectangle, as usual with joiners; and the whole angle would also be greatly strengthened as well as ornamented by the overlapping on the longer side. (c.) This clears up the obscure phraseology employed (ver. 24) concerning these corner-planks, "And they shall be coupled together beneath [lit. And they shall become twinned from as to downward], and they shall be coupled together above the head of it unto one ring [lit. and together they shall become whole upon its (the compound plank's) head toward the one (or first) ring];" which plainly means that the two half-planks were to be jointed together from bottom to top, and were likewise fastened by the same endmost ring (namely, that of the rear side-plank). By inspecting the annexed diagram (Fig. 6), it will be seen how exactly true this last peculiarity was; for the first bar-ring of the side-planks at the corner must have passed entirely through the overlap of the rear plank, and the ring (when the bar was passed through it) would hold the corner firmly together. This was a very important fact (especially at the top) in a structure destitute of a frame-work.\*

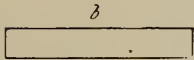
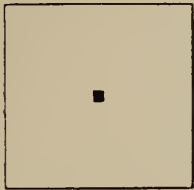


FIG. 7.—Socket of the Tabernacle.  
a. Top. b. Edge.

$\frac{1}{6}$  of a cubit thick.†

(2.) In order to receive the tenons in the ends of the planks, sockets of solid silver were laid upon the ground (corresponding to those of copper for the Court), two for each plank (xxvi, 19). As each socket weighed one talent (xxxviii, 27), Paine has ingeniously calculated their size as being half a cubit square, and Presuming that the mortice-holes (probably  $\frac{1}{16}$  cubit, or about

\* In the adjustment which we have adopted it will be seen that the planks are held together laterally (so as not to be parted by the strain of the end stays) by the roof-canvas, which is buttoned down close on the knobs all around the three sides (and across the front likewise); but at the rear corners (which are held together by this arrangement of the corner-planks) this security is unnecessary, and therefore (on account of the slit or notch in the selvage at that point, as we shall eventually see) it is there dispensed with.

† We arrive at the same result by a different calculation. Each socket, if solid, would contain  $\frac{1}{27}$  of a cubic cubit ( $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ ), or 365.6 cubic inches ( $\frac{1}{27} \times [20.625 = 20\frac{5}{8}]^3$ ). But from this must be deducted the mortice ( $[\frac{1}{16} \times \frac{1}{16} \times \frac{1}{2}] \times [20\frac{5}{8}]^3$ ), or 5.6 cubic inches, leaving exactly 360 cubic inches of silver for the socket. Now, as a cubic inch of silver weighs 2,652.8 grains (at 62° F.), the socket would weigh 955,008 grains. Again, as there are 3,000 shekels in a talent, and a shekel weighed about 280 grains (original standard), the talent or socket would weigh about 840,000 grains; which sufficiently agrees with

the former product, especially as some alloy (0.138 parts of copper) was probably added to harden the metal. We note that the estimate of 280 grains to the shekel is exactly that of the Assyrian standard (Madden, *Jewish Coinage*, p. 264, note). This subject has been greatly confused by writers not observing that the shekel was (eventually) a *coin* as well as a weight, and that its value therefore greatly varied in the different metals (gold, silver, and copper) used for money, as well as in different periods. The ancient specimens that exist have also been worn by circulation. The earliest Jewish shekels extant are of the age of the Maccabees, and were struck on the debased Phœnician standard of 220 grains to the (silver) shekel, equivalent to the Greek *tetradrachm*, which was itself originally much higher, and was lowered in the Ptolemaic period to 260 grains. The ancient native Egyptian metrology was related to the Hebrew in measures but not in weights. The silver shekels of Maccabæan date in the British Museum at London, as we have ascertained by personal inquiry, weigh severally 220, 216.5, 215, 213.2 and 213 grains, according to the degree of wear; there is also a half-shekel

$1\frac{1}{4}$  inch, square) were in the middle of the sockets, and the (centre of the) tenons  $\frac{3}{8}$  of a cubit from the edge of the plank, the sockets would leave a space between them of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cubit, except those of the corner planks, which, if (like all the rest) they were 2 to each (as the total demands, 96 in all, xxvi, 19, 21, 25; besides one under each of the four columns that supported the vail, ver. 32; xxxviii, 27), would nicely fit in between those of the adjoining planks, as in the annexed diagram.\*

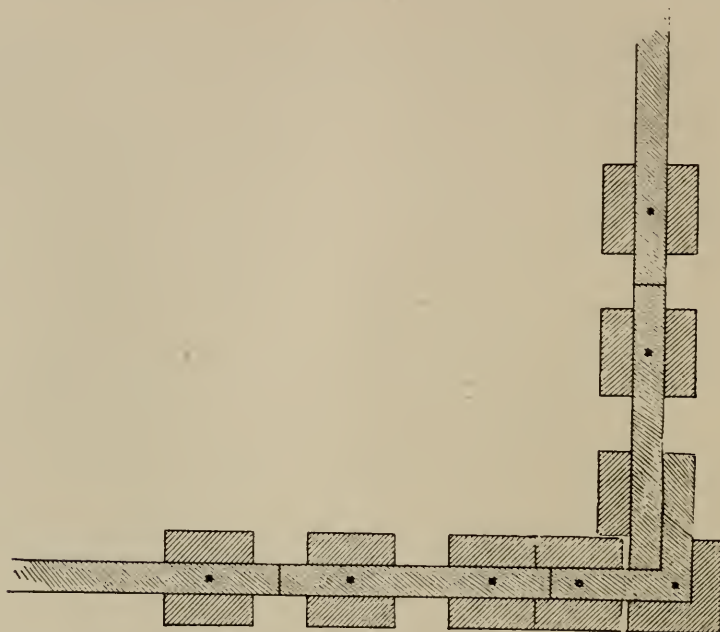


FIG. 8.—Arrangement of the Corner Sockets. (S. W. angle.)

of the same metal and age, which weighs only 99.1 grains, being very much worn. Copper shekels usually exceed these specimens very greatly in weight. Most or all of the silver shekels sold to travellers in Palestine are imitations, and genuine copper shekels are exceedingly rare. A copper (really bronze) double stater (so to call it) or tetradrachm (adopted as an equivalent in weight for a quadruple shekel) of the period of the Ptolemies (the obverse has only the Ptolemaic conventional head of Alexander the Great as Jupiter Ammon, and the reverse the title "of Ptolemy king," with an eagle grasping thunderbolts, and the indeterminate mint-mark *delta* between its legs), obtained by the Author from the natives at Gaza (where it may possibly have been struck, see Head, *Manual of Greek Numismatics*, p. 680), weighs 1051 grains, although considerably worn; which yields about 263 grains to the shekel. The gold and

silver coins of the Ptolemies gradually decline in the successive reigns from 265 to 174 grains to the drachm or shekel (Poole, *Catalogue of Egyptian Coins in the British Museum*, p. 1-120). The Greek coinage of the Selencidæ, during the same period, exhibits a similar deterioration from 265 to 200 grains (Poole, *Cat. of Syrian Coins in the Brit. Mus.*, p. 1-112). The copper currency of course was less subject to the temptation to fall off from the standard, which thus appears to have stood, at the Macedonian conquest, at not less than 265 grains to the shekel. We cannot therefore safely fix it lower than 280 grains to the shekel for the time of Moses.

\* Our arrangement is the only one hitherto proposed that makes all the sockets of the same size and proper form and in their places without interference with one another. Lack of uniformity would have caused great confusion and delay.



(3.) For the purpose of keeping the planks in line, three series of bars were provided, made of acacia-wood overlaid with gold, to pass through rings of gold stapled into the face of the planks outside (xxvi, 26-29). There were five bars (in three rows) for each bent, the middle one continuous for the whole stretch,\* and the upper and lower ones divided into two lengths (of course in the middle, and probably dowelled with a pin in the adjoining ends).† The diameter of the bars and rings not being given, (nor indeed the size of any of the bars and rings of the edifice and furniture), we may suppose these to have been stout sticks (probably  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cubit in diameter), ‡ as two of them were very long, and all were exposed to a severe strain. The upper and lower courses were probably set as near as possible to the extremities of the planks, i. e. (as we shall see) about the middle of the last cubit. From the above noticed mention of a "first ring" in the case of the corner-plank, we infer that each had two of these rings. §

(4.) The whole structure was doubtless stayed with cords and tent-pins, which would be conveniently fastened to the copper knobs || in the planks, set in the outer face one cubit (as we will hereafter see) below the eaves, as a point of attachment likewise for the roof-curtain (ver. 11, 13), to be presently considered. These tent-pins, like those of the court-posts, were no doubt of copper; and we presume shorter

\* Ver. 27. The last clause should be rendered, "Five bars for the planks of the side of the Tabernacle, [namely] for the two flanks [i.e., ends of the rear] westward." These bars, of course, were round, as they were passed through rings (Heb. sing. *tabáath*, something impressed, hence a finger or seal ring; the same word used of all the other circular rings of the Tabernacle furniture). A plausible mode of arranging them is to make them in five rows, the middle or third one passing through the centre of the planks themselves; but there are insuperable objections to this: (a.) It disagrees with the text, for this bar would not then pass through rings at all (ver. 29, "rings [of] gold [for] places [lit., "houses"] for the bars"); and it would no more "reach from end to end" than all the others. (b.) Unless the planks were made inordinately thick, this bar (evidently of the same size and material as the rest) would have to be made so slender that it would break with its own weight; and in any case it would be impossible to push it through so long an aperture.

† So Josephus understands the case (*Antiq.* III, vi, 3), for he occasionally has a good suggestion, although he makes a sad bungle of most of the description.

‡ If the bars are thus made of the same size as the pillars and tent-poles, they will exactly continue the slope of the roof canvas over the eaves at the same angle as the peak. They will be partly buried in the side-wrap of the corner-planks, but enough of the lat-

ter will remain not cut away for the requisite strength, on account of the necessary projection of the staples for the rings.

§ The careful reader will note that the text distinctly constructs the two corner-planks out of two of the rear planks only, not each of them out of a rear plank and a side plank combined. It also speaks of but one set of rings in this connection, namely, those intended for the bars. Again, it will be perceived that the rear has 16 sockets assigned to it, and each side 40; therefore the overlap of the corner plank has no extra socket, and it needs none, for it rests on the last side socket.

|| Heb. sing. *kéres* (erroneously rendered A. V. "tache," i. e. hook), which Paine ingeniously com-

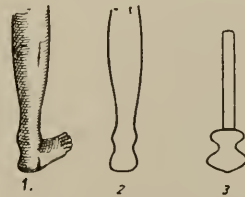


FIG. 9.—Tache and Ankle Compared.

1. Natural Form. 2. Typical Form. 3. Artificial Form.

pares with its kindred *karsól*, the ankle, from the striking resemblance to the latter as viewed from behind. See the remarks on these fixtures farther on.



stays of the same kind were attached to the gold knobs on the inside, as the roof canvas would not be a sufficient support.

(5.) The only other attachment to the planks, here to be noticed, was a double blanket\* of peltry on the outside, doubtless suspended on the curtain-knobs, and evidently intended to cover the joints, and thus keep out the wind and rain, like a shingled weather-boarding, or the tarred-paper sheathing of modern houses (ver. 14 and parallels). It consisted of a sheet of fur from some kind of animal,† doubtless with the hair side inward next to the gold face of the planks, and another of ram-skin, dyed red, over it, with the hair side out, so as to shed the rain from the eaves.‡ Their dimensions are not given because, the skins being of indeterminate size, so many of them as were found necessary were to be stitched together for the purpose. They of course extended to the top of the planks, slits (like button-holes) being made in them (as their toughness would allow) for the reception of the knobs on which they hung.

2. As to the roof, the first question that necessarily arises is, whether the edifice had a peak or was flat-roofed. This is definitely settled by the single word *tent*,§ which is distinctively applied to the upper portion of the structure, erected "upon" the Tabernacle walls (xl, 19), and which by no possibility of usage, in any language, can mean anything but a canvas covering with a peak. The necessity of shedding rain, and the invariable style of Bedawin encampments, moreover fix this as an incontrovertible principle of architecture in such cases. An Oriental house-roof of mortar, clay, etc., is entirely another affair, not to be thought of here. ||

\* Heb., *makséh*, a covering, applied only to this particular thing and to a precisely similar service (as we shall see) in Noah's ark (Gen. viii, 13), although the root from which it is derived frequently occurs of clothing or other envelopes, especially for the sake of concealment. It was a perpendicular sheeting.

† Heb. *táchash*, (A. V. "badger," R. V. "seal"), usually thought to be some marine creature, but possibly the Angora goat, noted for its fine long silky fleece. (See p. 78, note.)

‡ In all the passages where these are mentioned the Heb. term *millemálah* (lit. "from as to upward"), which has unfortunately been rendered simply "above," but means from the top downward (like the water of the Flood, Gen. vii, 20, which was 15 cubits deep from the surface to the summits of the submerged mountains), stands at the end of the clause in the original, and applies to both sheets of skin. The position assigned them by all writers previous to Paine, namely, on the roof, is too absurd to be entertained for a moment.

§ Heb. *óhel*, constantly used of a canvas tent; but unfortunately rendered "covering" in the A. V. in this case (Exod. xxvi, 7, etc). We might securely rest upon this ground of evidence, were it the only

one; but those who have any doubt of its sufficiency will find it impregnably fortified by the subsequent adjustments, especially the breadth and arrangement of the roof-curians. Yet Fergusson and Paine alone, among our predecessors, have had the scientific insight to perceive this obvious implication and necessity. A flat roof would have become mouldy and rotten irretrievably the first month of winter, especially with the fur robes piled on the top. Moreover, how unsightly would have been a mere box, like a coffin with a pall over it! A flat canvas roof, however tightly stretched, must have sagged so as to catch tons of water, if impervious; breaking the canvas, and indeed causing the whole structure to collapse. Or if, as is more probable, the rain would penetrate the canvas bowl (so to speak), it would deluge the apartments, especially the Most Holy place, where no one was allowed to enter, even for the purpose of lifting the roof with a rod, so as to allow the water to run off. In every point of view, the flat-roof scheme is utterly impracticable.

|| Nearly all the proposed plans of the Tabernacle, being on the flat-roof principle, fail to make any adequate provision for securing either set of curtains, or indeed for disposing of them at all. Even Fergusson,

(1.) Accordingly we have an account of the roofing material, which is goat's-hair canvas (i. e. *camelot*), exactly such as is employed for Arab tents to-day, being generally of a foxy-black or brownish hue (Cant. i, 5). It was woven in 11 pieces, each 30 cubits long and 4 wide (ver. 7, 8), and these breadths were joined\* into two large

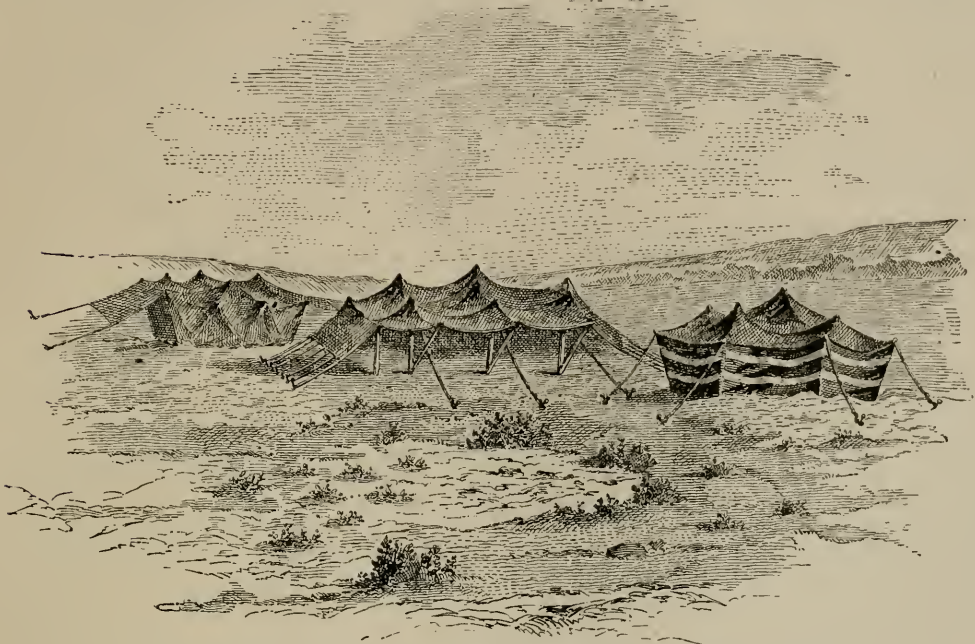


FIG. 10.—Arab Tents in the South of Judah. (From a photograph.)

It will be perceived, from the white stripes on one of these tents, that the cloth runs *horizontally*.

although, as a professional architect, he perceives the necessity of a peak-roof, is obliged to extend the roof-sheets into unwarranted wing-slopes, and to furl the others in rolls at the gables, where they would soon mildew and decay. The misery of all these devices is that they bring the precious Vail in the worst possible place, namely, directly under the gap in the roof occasioned by the union of the curtains by means of loops and S or C hooks. To pile the "tachash" and ram skins on the top, in order to stop the leak, is a pitiful contrivance. The "taches," the true meaning of which Paine was the first to point out, are the key to the whole situation, as they afford a firm support to all the connections. The Revised Version renders them "clasps" at a venture (or from Whiston's *Josephus*); but these would be unsuitable for loops, and do not mend the matter. The rain-fall during the showers in the winter on the Sinaitic peninsula is often prodigious (Palmer, *Desert of the Exodus*, p. 33, 129, 177, Am. ed.), and snow occasionally

falls to the depth of several inches in the valleys about Mt. Sinai (Ridgway, *The Lord's Land*, p. 80.) In March, 1874, the Author, with his party, was overtaken by a snow storm at Mt. Sinai, of such severity as to compel them to take refuge in the convent there for several days. Writers who think only of the dry season have little knowledge in the case.

\* Heb. *chabár*, to associate together as companions, (A. V. "couple,") evidently by sewing into a sheet (ver. 10, where a derivative of the same verb is used); so also of the side curtains (ver. 3). The same verb indeed is used to denote the junction of the two sheets on the knobs (ver. 6, 11), because they are there also united by the edges, although in a different manner. If the intention had been simply to join the two sections of each set of curtains into one immense sheet, they would of course have been sewed together at once, like the individual breadths, instead of resorting to the clumsy and imperfect seam by means of loops and hooks, as interpreters have done.

separate sheets, one containing 5 and the other 6 of the pieces of cloth (ver 9). The extra or sixth "curtain" or breadth of the second sheet was employed for a peculiar purpose, namely, not as a part of the roof-covering, but to be wrapped across the front and rear gables.\* In order to do this it must have been attached to its fellow-breadths not by the selvedge, like the others, but *at the end* of the lowest or (eave) breadth.† We have therefore two goat's-hair sheets, each 30 cubits long by 20 wide, but one of them with extensions (or "L parts" so to speak), one twice as long as the other, in the manner of the diagram on the following page. (See Fig. 11.)

Again, as these elongations of one of the breadths were to be folded across the gables, the other breadths must likewise run horizontally, but along and upon the roof. For this purpose they would be exactly long enough (for the 20 planks, each  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubits wide, make also 30 cubits), and their combined width (20 cubits) would likewise be exactly broad enough to go over the ridge, and buckle down over the knobs in the planks.‡ This last fact is very important, for there was no other provision

\* That this is the true meaning of the expression in Exod. xxvi, 9, "And shalt double [Heb. *kaphál*, to "fold," without regard to the number of thicknesses; for it is used of repetition indefinitely] the sixth curtain in the forefront [lit. "towards the front of the face"] of the Tent [not "Tabernacle," as in the A. V.; for there was no wooden wall, or Tabernacle part, in the front of the building]," is clear from the use of the same phrase to describe the position of the engraved plate on the high-priest's head-dress (Exod. xxviii, 37), "upon the forefront," certainly not across the back of his head. In ver. 12, accordingly, the expression is very different, "[As to] the remnant [lit. "overflow," i. e. extended flap] that remaineth [lit. "the superfluous," i. e. jutting out on this end] of [lit. "in"] the curtains of the Tent [i. e. roof-part], half of the [not "the half," as in the A. V.] curtain that remaineth [lit. as before, "the superfluous," i. e. jutting out portion on the end] shall [or "thou shalt"] hang [lit. cause to "overflow"] over [lit. "upon"] the backside of the Tabernacle [i. e. wall-part]." Nor is either of these two parts of the surplus or sixth roof-curtain the same with that part immediately afterwards described (ver. 13), "And a [rather "the"] cubit on the one side [lit. "from this"], and a [lit. "the"] cubit on that side [lit. "from that"], of that which remaineth [lit. "in the superfluous," i. e. excess] in the length [not parallel with the eaves, but across them] of the curtains of the Tent [i. e. roof-part], it [omit this word as ungrammatical, not found in the text, and misleading] shall hang [lit. "be overflowing"] over [lit. "upon"] the sides of the Tabernacle [i. e. wall-part], on this side [lit. "from this"] and on that side [lit. "from that"], to cover it." Mark that in ver. 9 only so much of the

sixth curtain is to project at that end as is necessary to fold (once) across the *front* (i. e. 10 cubits); while in ver. 12 half (10 cubits) of the residue (20 cubits) of the curtain projecting at the other end is to be folded (twice, but separately reckoned, as we shall see) across the *rear*; and still again, in ver. 13, there is a (different) excess of one cubit to be folded down *each side*. This last "length of the curtains of the tent" is not reckoned horizontally, but vertically, as "breadth" is in xxxviii, 18; in both cases *height* being really meant.

Note that the preposition here employed is 'el (A. V., "in"), which means a flexure in a *horizontal* direction; not 'al, which would have indicated *vertical* motion. With this agrees the other distinctive term here added, namely, *mál*, which is lit. *cut off*, i. e., an abrupt and perpendicular surface. The extra roof-curtain, therefore, was neither spread nor furled overhead, or on either side, but was used to inclose the upright gables in front and rear.

† Paine was the first writer, from Josephus down, to suggest an endwise union of either set of Tabernacle curtains; but he joins this sixth roof-curtain wholly at the end of its fellow, folding all of it across the rear of the building, for which it is more than enough, although he makes the Tabernacle 12 cubits wide by  $29\frac{1}{2}$  long (inside measurement), or  $12\frac{1}{2}$  wide by 30 long (outside)—both disproportionate numbers.

‡ If the peak be an isosceles triangle of  $70^\circ$  (a sacred number) at the apex (giving  $55\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  at each of the other vertices, a very proper slope for a roof), the base being  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cubits (i. e. the width of the room, plus the thickness of the walls), each side of the roof will be exactly 9 cubits wide, and these with the cubit below each eave will make up the required sum.



(unless possibly a pin at each end of the middle bar) to prevent the tops of the planks from parting laterally (as the strain of the transverse stay-cords at the ends of the line would certainly make them do), except the stretching of this roof-canvas across their face. Moreover this roof-canvas stretched tight across the ridge would keep the whole of the building from parting, under the outward strain of the stay-cords directly opposite.

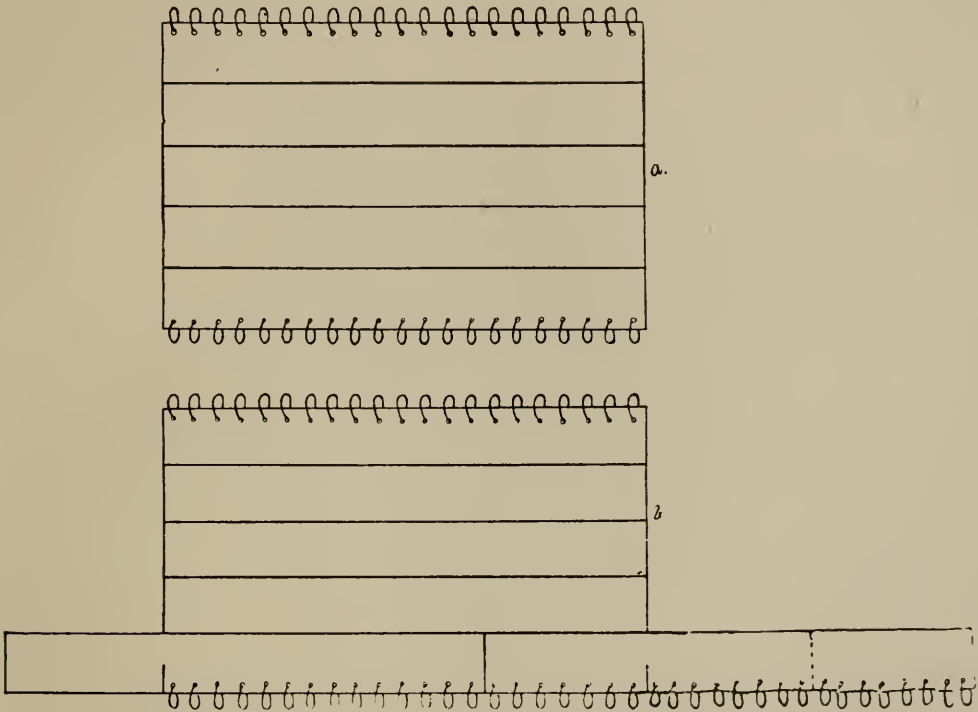


FIG. 11.—Roof-curtains as made up and furnished with Loops.  
 a. Five breadths. b. Six breadths.

The sixth or surplus breadth of the larger roof-curtain, as we have seen, was folded across the bottom part of each gable, partly closing this triangle, and preventing the draught of air through the rooms (which were otherwise entirely open in the front peak).\* As it was 30 cubits long (like all its fellows), one third of it was sufficient to do this, single-fold; † and this gives us a clew to the peculiar significance of

\* The reader should note how important a purpose the extra roof-sheet also served in covering the otherwise exposed top of the rear planks and their attachments. Uniformity in this respect is maintained all around the three sides of the edifice.

† The peak, if an angle of 70°, as we have assumed, would be very nearly  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cubits perpendicular height

above the tops of the planks, and the gable curtain would rise 3 cubits high above them, so as nearly to fill up the rest of the triangle, in the manner shown by the annexed diagram (Fig. 12). The opening at the peak was needed for light and ventilation, serving both as a window and a chimney; but a full current of air would have put out the lights of the candelabrum. The



the word here translated "double."\* It suggests that the curtain in question was actually laid on "double thickness" (as we say); in other words, that the other part of it was employed in repeating the same process, simply by reversing the operation of folding. This additional security against the weather was doubtless extended to the other roof-curtaons, and that will effectually, readily and consistently dispose of the remaining or smaller sheet of 5 breadths. The whole roof, in short, was of double canvas, like the "fly" over the best modern tents.

The lower edge of each sheet was buttoned securely over the curtain-knobs by means of loops † (doubtless likewise of goat's hair, probably twisted into cord) attached to the selvedge (ver 10). ‡ The fact that each sheet had 50 of these, while there-

gores at the top of the folds (occasioned by the slant of the roof) would be tucked in between the two layers of roof-canvas. The small gores at the corners of the eaves (occasioned by the extra width of the planks beyond the peak) may be covered by extending the skin-blankets a little above the tops of the

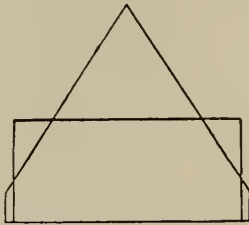


FIG. 12.—Rear Gable nearly closed by the sixth Roof-curtain.

The front gable was partly closed in like manner, but by a single fold.

planks, where they would likewise be held between the layers of the roof-canvas. (See Fig. 13.) In the same manner they probably lapped around the front edges, so as to be buttoned to the hooks in the end-posts of the door-way. If any further support were needed for the front fold of canvas, it might also be buttoned to an extra hook in the central post. It should be observed that these immaterial points are left to the discretion of the builders.

\* Heb. *kaphál* (noted above), which properly means to "wrap around," but is frequently used in the sense of *duplication*, and sometimes in that of continued *reiteration*.

† Heb. only in the plu. *hulaóth* (lit. "windings"), *nooses*, used solely of this particular thing, and a kindred word *lulim*, a spiral staircase (1 Kings vi, 8). These loops were probably rove through eyelets in the edges of the curtains; those of the roof-canvas apparently having the ends merely tied together in a

ring, and those of the side drapery knotted at the back. (Compare Fig. 16.)

‡ The language here used is peculiar, "Thou shalt make fifty loops on the edge [lit. "lip"] of the one [rather "first"] curtain [i. e. breadth], that is outmost [lit. "extreme"] in the coupling [i. e. sheet, as sewed together], and fifty loops in the edge of the curtain that coupleth the second [rather, "(namely,) the second coupling"]." This cannot well mean, merely, as understood by most interpreters, that each sewed sheet had fifty loops on one of its edges; for besides the circumlocution to express so simple an idea, they would then be exactly alike in this respect, whereas the phraseology expresses considerable difference between them. With Paine, we take the statement to signify that each sheet, *as applied to the building*, covered the space occupied by that number of loops, reckoning the whole circuit of the roof, from one front corner round the sides and back, to the opposite front corner; in other words, the 50 loops of each sheet include the rear, as being necessary in order to complete their circuit: and inasmuch as this was double, the inner fold is attributed to the elongated inner sheet, of which it was actually a part, and the outer fold to the outer sheet, of which it was the complement. This mode of estimation is favored by the reference, in the passage itself, to the extremities of the line of measurement. The uniformity of proportion was thus maintained, although the sheets themselves were unequal, and their attachments varied accordingly.

For the sake of convenient comparison we place here, in parallel columns, an exact translation of this, and the remarkably similar, yet characteristically different, account of the other set of hangings for the same structure (ver. 4, 5), which we will presently consider in detail. The words in the parallel account (xxxvi, 8-18) are identical (in the original) except as to tense.

were but 50 of the knobs in all to which they were attached (ver. 11), confirms our position that the curtains were double, one being fastened on directly over the other. If all these 50 loops had been sewed on a single edge of 30 cubits' length, they would not only have been greatly crowded (occurring about half-a-cubit apart), but would also have been out of harmony with all the other associated spaces. The cubit in the span of the canvas across the roof was carried down (as already noticed) over the eaves, and served to close the joint perfectly, shedding the drip to the ram-skins (ver. 12).\*

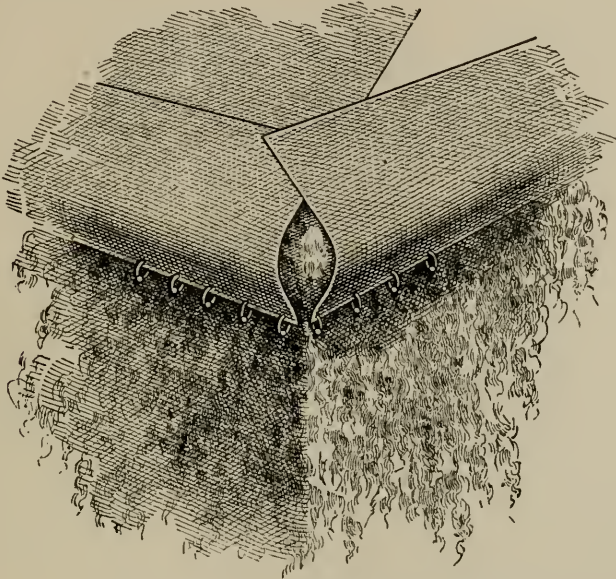


FIG. 13.—Fold in the Roof-curtain at the Corner.

The cut exhibits the outer layer of the canvas at the north-west angle, the little gore at the left-hand top of the rear wrap being brought out of the tuck under the side (or roof) curtain's edge, so as to show it. The inner layer goes under this, coinciding with it, and the double blanket of skins between them.

*Roof curtains* (Exod. xxvi. 10.)

And thou shalt make fifty loops upon the lip (edge) of the first curtain [as] the endmost in the joining, and fifty loops upon the lip (edge) of the curtain [as] the second joining.

*Side curtains* (Exod. xxvi. 4, 5.)

And thou shalt make loops of violet on the lip (edge) of the first curtain from an end in the joining, and so shalt thou make in the lip (edge) of the curtain [as] in the endmost in the second joint. Fifty loops shalt thou make in the first curtain, and fifty loops shalt thou make in the end of the curtain which [is] in the second joint; the loops receptive one toward the other.

or its equivalent *katsáh* (lit. *end*, A. V. "selvedge"), with its derivative *kitsyón* (lit. *endwise*, or *endmost*, A. V. "utmost," "utmost"), which denotes the *raw edge* or terminal (cut) margin. The *lip* is the natural border of the mouth (which is not a *gash* in the face), while the other term (from *katsáh*, to *clip off*) is the abrupt *end*.

It is to be borne in mind that the rear laps of the roof-curtains, although exactly one third the length of those on the side of the building, require each 8 loops, instead of 7, in order to meet the corresponding knobs, which are closer together at the corner than elsewhere. (See Fig. 11.)

\* This "superfluity" or overlap (different from that of ver. 12) is said to be "in the length of the curtains," because it showed vertically when hung.

The two Heb. terms carefully used in the above passages for distinguishing the two kinds of margin which every piece or sheet of cloth necessarily has, must not be confounded, as they seem to be by every interpreter whom we have consulted, namely, *sapháh* (lit. *lip*, A. V. "edge"), which is the *selvedge* or lateral (woven) margin; and *katsáh* (lit. *end*, A. V. "edge"),

(2.) The roof was obviously sustained by an extension upward of the central door-post (soon to be considered) in front of the entire building, and no doubt by a similar one in the rear, with probably a third in the middle of the whole edifice. These served as tent-poles, and their heads were probably bevelled on a curve so as not to perforate the canvas. They were of course stayed by extra ropes near the top, doubtless by means of a noose, kept from slipping down (as in the court-posts) by an additional hook, which last would likewise serve to receive an eyelet in the edge of the roof-canvas at the peak. There is no evidence, as there was no need, of any other posts or cross-ropes (or cross-poles), nor of a ridge-pole (or ridge-rope), which is not customary in Arab tents.\*

Compare the converse expression in xxxviii, 18. The length of the exterior or roof curtains is given according to the *inside* dimensions of the building, as we shall see is done with great exactness also in the case of the interior or wall curtains. But as the outside of the building was of course larger than its inside (by the thickness of the walls), the extra length of roof-canvas falls short considerably (namely,  $\frac{2}{3}$  [at the front] +  $\frac{2}{3}$  [at the rear, where the corner-board is doubled] =  $1\frac{2}{3}$  cubits in all) in wrapping across the gable three times. To meet this deficiency we must suppose that a notch or slit (the raw end of course bound or hemmed to prevent ravelling) was made in the edge of this extension at the corner, running up sufficiently to meet the slope of the roof (i. e. about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubits), and this break in the continuity of the looped edge facilitates the attribution of the loops of the dissevered selvages to the under and the outer layers of the roof canvas, which we have seen to be required in order to maintain uniformity in the number of the loops; especially as the layers were put on separately, with the skin-blankets between them. If it be asked, Why was not this sixth roof-curtain made a little longer at once, so as to cover the corners completely? we reply that this would not only have deranged the uniformity of dimensions (a point which we shall see is important in the symbolism—where no odd fractions are permitted), but would also have caused a larger and thicker gore at the corner than could have been neatly tucked in between the layers of the roof-canvas, especially as the extension must then have been made at least two cubits longer, to wrap (four times) over the bars and rings of the corner, and all this surplus would be accumulated in the gore. The triangular gap at the corner may be covered by carrying up the blanket of skins sufficiently above the tops of the planks; and the fulness thus occasioned in their short gore may be relieved by a slit of their fold likewise at that point (which could not be done in the

longer fold of the roof-canvas without dissevering it entirely). (See Fig. 13.) The ridge remains precisely 30 cubits long, and this regulates the length of the roof-canvas. The ends of the roof-sheets, it will be observed, are maintained square, and the tent-poles perfectly plumb, while the rear gable is a little wider at the bottom, so as to cover the tops of the planks. An extra hook or two may be inserted in the tent-pole to support the upper edge of this front and rear lap, and one also in the edge of each front plank, if necessary; for the number of hooks (and of their corresponding eyelets) is nowhere stated.

Paine, to whom, as above acknowledged, we are indebted for this segregation of the eleventh roof-curtain and its loops, is unable to use it to advantage because he makes the building twelve cubits wide instead of ten. He has therefore not enough material to wrap across the front gable, but too much to wrap twice across the rear gable. The six surplus cubits of curtain must therefore, on his scheme, be folded away between the side layers, and go unfurnished with loops, although they occur in the very middle of the looped portion, without anything to mark the break in the continuity of the loops.

\* A ridge-pole would have been excessively heavy if stout enough to prevent any sag, and a ridge-rope would have been no stronger than the canvas itself. Arab tents have ordinarily nine perpendicular poles, arranged in three rows, of three each, which correspond respectively to the ridge and the two eaves. The roof-canvas is merely thrown over their tops, extending in a long slope on all the four sides to the ground, to which it is stretched tight by cords and pins. The entrance is simply by raising a flap of this canvas, which in the day-time and fine weather is kept open by an extra pole or two standing obliquely outward like an awning. The interior is divided into two apartments (the front usually for the men, and the rear for the women) by a screen stretched along the middle line of poles. All this is exactly



3. The interior hangings of the building were of a far finer texture than the roof-curtains.

(1.) The entrance was closed by a screen precisely like that of the outer Court (xxvi, 36), supported by 5 pillars in exactly the same manner, except that they were overlaid entirely with gold (hence requiring no separate caps), and that the hooks were of gold (ver. 37), the sockets (and of course the tenons) being of copper. We presume that these pillars were of the same form and size also, both with each other and with those of the Court, and we have already supposed the central one to be carried up to the height requisite to support the peak.

Placing the first and the fifth pillar as close to the walls as the side-curtain will

analogous to the arrangement of the Tabernacle, except that the walls supply the place of the side rows of poles, and that the partition is thrown further back.

onal form, with one central post, and the others disposed circularly around it, the outer walls falling perpendicularly from them to the ground, and braced by the usual cords and pins. This strikingly approaches

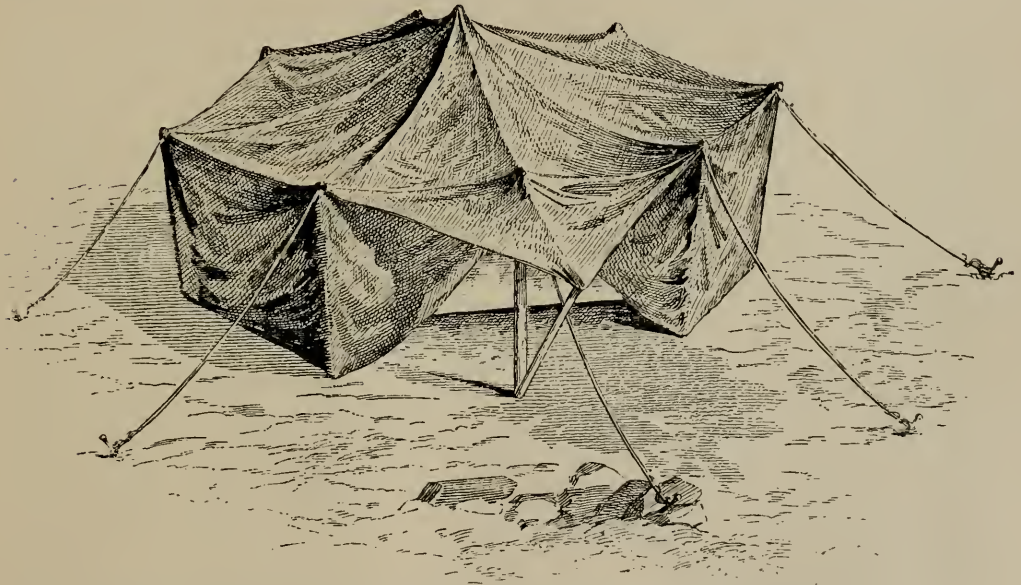


FIG. 14.—Probable Form of the First and Third "Tabernacles." (See pages 9 and 10.)

The Vail is seen across the middle of the tent, corresponding to the partition between the men's and the women's apartments.

The central tent-pole among the Bedawin is the general receptacle of loose utensils, which are hung upon it, as was the practice among the ancient Assyrians (Layard, *Nineveh*, ii, 214, Putnam's ed.). It would be a most convenient place for suspending the sacerdotal wardrobe, when not in use (Lev. xvi, 23).

Occasionally, especially on the outskirts of civilization, we meet with an Oriental tent that has an *octu-*

the plan of the Tabernacle, and we have suggested that the tents temporarily erected for sacred purposes by Moses and David may have been of this description. (See Fig. 14.) One such is exhibited in the photograph from which Fig. 10 is copied, and another with a wing curtain also. This form has the advantage of greater compactness of space for the head-room afforded, and may serve to distinguish the residence of a noted personage.



allow,\* we have four openings left of about of 2 cubits each (or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet) in the clear, which is ample for a person to pass through. The pillars of course were stayed fore and aft by cords and pins, but needed no bracing laterally, as the rods held the tops equidistant, and the side walls kept the whole line from falling either way.

(2.) The wall drapery, already several times referred to, consisted of ten pieces of cloth woven of the same materials as the door-way screens, but in this case only 4 cubits wide, and 28 long; sewed together into two large sheets, and buttoned with loops (of violet [cord]) † to golden knobs in the walls, altogether analogously to the roof-curtains (xxvi, 1-6; xxxvi, 8-13).‡ These two sheets are explicitly said to be exactly alike, and to be similarly furnished with loops; hence, borrowing the hint from the duplication of the roof-canvas, we presume they were intended to be hung *double* along the walls.§ If so, they were sewed together *endwise*, like the fifth and sixth cloths of the larger roof-sheet.¶ This completes the system of double house

\* The two copper sockets for these pillars (or posts) may be set adjoining the silver sockets of the planks, with a small interval between as a mortice to receive the copper tenon. The rear tent-pole will exactly fall between two silver sockets, and its copper socket may be sunk below them out of sight.

† In the case of the roof-curtains, as we saw, the material of the loops was not specified, because it would be taken for granted as being the same with the simple material of the curtains themselves. But in the present case there is need of stating which of the two materials, linen and wool, that composed the side-curtains, was selected, and, again, which of the three colors used in dyeing it was chosen. As they were made of twisted (i. e. two-stranded) cord, and this again of either single or double thread, the three colors could not have been employed in equal proportions in their composition (nor would such a mottled color have been suitable in itself or consonant with the other colored objects), and of the three the cerulean was far the most appropriate on the overlaid background ("blue and gold"). But there was another and more imperative reason for the use of "blue" (violet) as the color of these loops: they were always attached (as we shall eventually see) to (or near) the upper corners of the violet stripe in the cloth, the eyelets, through which they were rove, being set entirely within that color. The only exception to this rule (so obviously proper; for violet loops on a different-colored edge would have been unseemly, when in plain sight) is in the extreme corners, where there is no violet stripe to be shown, and where the union is concealed by the two folds coming together, as do the ends of the loops also. The stripes of different colors, woven, are maintained of uniform width and succession in the same piece of cloth, as must have been done in weaving them. (See Fig. 16.)

‡ See the comparison of the language used respecting these two series of curtains, as given above and below.

§ This suggestion is countenanced by the special Heb. word employed to denote their combination, *mabûl* (xxvi, 5; xxxvi, 12, only; A. V. "held," "take hold"), lit. "causing to receive," being the participle of a causative conjugation of the verb *kabûl*, usually rendered "to receive." The reader should note that the loops "take hold one of another" (as the A. V. in xxvi, 5), not "held one curtain to another" (as the A. V. in xxxvi, 12). They fall directly upon each other, being duplicated like the curtains themselves.

¶ This last named fact is the final justification of the singular phraseology (as previously exhibited), designating the resemblances as well as the differences between the two sets of curtains. They alike had 50 selvedge loops in the entire course of each layer as put on the building; the "coupling" or combination, meant in this connection not being that of sewing together into one sheet (as in xxvi, 3, 9; xxxvi, 10, 18), but that of bringing the corresponding sheets over each other in the erection (as in xxvi, 6; xxxvi, 13). Hence the use of the term "endmost" curtain (i. e. the piece sewed *at the end* of its neighbor, and not at the side or selvedge, like the rest) only in speaking of the *first* sheet of the roof-covering; whereas it (or its equivalent "end") is applied to both side-sheets. The terms "first" and "second" here, as applied to the "curtains" or the "couplings," mean not those previously described as five-breadth or six-breadth sheets (for with regard to the roof-canvas the smaller one is named first, whereas here it is the larger that is thus designated), but those *laid on* first or second, i. e. the under and the outer layer respectively.

coverings for every closed part of the edifice—a twofold blanket of skins on the outside of the walls, like a weather-boarding; a twofold drapery of linen-and-wool\* on their inside, like a wainscoting; and a twofold canvas of camlet on the roof and rear gable, like a shingling. All the front-coverings were single, as here the structure was strictly a tent. We observe incidentally that both sets of “curtains,” although substantially duplicated, as if sufficient for two such structures, are pointedly said (ver. 6, 11) to be so brought together by the knobs as to form “one tent” and one “taber-

We note, in order to exemplify the exactitude characteristic of this whole text (although at first sight almost unintelligible), that the description of the side-curtains is repeated (with some intentional variation) in both accounts, although their arrangement was really very simple; while that of the roof-curtains, which were more complicated, both in themselves, and especially in the numeration of the loops, is but once given in each account. The reason for this lies not merely in the circumstance that the former are mentioned earlier in the sacred narrative, and therefore more fully and explicitly, while the latter, coming in immediately afterwards, are given more briefly and vaguely, as if but a repetition of the other in all subordinate points not clearly specified; but it is also because definiteness of meaning requires it. In the case of the side-curtains, we have at large the color of the loops and their selvedge position—two points, connected by the significant requirement that in both these respects the two sheets be exactly alike; and then follows a more minute specification of two particulars, namely, the number of the loops (the two sheets again corresponding in this, but so obviously that the addition of “likewise” is unnecessary), and their sheet distribution (this latter of course also corresponding with the same item previously stated in another form); but to compensate for omitting “likewise” in this verse, the comprehensive remark is subjoined, that when superimposed on each other the two sets absolutely tally. In the case of the more summary but equally accurate account of the roof-curtains, on the other hand, we have the corresponding elements of these two propositions relative to each sheet blended, so that there are four facts of resemblance brought out, as before, but not eight, for so many do not here exist; and the account, unless prolix in minutiae to a degree and in a manner repugnant to this document, must epitomize the account, leaving the reader to make out the meaning by a careful adjustment of all the details and the whole connection. Accordingly we have a succinct statement of the number and position of the loops on each sheet, as they appear when the sheets are put together; the color and material—the only different elements—being here taken

for granted. Now had the arrangement of the curtains and their loops been so similar as most interpreters make them, the writer would have simply repeated the description of the side-curtains (varying of course only the circumstances of material, size and number), as he does in other instances of correspondence (for example, the two altars); or he would have simply abridged it, as he does in other instances (for example the several door-screens and posts). But he could truthfully do neither, because there were important differences to which he must allude, however briefly; and these are accordingly implied, but not specifically dwelt upon. It is inevitable that these almost occult distinctions should create ambiguity and puzzle the student. For this very reason we have devoted so much space to their elucidation, as they materially affect the reconstruction; and the conventional modes of disposing of these curtains, especially the colored ones, have led only to hopeless conjectures, false exegesis and impracticable restorations. This part of the structure has truly been the *pons asinorum* of interpreters. We have faithfully tried to guide the unprejudiced reader safely over the quagmire, ourselves thankful to have found so stable footing. We are now prepared therefore to present the following as a free version giving the correct meaning of the two passages in parallel columns.

*Side curtains* (Exod. xxvi, 4, 5)      *Roof curtains* (Exod. xxvi, 10).

<p>Thou shalt make loops of violet [cord] on the selvedge of the under curtain [-stuff running along] past [each] end [-seam] in the [combined] sheet; and thou shalt do the same on the selvedge of the curtain [-stuff, that runs similarly] endwise in the upper [combined] sheet; fifty loops in the under curtain [-stuff], and fifty in the end [-wise] curtain [-stuff] which is in the upper [combined] cloth—the loops to coincide with each other.</p>	<p>Thou shalt make fifty loops on the selvedge of the under curtain [-stuff, including the corresponding portion of the piece sewed] endwise in the [combined] sheet; and fifty on the selvedge of the curtain [-stuff, which forms] the upper [combined] sheet [including in like manner the corresponding portion of the endwise piece].</p>
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\* Not *linsey-woolsey* (the *shaatnéz* of Lev. xix, 19; Deut. xxii, 11), in which the thread is composed of these two materials carded and spun together.

nacle," respectively. This would surely have been an inappropriate remark, if both had been stretched single overhead, as has been done by interpreters from Josephus to our own day.\*

A notable dignity, however, is given to these side-curtains, beyond the beauty of the door-way curtains so far mentioned, which they otherwise exactly resembled in fabric, by their embroidery of "cherubim of cunning work" (xxvi, 1; xxxvi, 8), instead of the simple tracery upon the other colored hangings. Leaving the discussion of the form and character of these figures till we meet them as statues over the Ark, we have here to consider how the curtains themselves were adapted to so bold a delineation.† As they were each twice as long as the entire circuit of the three walls, they must in some way have been gathered in (for the straight lines character-

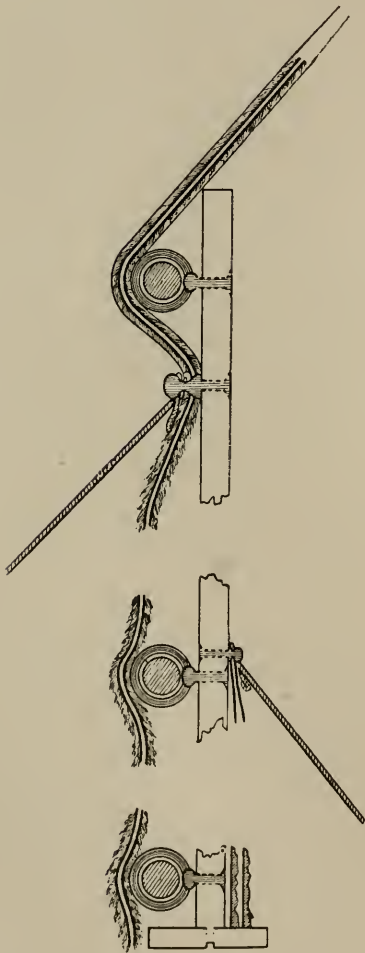


FIG. 15.—Section of Wall-plank with Attachments.

\* That the dark goat's-hair curtains, and the party-colored wool-and-linen ones were not applied to the entire edifice in the same manner is certain from the distinction expressly made everywhere in the sacred text as to their purpose and use. The former constituted the sloping roof and the triangular gables of its "tent" part (*ohel* xxvi, 7, "for a tent [A. V. inexactly "covering"] upon the tabernacle;" 11, "couple the tent together;" 13, "curtains of the tent;" yet carefully, ver. 13, the eave breadth only of one cubit is to "hang over the sides of the tabernacle:" and ver. 12, similarly the rear gable), while the latter adorned the upright walls of the "tabernacle" part (*nishkán*, ver. 1, 6). No portion of either set was spread horizontally; for the building had no floor but the ground, and no ceiling but the roof. Indeed, as even the English reader will see, a cloth stretched so as to form a horizontal surface is never called a "curtain;" nor in any other position than a vertical one (partly so at least) can it appropriately be said to be "hung." Note, however, that each "covering" of skin began at the top, (*millemalah*) on the "tent" part (ver. 14), i. e. between the two layers of the roof curtains, although, as it continued downward, of course it was mainly on the upright walls of the tabernacle. The same distinctions are nicely repeated in the subsequent statements (xxxvi, 8, 13, 14, 18, 19; xl, 19).

† Imagine the depicting of such awfully mysterious objects in all varieties of incongruous and impossible attitudes—some aslant, some horizontal, some actually upside down, all over the ceiling and walls of a sanctum like this! Yet that would certainly result from the position ordinarily assigned these tapestries, unless the figures were embroidered upon them so displayed as to appear upright. If they had been worked upon the festooned part of the curtains they must have looked as if decapitated. This shows the necessity, when reproducing the Tabernacle in a manner that could be operated, of taking into account a multitude of considerations not usually thought of.

The special emphasis laid upon the injunction, "See that thou make all things according to the pattern shown thee in







and distort the figures as little as possible.\* If the loops be made of pieces of cord each  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cubits long (those in the corners proportionately less), with the ends fastened on the selvedge the same distance apart for each cord (so as to open flat with the cloth), and an interval of  $\frac{5}{8}$  of a cubit between the ends of adjoining cords, it will be found † that 50 loops will exactly take up the entire  $140\frac{1}{2}$  cubits of each curtain-



FIG. 17.—Arrangement of Side Curtain.

sheet, including 4 corner-loops each occupying  $\frac{5}{12}$  of a cubit at the ends and middle; while the folds will (except at the corners) each be  $\frac{5}{8}$  of a cubit wide (when hung), with a nearly smooth panel of the same width between them, sufficient for a cherub

Finally the embroidered figures would greatly stiffen the panels. We may add that the droop at the bottom of the filled-in part of the curtains would not be sufficient to account for the difference between their height and that of the Veil, even if the folds included the whole excess of length (i. e. without any flat panels); so that long loops would in any case be necessary.

\* We presume that the cherubim were embroidered only on the outer curtain, as they could not be seen on the inner one. If, however, it be thought necessary

to have the two precisely alike, this may be effected by simply reversing the order for the inner set of curtains; the figures then appearing on the face next to the wall, and beginning at the southern front, where they will fall exactly in due place under those of the outer curtain as above detailed. (See Fig. 16.)

† We have proved this estimate by actual experiment, and we will (below) confirm it in a striking manner.

‡ This number of itself, being exactly twice the circuit of three sides of the interior of the Sanctuary,

with folded arms and wings, or for the body of one with the wings extended.\* (The annexed diagrams will illustrate these measurements, and the method of forming the

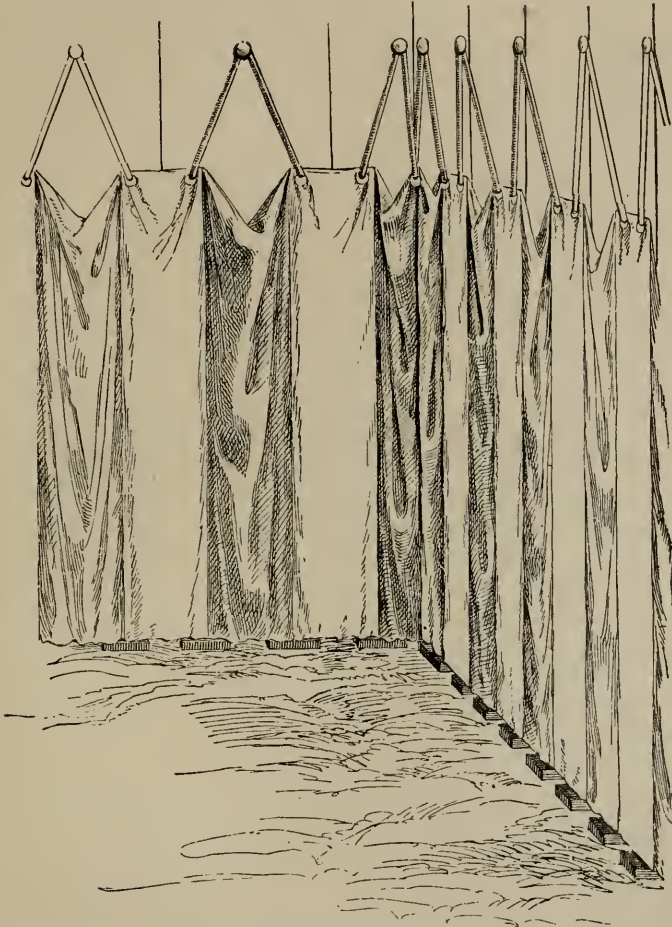


FIG. 13.—Corner-folds in Wall-curtains.

plaits.) Hence the curtains were not so long as those intended for the roof, which, if attached to each other in the same manner, would each yield 10 cubits more than

suggests that the curtains in question were intended to be so applied. The degree of their fulness, however, remains to be accounted for.

\* It will moreover be perceived that the loops, if so adjusted, will of themselves hold the plaits in good shape, when the curtains are hung on the knobs. They will also show much better with their ends parted into a triangle than if hanging straight down

from the knobs. The two folds adjoining each corner will require less cloth for a proportionate degree of fulling, on account of the narrow spaces there afforded, as we shall see presently; but they will project about as much as their neighbors. The careful reader will furthermore discover that the reduction of these shorter plaits near the corners, together with the omission of one entire plait (but not one loop) in the

can be thus disposed of.\* The number of loops was determined by that of the knobs on which they were suspended; namely, 50 of gold (ver. 6), and therefore smaller than those of copper for the outside of the planks, and inserted lower down, but in all other respects exactly corresponding to them. The number of the knobs again was fixed by that of the planks, and is therefore 20 for each side, 6 for the rear, and

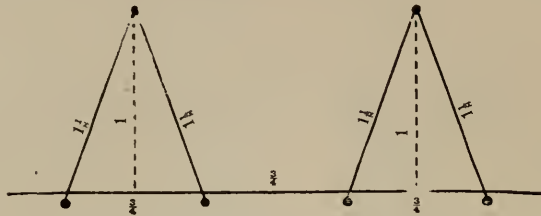


FIG. 19.—Length of Side-loops by Triangulation.  
The numbers indicate the proportion of the parts of the triangles.

2 for each corner, requiring the total of 50, the knobs (except at the corners) being placed as near as convenient to the front edge of each side-plank, and in the middle of each rear-plank.† The height of these knobs from the ground fixes the length of the loops, and will be determined when we come to consider that of the inner Vail.

4. The only other articles mentioned as essential to be placed within the front apartment or Holy Place were three, which we will here consider in detail.

very corner, precisely accounts for the fact that the cubits in the length of the curtains are less than three times the number of loops (140 not 150), although each plait (with the alternate panel) requires three cubits of cloth. This is proved by a short calculation. An irregular knob being set in the rear edges of the last side-plank (in order to prevent the curtain from passing the corner diagonally, without penetrating to the angle itself), instead of the adjoining side-plank (there being none such), there is a loss there (with respect to the space usually covered) of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a cubit (i. e. twice the distance of the knob from the edge, which we put down as  $\frac{1}{12}$  of a cubit). In like manner there is a loss of half a cubit in the rear part of the corner-plank ( $\frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{12}$ ), the last item being the half cubit of the rear plank that shows inside, minus the three spaces usually allowed for the knobs from the edge of these three consecutive planks, which here are not saved. Hence we have the formula:  $3 \times 2 (1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = 1\frac{2}{3}) = 10$ . We are the first to explain fully and satisfactorily the cause of this exact length of these curtains, which is so singular among the other numbers and dimensions of the edifice, and especially different from that of the roof-curtains. In Fig. 19 we submit another mathematical demonstration of its accuracy.

Finally, we may call attention to the fact, under this arrangement, that the edge of the curtains at the entrance will fall back a little farther from the front edge of the first plank than if the loops hung perpendicularly, and this is desirable in order to keep it out of the weather; and this again will allow a closer juxtaposition of the door-post to the side-wall, as is helpful in order to keep the former from swaying, since they are not fastened together by a hook (as in the case of the Vail).

\* The curtains were evidently meant to be "fulled in" to exactly half their entire length. The folds on the inside of the planks thus correspond, by their corrugation, to the fleece on the outside; and in both instances, as already pointed out, they are duplicated.

† This calculation serves likewise for the copper knobs on the outside, except that the loops will there be shorter, and both ends of each fastened together, so as to form simple button-holes (so to speak) closely clasping the knobs, and stretching the curtain perfectly smooth. It must be borne in mind that in both sets of knobs, two will be needed in each corner-plank, one at the front edge, and another at the angle, in order to keep the curtain uniform. This brings the inside corner knobs nearer their neighbors, as already taken into account. (See Figs. 11, 16.)



(1.) The first of these on the right or north side (probably about midway) was the Table of Show-bread\* (Exod. xl, 22). It was made of acacia-wood, 2 cubits long, 1 broad, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  high,† overlaid (doubtless the entire surface when put together) with gold (xxv, 23, 24; xxxvii, 10, 11). As a table it consisted, of course, of a top, sides, and four legs; the first of the given length and breadth, exclusive of an ornament to be considered immediately; and the last of the given dimensions, less the thickness of the top. This last we may estimate at somewhat less than what we have assumed for the boards of the Large Altar, let us say  $\frac{1}{12}$  of a cubit (about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch stuff). The top had a "crown"‡ or moulding of gold (apparently wood, plated with gold), evidently running all around the edge (but outside of the latter), and projecting above the top, to keep articles placed upon the table from slipping off: we may estimate this piece as the same thickness (at the base, narrowing to one half at the top), and  $\frac{1}{6}$  of a cubit (or about three inches) broad (i. e. projecting one half its width above the table-top). The sides are called "a border"§ or plain panel, being a hand-breadth ( $\frac{1}{6}$  of a cubit) wide, and ornamented by another "crown" or moulding (this time likewise projecting out like the other, and similarly placed, but narrower, so as to be flush with the bottom of the side, and therefore included in its breadth), both plated with gold (ver. 25). The legs or "feet" (which we would make  $\frac{1}{6}$  of a cubit square, their whole length), were apparently morticed into the sides (as usual now-a-days); for in the remaining directions concerning a carrying apparatus (precisely like that of the Large Altar, except that gold was to be used instead of copper), the rings, evidently stapled like those of the Tabernacle planks, are spoken of as being fastened into the tops belonging to (A. V. incorrectly "on") the legs, and simply parallel with ("over against," i. e. longitudinally in a line with) the sides (ver.

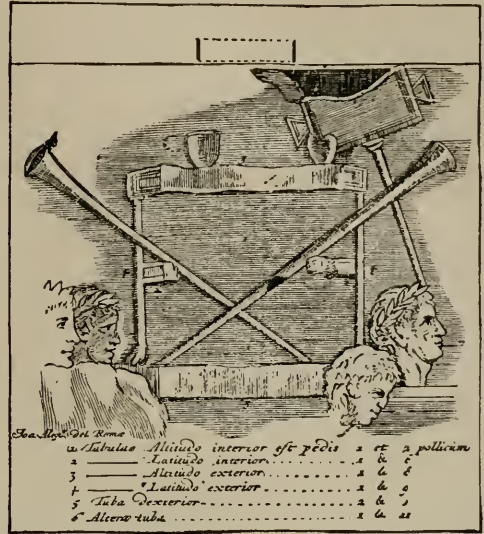


FIG. 20.—Table of Show-bread on the Arch of Titus. (From Reland.)

\* Lit. *table of the Face* (i. e. Jehovah's presence), or *table of the arrangement* (of loaves); or *the pure table* (in distinction from a domestic or common one).

† This proportion between the length and the height is accurately maintained in the sculptured form on the Arch of Titus. Oriental tables, it should be remembered, are usually quite low, being adapted to persons sitting on the floor, and not upon chairs.

‡ Heb. *zer*, lit. *cinchure*, i. e. cornice; used only of

this ornament on the Table and the Ark, and the Incense-altar. The Great Altar had no occasion for this additional rim, as it had no top or cover. The "cove" (or hollowed bevel) of the moulding of course was on the upper and outer side, making a neat finish all around the edge.

§ Heb. *misgêreth*, lit. *inclosure*; used only (as an architectural term) of this thing, and of a similar panel on the pedestals of the Temple lavers (1 Kings vii, 28-36; 2 Kings xvi. 17).



26, 27). The whole table, like all the other pieces of furniture, was simple and plain as possible, and strong for service.

The bread placed upon the table is called in the Heb. *face bread* (show-bread), because set as before Jehovah's presence (ver. 30). Particulars concerning this are

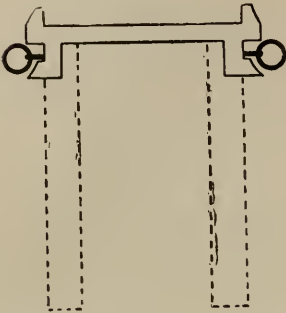


FIG. 21.—Transverse Section of the Table of Show-bread.

given in Lev. xxiv, 5–9. It was made of fine (wheat) flour,\* baked in twelve loaves,† containing each one fifth of an *ephah* of flour (or about four quarts), which, if as spongy as good raised bread, would yield an enormous bulk, but probably, being more compact, was much less in size, say 12 inches in diameter and 4 inches thick—still a large family loaf.‡ They were arranged “(in) two rows, six (to) the row,”§ which Jewish tradition, as well as the dimensions of the table, indicates to mean in two piles of six each, set of course lengthwise of the table; and thus if the piles were in immediate contact with one another (as the necessity of mutual support in

so tall a column, and the close association of the 12 tribes thereby symbolized, would indicate), they would leave a free margin of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches at each side, and 9 inches at each end (exactly proportional to the respective dimensions of the table-surface, and the whole a shapely mass 2 feet long, 2 high, and 1 foot broad). It is generally conceded that the loaves were placed upon the bare|| table, without any plate or cloth. They were removed every Sabbath to be eaten by the priests exclusively (and that in the Sanctuary only); and were then replaced by fresh loaves (1 Sam. xxi, 6), which had been prepared over night by the Levites (1 Chron. ix, 32). (See Plate V, *F*.)

No other substance ¶ is mentioned as being set upon the table, except “pure” \*\* frankincense, which, as it is said to be placed “upon each [lit. “the”] row,” †† but only “to [or “for”] the bread” (ver. 7, where the A. V. incorrectly renders the

\* Doubtless unleavened, but beaten up light, like “Maryland biscuit.”

† A. V. “cakes,” Heb. sing. *challáh*, lit. *perforated* (affording color to the idea that it was punctured, as sacrificial cakes were among some ancient nations; or more likely, as is often done by modern bakers, who prick biscuits, partly for ornament, and partly because the steam is supposed to escape the more easily in baking), used only of sacrificial cakes (or as in 2 Sam. vi, 19, of something resembling them); therefore not the ordinary thin wafer-like loaf of Oriental bread, yet doubtless round and flat, but much thicker and more daintily put up. The best idea of these cakes is perhaps afforded by similar sacred loaves represented on the Egyptian monuments (see Wilkinson, *Anc. Egyptians*, i, 266, where nearly all the articles and utensils enumerated in the Scripture list as belonging to the Table of show-bread are depicted); we

must be on our guard, however, against supposing that these are the models of those in the Tabernacle.

‡ Five of them were sufficient for hungry David and his companions, perhaps for several meals (1 Sam. xxi, 1–6).

§ Heb. *maaréket*, lit. *arrangement*, used only of this particular thing, and hence (as seen above) taken at last to denote it technically.

|| Heb. *tahór*, “pure,” i. e. in this case *naked*.

¶ A dish of *salt* appears to have been added in later times, according to the Septuagint and Philo (comp. Lev. ii, 13, which, however, refers to sacrifices on the Altar of Burnt-offering).

\*\* Heb. *zak*, unadulterated, like the transparent oil used for the candelabrum (Lev. xxiv, 2).

†† We observe incidentally that this confirms the above arrangement of the loaves in piles.

latter preposition "on"), appears to have been (as was most appropriate) deposited not directly upon the loaves themselves, but in vessels for that purpose, where it could be conveniently renewed as fast as it should be consumed by the daily ministrations at the Altar of Incense (ver. 7). These vessels are doubtless the same as the censers\* (mentioned in the same connection, A. V. "spoons"), i. e. incense-cups, not employed for burning the incense in (which was done in fire-pans, and moreover this was merely frankincense), but smaller than the receptacles of the same name presented by the phylarchs at the dedication (Num. vii, 14 and following) for keeping the incense in bulk. A different set of utensils connected with the Table were jars† (A. V. "dishes"), evidently for the oil used to replenish the candelabrum adjacent, similar to the larger silver vessels of the same name (A. V. "chargers") presented by the phylarchs on the above occasion, which also contained oil (Num. vii, 13, etc.). They probably were tall vessels with a narrow mouth for emptying. Another kind of utensil were jugs‡ (A. V. "covers"), which, as they were used to make libations with (A. V. "to cover withal"), were doubtless for wine, § with a spout for pouring; and closely connected with them were still a different class of vessels, perhaps smaller pitchers|| (A. V. "bowls"), for the immediate sacrificial act. None of these vessels seem to have had either handle or cover, although most of them might be thought to require closing in order to keep out flies, dust and other impurities; and especially the incense-cups, to prevent evaporation of the aromatic powder. It must be borne in mind, however, that a cover would be inconvenient for the priest to remove, and the vessels appear to have been intended to hold only a comparatively small quantity at a time. The saucers for the frankincense would diffuse a pleasant odor during the week, and what was left in them was burned (on the Great Altar) every Sabbath (ver. 7-9), together with what was not eaten of the stale loaves. Indeed there was not room for large utensils on the Table, but as there would appear to have been but two (the plural is used of them all) of each kind (that number being stated with regard to the incense cups, which, however, were set on the top of the piles of bread), we may readily accommodate one of each of the three other kinds on either end of the Table.¶ All these vessels were of gold entirely pure, as was the overlaying of the Table itself, and indeed all the gold employed in the Sanctuary and its apparatus.\*\*

\* Heb. sing. *kaph*, lit. the *palm* of the hand, a saucer.

† Heb. sing. *ke'aráh*, lit. *deep* vessels, spoken only of this article, mentioned above and in the parallel list, Num. iv, 7.

‡ Heb. sing. *kasáh*, lit. a *round* vessel, spoken only of this article as mentioned in these passages and in 1 Chron. xxviii, 17 (A. V. "cups").

§ Wine was poured out as a libation (Heb. *nések*, a *pouring*, A. V. "drink-offering," as unfortunate a rendering as "meat-offering" for an oblation of flour) in connection with many sacrifices on the Great Altar. To drink wine within the sacred precincts was a capital crime (Lev. x, 9).

|| Heb. sing. *menakkith*, lit. *libation* cups, occurring only of this article in this passage and in Jer. lii, 19.

¶ The two bowl-shaped utensils depicted as standing upon the table of show-bread on the Arch of Titus at Rome are regarded by Edersheim (*The Temple*, etc., p. 134) as the mortars used for compounding the sacred incense. If intended to represent the vessels for oil and wine regularly set on the table, they are of a much later pattern than those of the Tabernacle.

\*\* Some alloy (to harden the metal) might be necessary in the plates of the Tabernacle walls, which were subject to great wear.

(2) The next piece of furniture that we meet in glancing around the Holy Place is the Altar of Incense, which stood in the middle line, immediately in front of the Vail that separated the room from the Most Holy (Exod. xxx, 6; xl, 5; Lev. xvi, 18), a position which is further proved by the fact that incense was daily offered upon it by an ordinary priest (Exod. xxx, 7-10), whereas the Holy of Holies was entered but once a year by the high-priest alone. Yet it was popularly reckoned as belonging to the Most Holy Place (1 Kings vi, 22; Heb. ix. 4), apparently on account of its great sanctity. (See Plate V. B.)

In construction (Exod. xxx, 1-5; xxxvii, 25-28) it was very similar to the Table of Show-bread, being a simple box (probably of boards of the same thickness), two cubits high, with a top (destitute of a grate, because no fire came directly in contact with it), one cubit square, and horns (precisely like the Large Altar); and was entirely overlaid with gold (doubtless inside and out). It had a moulding around the edge (but none below this), and rings with staves to carry it, exactly like the Table of Show-bread.\* There were no utensils specially belonging to it. The only use made of it was to burn incense upon it every morning and evening (as above).

(3.) On the left or south side of the Holy Place, directly opposite the Table of Show-bread (Exod. xl, 24),† stood the third piece of furniture; namely, the Candela-brum (A. V. "candlestick"), the construction of which is minutely described (xxv, 31-40; xxxvii, 17-24). It was hammered round,‡ out of sheets§ of pure gold, and weighed (inclusive of its utensils) one talent (i. e. 136.4 pounds avoirdupois). The mode of its manufacture indicates that it was hollow, and Josephus affirms that this was the case (*Antiq.* III, vi, 7). || Its size is not given, but Jewish tradition assigns it a height of about 5 feet, and a breadth of about 3½. On the Arch of Titus it measures 2 feet and 9 inches high by 2 feet broad; but the figures there delineated are not life size, and the proportion with the Table of Show-bread on the same sculpture, as well as with the men there exhibited, yields a size about the same as the above tradition. We may therefore fix the entire height (including the base) at about three cubits, and the entire breadth (spread of arms) at about two cubits. This would be

\* From the fact that the rings in this case are stated to have been set "beneath the moulding-corners," which is not said of the other pieces of furniture so equipped, we conclude that there was a slight space between them in those cases, but none in this. The reason for this difference was not simply because the Altar of Incense was the smallest, but because the Table of Show-bread had *two* such mouldings, and the bar would be symmetrically placed half-way between them; while the Great Altar had no moulding at all; and in the case of the Ark, although it had but one moulding, and that in the same place as the others, yet the staples for the rings would have come so near the upper edge of the side (not there strengthened by a top fastened to them), as to be in danger of tearing away the wood, especially since the heavy stone tables of the Law were to be carried inside.

† From this language, in the absence of any explicit statement, as well as from the congruity with the dimensions of the room, and with convenience in serving, we conclude that the position of both these pieces of furniture was with their length running east and west.

‡ Heb. *miksháh* (A. V. "beaten work"), which seems lit. to mean *rounded*, like a pillar (Jer. x, 5, A. V. "upright"); applied also to the silver trumpets (A. V. "of one" or a "whole piece") and to the cherubim on the Mercy-seat.

§ The parts might perhaps have been cast as plain tubes, but they could then not have been wrought into shape, for no anvil could have been introduced into their sinuosities.

|| This view is corroborated by the term (Heb. *kanéh*, lit. a *reed*) used for the "branches."



suitable to its location and use. As to its general form, the principal question is, whether the arms were in the same plane and of equal height; and this may be regarded as settled in the affirmative by the representation on the Arch of Titus, which, although copied from that of the Herodian Temple,\* is doubtless a correct transcript

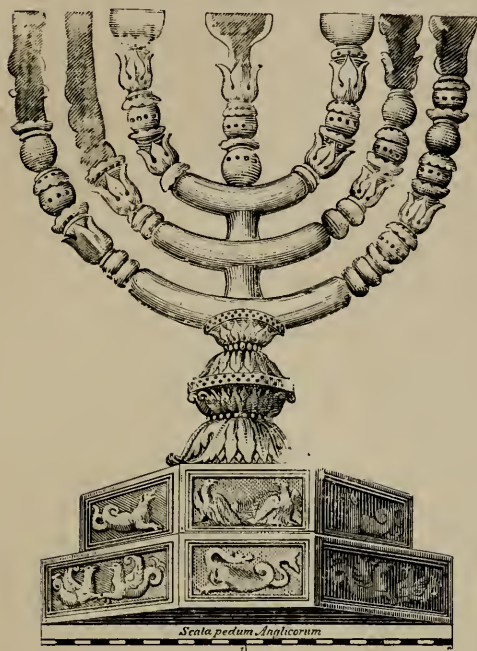


FIG. 22.—Candelabrum on the Arch of Titus. (From Reland.) †

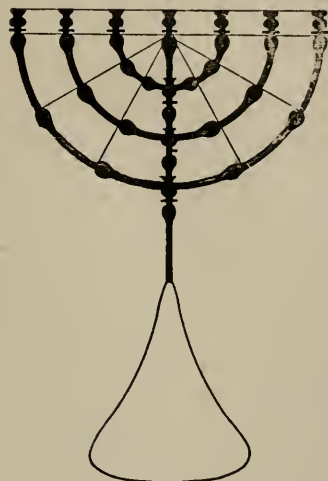


FIG. 23.—Concentric Arrangement of the Enlargements of the Candelabrum. †

\* Tradition asserts that this candelabrum, after undergoing various migrations from Rome to foreign lands and back again, was finally lost in the Tiber during an invasion of the Gauls. (See the original authorities and their language in full, as cited by Reland, *De Spoliis Templi*, chap. 13.) At all events it is certain that the sculptor must have had the original or a careful drawing of it before him. If it be thought that Titus would scarcely have had time to remove the candelabrum from the Holy Place (although he seems to have done so with the Table of Show-bread) during his hasty survey of the sacred apartments while the rapid conflagration was in progress (Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, VI, iv, 7), the one actually rescued and represented on his arch may possibly be one of those which tradition reports as the present of the convert to Judaism, Helena, queen of Adiabene, which were kept in an ante-room of the Temple

porch. This may perhaps account for its difference from the Mosaic type. But in any case it must be borne in mind that the postexilian candelabrum was but a reproduction from memory of that in the Tabernacle.

† It will be perceived that each section of the semicircles of which these lines are the radii (like a felloe in a half-wheel of which the lines are the spokes) is composed of two members: the shank (a plain tube) and the bulb (or swell), and that each has a third part or base (a circular double flange, as a means of connection, hence an actual joint) only where it is united to a different kind of piece; namely, at the bottom and top of the central shaft and of the six arms, including the intersections of the shaft with the arms. There were therefore exactly 10 (screwed) joints (covered by as many caps) in the entire piece (exclusive of the seven movable insertions of the



of the Sinaitic one, except in its ornamental features (especially the octagonal base, with figured panels). (See Plate V, *E*.)

In detail the candelabrum consisted of three parts, each of which was made of a single piece of metal; namely, a straight central stem, three pairs of semicircular branches on either side, and seven burners; each of the first seven components being a round pipe with three kinds of ornamental enlargements at certain points, corresponding to each other in a radiate manner; all these elements being substantially represented, in a more ornate style, on the Arch of Titus.\* The main axis (Heb. *yarék*, lit. *thigh*, A. V. "shaft") was no doubt spread out (like a trumpet) at the base, in order to give a firm support. It had four swellings (Heb. sing. *gebía*, lit. *curvature*, A. V. "bowl"), which were almond-shaped (i. e. the nut [not the blossom, for which this term is never used], or *ovate*, or tapering from a head, like a goblet or wine-cup, for which the former word is elsewhere used, Gen. xlv, 2-17; Jer. xxxv, 5), and are named first as rising immediately from the base and from the three intersections of the branches, and therefore are found (but only three of them) on each branch also as springing from the intersection like a new base.† (See Fig. 24.) Next in order on the main shaft at these intersections respectively are the same number of coronets (Heb. sing. *kaphótór*, lit. *chaplet*, A. V. "knop"), i. e. doubly-flaring circlets, like the capital of a column (Amos ix, 1; Zeph. ii, 14), evidently below the intersection of the branches, as they do not appear on the branches themselves (except one at the summit, as a fresh departure), but corresponding to the expanded base (a single flange as terminal in this direction).‡ Once more there was a like number of finials (Heb. sing. *péarach*, lit. *blossom*, A. V. "flower"), like a bud just ready to burst into bloom (Isa. v, 24; xviii, 5; Nah. i, 4; besides an architectural ornament of a like form in the Temple, 1 Kings vii, 20; 2 Chron. iv, 5), i. e. globes or receptacles for the arms and burners; and these (which of course belong to the branches likewise) we have drawn in a bulb-like form with a corolla, aided by the

lamps in their sockets), namely, the triple one at each of the three intersections (where the ends of the arms passed through the shaft on either side [as the flange or "knop" permitted by widening the neck of the shaft just at that point; at the same time bracing the end of the arm], and were screwed into each other), and the four junctions of the almond-shaped "bowls" with the terminal "flowers." The "knops" or joint-covers are accordingly an integral part of the compound "bowls" or whole pieces, that support the entire segment. If (as we have supposed) the pieces were made of sheets, there would be a seam the whole length of each, which would of course be on the back-side of the shaft, and on the inner curve of the arms. These might be soldered together (and the screws at the joints likewise be thus dispensed with), if the art of soldering gold were then known.

\* Josephus explicitly states (*Wars*, VII, v, 5) that

the candelabrum displayed by Titus at his triumph differed considerably in some particulars, but nevertheless it must have been substantially of the normal type.

† This appears to be the meaning in xxv, 35; xxxvii, 21; for if the end of the branch were inserted simply into the stem, it would have cut it entirely in two, both being doubtless of the same diameter. We have therefore inserted the arms into the "flower" (of which, as well as the "knop," there are said to be four [i. e. one at each intersection, and one at the top] in the shaft, but only one in each arm [i. e. at the top]), which affords a sufficient enlargement at the intersection (i. e. not above it [for then there would have been at least two on each arm], nor yet [like the "knops"] below it).

‡ The same meaning attaches to the proper name *Caphótór*, from the chaplet-like form of the island Crete or (still better) Cyprus.

spherical remains on the Arch of Titus. Finally come the lamps themselves (Heb. sing. *ner*, lit. a *light*, often used of a "lamp"), which of course were of the type universally prevalent in the East; a flat, round or oval dish (usually of terra-cotta, but here of gold), with a handle (like that of a cup) at the blunt end, and a hole for the wick at the pointed end, while in a depression between is a larger central hole for pouring in the oil. In the present case we presume they were deepened into a cylindrical form

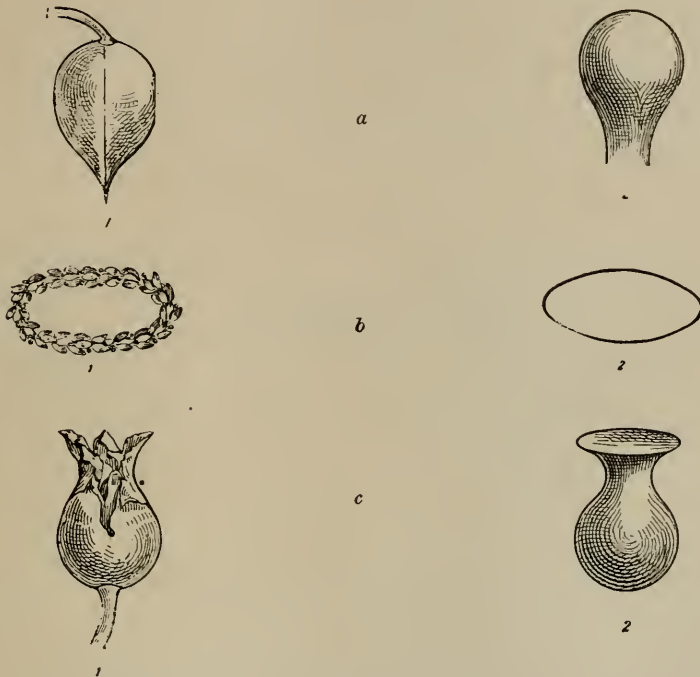


FIG. 24.—Comparison of each of the Enlargements on the Candelabrum with its natural Type.

a. Almond (1) and "bowl" (2);    b. Chaplet (1) and "knop" (2);    c. Bud (1) and "flower" (2).

at the base, so as to fit in the lamp-holders at the tops of the Candelabrum, and not easily fall off.\* The wick was made of threads of linen (from the cast-off pontifical garments, it is traditionally said), and the oil was from hand-crushed and cold-strained olives (Exod. xxvii, 20). The lamps were lighted at the time of the evening sacrifice (Exod. xxx, 8), and extinguished, filled and trimmed at the time of the morning sacrifice (Exod. xxx, 7; 1 Sam. iii, 3). They are traditionally believed to have held each half a "log," i. e. a little more than half a pint. (See Fig. 25.)

The utensils mentioned for this last-named service, being those already referred to as made out of the same gold as the candlestick itself, were shovels (Heb. sing. *machtih*, lit. *coal-pan*, A. V. "snuff-dish," being the same word used for the [copper] fire-pans of the Great Altar, Exod. xxvii, 3, etc.; the [gold] one of the yearly atone-

\* Such seem to be represented on the monuments of Egypt (Wilkinson, *Anc. Egyptians*, 2nd ser., ii, 376).

ment, Lev. xvi, 12; and "censers" generally), i. e. vessels for bringing live coals from the Great Altar with; and tongs (Heb. always dual, *malkucháyim*, lit. *double takers*), i. e. tweezers for pulling up the wick, and holding the coal while blowing it to light the lamp. These utensils were carried by the officiating priest to the Court, where the tongs would be cleansed, and the coal-pan refilled for further use.

(4.) The only remaining articles belonging to the Holy Place are the two Silver Trumpets\* used to announce a removal of the camp, special festivals, the Year of Jubilee, war, or any other other notable event (Num. x, 2-10, etc.), which were to be of a single piece (probably manufactured like the pipes of the Candelabrum). They were straight (Josephus, *Ant.* III, xi, 6), as represented on the Arch of Titus, where they are exhibited as about equal to each other in average diameter, but unequal in length, one being (as compared with the dimensions of the Table of Show-bread, on

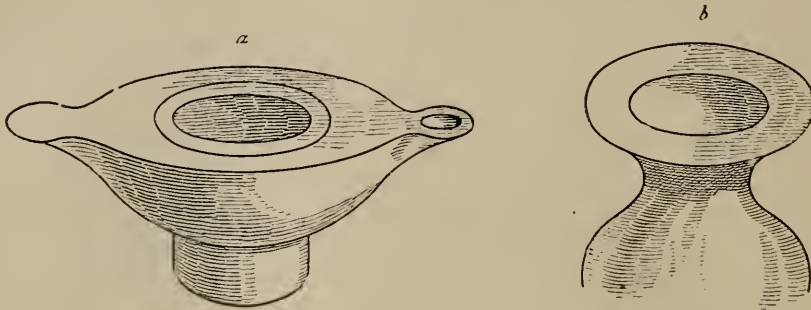


FIG. 25.--Lamp (a) and its Socket (b).

which they are represented as leaning diagonally, supported by a sort of bracket attached for that purpose to the middle of the opposite legs on one side)† about 3 cubits long, and the other only  $\frac{3}{4}$  as long or about 2 cubits (Reland's measurements and view do not precisely agree with the photograph); while the minimum diameter of both is about  $\frac{1}{12}$  of a cubit (or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches), and the maximum  $\frac{5}{16}$  of a cubit (or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches); the longer one tapering almost gradually to about the middle and then slightly enlarging towards the mouth-end, while the shorter one contracts at first rapidly, and after the middle enlarges considerably. This difference in the size of the trumpets is so unexpected (as there is no allusion to it in any record, and it would have occasioned a difference in sound), that we must attribute it to foreshortening in the perspective, which the sculptor introduced, and the camera has enhanced; and we therefore strike an average of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubits (about four feet) for the length of each. They would give a clear shrill note loud enough to be heard throughout the camp.

5. We have reserved for convenient consideration here together some additional matters connected with all this sacred apparatus.

\*Heb. sing. *chatsotseráh*, lit. a quivering reverberation, used only for an alarm, or public signal, sometimes of joy. (See Plate V, C.)

† Evidently meant for the front; an additional confirmation of the position of the Table longitudinally in the Sanctuary.



(1.) The metallic sheets, whether of copper or gold, could most conveniently be laid on after the wooden work was put together, and would serve to hold the angles firm. These laminae must have been beaten out with a hammer (in the absence of rolling-mills), and therefore have been comparatively small, as well as somewhat uneven in surface. Hence they were probably fastened on with nails of the same material (as soldering would have been inconvenient, and was perhaps unknown with such metals); and if these were made with counter-sunk heads, like modern screws, they might be driven home flush with the surface. The numerous joints or seams thus formed would greatly strengthen the fabric, and as the boards themselves (especially the planks of the Tabernacle walls, which were similarly "overlaid") were so wide as to require to be made of several pieces of wood (no doubt dowelled together), their joints would thus be effectively covered and held together. The thickness of these metallic plates is likewise left to the feasibility of the case; fortunately both copper and gold are the most malleable of the metals then known.

Another inference from the foregoing premises is that the staples for the rings (to receive the cross-bars of the Tabernacle walls, and the bearing-poles of three of the pieces of furniture), as well as the "taches" or knobs (in the former), were bolted in and riveted before the "overlaying" sheets were applied, as they would otherwise be likely to come in the way of nails, and moreover would be unsightly protuberances on the surface, especially the copper ends of the "taches," showing inside the Sanctuary on the face of the gold.\*

(2.) As to convenience in packing for transportation, these rings and knobs would not need to be removed, as the Tabernacle planks would be smooth on the inner side, and thus could lie flat on the bottom of the vehicle; or still better, if the wagon were without a bottom, the planks might be laid, face downward, on the axle or bolster; and a second tier, face upward, over these.† The vehicles of the ancients, and especially those of the Egyptians, were properly *carts* with two wheels only, and even these must have had rough travelling in the trackless and often steep as well as tortuous defiles of the Desert. A *wagon*,‡ however, with four wheels and two axles,

\* Paine infers (new ed., p. 92), from the special mention of these knobs among the various articles *as completed* (Exod. xxxix, 33), that they were separable, i. e. keyed on the back-side, and not riveted fast. This, however, would be an inconvenient circumstance, exposing them to be lost in transportation, and requiring unnecessary waste of time in taking them out and replacing them at each journey. His conclusion that they permanently belonged to the planks, from their constant and close mention together, is forcible. In the personal inventory ("by name," Num. iv, 32) of the articles packed and consigned for transportation (iii, 36), they are not separately enumerated, as are the sockets, the bars, the tent-pins and the cords.

† Strips of wood, perhaps covered with cloths or skins, were probably placed between the planks so

as to prevent chafing. The tablets and other articles within the Ark were no doubt kept wrapped in linen cloths, which would ease the jolt in moving.

‡ Heb. *agaláh*, lit. "a rolling thing" (Num. vii. 3-8), an Egyptian curricule (Gen. xlv, 19-27), elsewhere rendered "cart," as in fact it generally was. Since the silver sockets alone (to say nothing of the copper ones) weighed 6 gross tons (100 × 136.4 pounds), some special mode of conveyance must have been provided for them, beyond the six vehicles appropriated to the wooden and the fibrous parts of the edifice and its court. Perhaps the Kohathites (who were the most numerous of the Levites, and had only the light burden of the sacred vessels) aided their brethren the Merarites (who were the smallest branch of the Levitical tribe, and yet had the heaviest charge) in transporting these weighty (but not bulky) articles,



would have been much more suitable for the present purpose, as affording a stable support, and being less liable to jostle and overturn, especially for the long planks and poles. In either case the load would have to be bound together by cordage, and for this the stay-ropes would be at hand. The furniture was equipped for the portage by hand, two men for the smaller pieces, four for the larger, and eight for the Great Altar. The utensils might also be carried by hand—for there was no lack of people to serve (who, however, had their own tents and baggage to carry), or they might more reverently be packed in some of the curtains and hangings of the Tabernacle or its court, when loaded for the march.\*

or possibly ordinary Israelites were subsidized for that purpose. A socket might conveniently be carried by two men with a tent-pin thrust through its mortice. The roof-posts and the wall-bars also, which were too long to be placed upon the wagons, were probably carried by men upon their shoulders. There is no trace of the possession or employment of camels by the Hebrews in this journey, although at present they are the only "ships of the Desert" possible by reason of the scarcity of water and the absence of roads. In fact the four wagons assigned for the transportation of the wooden portions of the structure must have been supplemented by extra vehicles, or else have made several trips for the purpose, as a little computation will show. A section of an acacia (*seyal*) branch in our possession,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and scarcely one inch in thickness, weighs half a pound, although thoroughly seasoned and free from knots. Each of the fence-posts of the Tabernacle court therefore weighed at least 50 pounds ( $\frac{5 \times 20}{2}$ ), to say nothing of their silver caps and copper tenons; and the 60 posts alone would weigh 3,000 pounds, or about a ton and a half. By a similar calculation each of the wall-planks would weigh at least 600 pounds, to say nothing of the gold plating, silver tenons or other metallic attachments; and the whole 48 would weigh 28,800 pounds, or about 14 tons. In order to accommodate the number of wagons, the posts might safely be reduced to one-half the diameter that we have supposed for them, which would make their weight comparatively inconsiderable; and in like manner perhaps the planks, so that they would weigh collectively (if only about an inch thick, greatly stiffened by the metal plates) about 4 tons: but the difficulty of providing carriage, where resources (and especially human and animal force) seem to have been so abundant, is too slight to require a disturbance of our estimates or a stinting of the materials. Where six wagons were volunteered, twenty or more, if necessary, could easily be procured.

We may remark that the desert itself supplied this

wood in abundance, and the copious store of metals, gems and weaving materials were provided in advance by the divine direction (Exod. iii, 22; xi, 2) to ask (Heb. *shaal*, the common word for a request. A. V. most unfortunately "borrow," for they never expected or were expected to restore) these things of the Egyptians (a just demand for their long and severe and unrequited labor), and the latter were only glad to bestow in hopes of hastening the departure of their late serfs (Exod. xii, 33-36). These valuables they afterwards freely contributed, as they were of little use for commercial purposes in the Desert.

\* In the *camp* the position of the several tribes was as shown on the following diagram (Num. ii, iv, vii).



The route pursued (See Plate I) was substantially the same as the one usually followed by modern tourists, and presents no insurmountable obstacles, but has several difficult passes. It must be remembered that Moses himself was familiar with the region, and that he had in addition the guidance of his wife's relatives, and especially the ever-present pillar of cloud and fire. A special Providence is intimated at every step and juncture.

On preparing for the *march* the priests (Aaronites,

III. The inner room, called the Most Holy Place ("holy of holies," a Hebraism), which we may compare to a shrine, was but a continuation of the front room, the walls, roof-canvas and side-curtains being the same. There are therefore but two objects of special consideration here. (See Plate IV, *C*.)

1. The only division between the rooms was another screen, entirely similar to that of the outer door-way, except in one particular, and therefore requiring discussion only as to two points, in which it will be found highly determinative, as its name in the original implies (Heb. *paróket*, lit. a *separation*, i. e. partition; applied only to this one piece of drapery). It is particularly described in Exod. xxvi, 31-33; xxxvi, 35, 36. (See Plate IV, *B*.)

(1.) This differed from that of the door-way of the Holy Place in one respect only; it was an embroidery of cherubim instead of plain figures, resembling in this feature the side-curtains, except that these were doubtless (as we will hereafter see) depicted with extended wings touching each other (requiring but two figures to fill

i. e. sons of Aaron) first took down the Vail and folded it over the Mercy-seat, then wrapped the whole Ark in a blanket of fur [kept for this purpose], and covered this again with a sheet of all-wool violet, drawing the side-bars into a proper position. Next they covered the Table of Show-bread with a similar woolen cloth, placed all the dishes close around the piles of bread, wrapped the whole in a sheet of (all-wool) crimson, and covered this again with a fur blanket, putting in the side-bars for transportation. Thirdly, they wrapped up the candelabrum and all its apparatus in a sheet of (all-wool) violet, put the whole in a sack of fur, and hung it on a pole, to be carried in like manner. Fourthly, they wrapped the Altar of Incense in a similar violet sheet, and covered it with a blanket of fur, putting in the bars for carrying it. Fifthly, they wrapped up all the other vessels of the Sanctuary (including the silver trumpets, and the golden censers) in a similar violet sheet, and put them in another fur bag for carrying upon a pole. The Laver was doubtless prepared for transportation in like manner. Lastly, they cleared out all the (coals and) ashes from the Altar of Burnt-offering, spread a purple (all-wool) cloth over it, set all its (copper) utensils within (upon the grate), and then threw over the whole a blanket of fur, putting in the bars for carrying. Not until all this was done did the Levites (of the family of Kohath) approach to take up the pieces of furniture, place the bearing-poles on their shoulders, and march away with them. The other Levites then came, took down the court, tent and walls, and packed them on the wagons. The order in the line of march was according to the following diagram, all parties retaining as nearly as possible the relative position of the encampment.

	Judah,	
	Issachar,	
	Zebulun.	
	Moses,	
	Aaron,	
	Priests.	
Dan,	Kohathites	Reuben,
	(with the Furniture	
	on their Shoulders),	
Asher,	Gershonites	Simeon,
	(with the Tent-stuff and Cordage	
	on 2 Wagons),	
Naphtali.	Merarites	Gad.
	(with the Wooden-work and	
	Fixtures on 4 Wagons).	
	Ephraim,	
	Manasseh,	
	Benjamin.	

It may be presumed that the stations enumerated in Exod. xii-xix; Num. xxxiii, represent only the principal encampments, where the Israelites stopped for a considerable period; and that the route indicated was that of the *headquarters* only, consisting of the leaders, the families and the ecclesiastical establishment, while the younger men were scattered extensively over the peninsula in charge of the flocks and herds. The pasturage appears to have been much more abundant then than now, owing to the denudation of the region of its trees and shrubs (for fuel, especially the manufacture of charcoal for sale in Egypt), and the consequent drying up of the streams.

the space\*), for the cloth was (like the other screens) stretched tight (and therefore its length needed not to be mentioned, the space being otherwise given, namely, the entire width of the room).

(2.) It was suspended, like the other door-way screens, upon pillars, in this case made and furnished exactly like those of the front room, except that their sockets (and of course their tenons also) were of silver instead of copper, and that they do not appear to have had any connecting rods. The reason for this last difference is that the curtain was fastened, not only (as usual with the rest) by (gold) hooks in the pillars, but also (as we will presently see) to the *side-planks*, and thus the whole line was kept from swaying transversely to the building. The pillars moreover were four instead of five (as in the case of the front-door), because no central one was required to sustain the peak here, and the end ones did not need to touch the wall for their support. We therefore presume that they were placed with equal distances between them and also between them and the walls; thus making five spaces of two cubits each (from centre to centre, less  $\frac{1}{8}$  cubit for the spaces adjoining the walls). We prefer this method of distribution to that which places them in contact with the walls, leaving three spaces only; because in that plan the passage-ways to the Holy of Holies, where a single man passed but once a year, are made wider than those of the front door-way through which many persons must have passed together often every day. The passage-ways are thus found to contract at every successive inclosure from without inward, as propriety demands.†

(3.) The position of this inner Vail becomes important, in the first place, for the obvious reason that the dimensions of the two rooms as to length are indicated only by this division-line, and yet its location in this respect is not expressly stated at all. We are left to the presumption that the inner room was a square, and the outer one twice as long as broad; conclusions that are certified by the proportions of the corresponding apartments in the Temple, as all agree. This will make the dividing line fall at  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the width of the 7th plank from the rear, and a hook must therefore be inserted at that point in the side-walls for that purpose, the presumption being that the posts on which the Vail hung were wholly within the Most Holy Place (i. e. the screen on their outer face, as in both the other cases).

There is but one other intimation in the text concerning the position of the Vail, and the value or necessity of giving it (which is done in the most explicit terms, as if something important) does not appear until after close study. It is this: "And thou shalt hang up [lit. "give," i. e. *place*] the Vail under the taches [i. e. knobs of the side-curtains]" (Exod. xxvi, 33).‡ It must be borne in mind that the side-

\*From 1 Kings vi, 23, 24, it appears that the spread of a cherub's wings was reckoned as equal to the whole height of the figure. Hence these two cherubs touching each other with outstretched wings would leave an exactly equal margin on the Vail at the bottom and sides, supposing them to be placed just as far from the top as on the side-curtains, where they would seem to have been set in the middle of the breadths.

† We will find another and more conclusive reason for this arrangement, when we come to consider the succession of colors on the wall drapery.

‡ Since it is not said how much below the knobs the Vail is to be set, the legitimate inference is that it is to be put *immediately* beneath them, as in other instances (Exod. xxv, 35; xxvi, 19; xxx, 4), whereas an interval (if any) is always indicated by a different



curtains are only 4 cubits wide (i. e. high, when hung), while the Vail is 5 cubits; the knobs therefore must have been set in the planks one cubit above the upper edge of the curtains. The direction in question reveals to us two interesting facts: first that the Vail was directly attached to the walls, but not to the knobs (for, as we have seen, a knob does not fall at the right spot; nor could the Vail be buttoned conveniently or securely upon one, had it been at the place, for it would not project in the proper direction), and secondly, that the loops were of such a length that the top of the curtains came one cubit lower than the knobs. The diagram (Fig. 19) on p. 40 shows how mathematically true this would be in the mode of hanging the curtains which we have devised.\*

expression (e. g. Exod. xxvi, 12, 25; xxvii, 5). Observe also that the language is, "under the knobs," i. e. their line in general, not under any particular knob. It should further be noted that this special command concerning the Vail could not have been given for the purpose of fixing its location or dimensions, since it really does not accomplish this in any direction; nor yet for the purpose mainly and simply of indicating the height of the knobs from the ground (however usefully it may incidentally serve this end), for that might have been more directly and briefly stated. It was intended rather, as the language itself without any circumlocution implies, to point out some peculiarity in the *mode of suspending* the Vail, different from that of the other screens, at the two ends at least (the most important points), namely, by a hook in the planks themselves, and not in the posts as elsewhere.

We have assumed that the hangings of the interior door-ways, namely, of the Holy and the Most Holy places, were uniform in height with those of the outer court, i. e. 5 cubits (Exod. xxxviii, 18), inasmuch as they were all for a like purpose of screening from ordinary view. In the case of the Vail this is specially confirmed by the parallel height of the golden knobs, which could not well have been lower, if they were to furnish an adequate point of attachment for the interior stay-ropes, nor higher, if these last were not to encroach inconveniently upon the margin required about the furniture. The triangulation of the colored loops (Fig. 19) also corroborates the same conclusion.

\* There yet remains a still more crucial test of the accuracy and consistency of our method of disposing of these colored curtains. As the full planks are each  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubits wide, with a knob and a loop to each, and as the joined sheets are each twice as long as the entire circuit of the planks, it follows that every looped portion assigned to a plank must be 3 cubits long, which allows exactly one cubit for each of the component stripes of color. Now since the flat panels

of violet, containing the figure of the cherubim, are each to be  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a cubit wide between the ends of the loops that stretch them out, or a full cubit including the loops and their eyelets, there are left two cubits for the other two colors, one on each slope of the intervening fold of cloth.

Again, as the entire length of each of the combined sheets is 140 cubits, a number not divisible by 3 without a remainder, it follows that, if the stripes were woven uniformly in each separate (or uncombined) curtain-breadth (as we cannot doubt they were), some one at least of the colors must have fallen short or been redundant at one end or the other; and the same conclusion results from the fact that each of these original or separate curtain-pieces of stuff was 28 cubits long, giving 9 full series of colors ( $9 \times 3 = 27$ ), and a surplus cubit for an entire stripe. Let us now suppose that the stripes begin at the front edge of the north planks, and proceed regularly along the walls (after the Heb. order of reading, as elsewhere observed), in the invariable succession of colors as enunciated in the sacred text, until they terminate at the front edge of the south wall. In order to bring the violet about the middle of the first plank (a position required as that of the embroidered panel, with its connected violet loops), let us commence with the color immediately preceding, i. e. the crimson; and we will do this with a *half stripe*, instead of a whole one, in accordance with our uniform custom in the case of the door-screens. (This half-stripe of crimson, be it noted, will be hidden by the door-pillar at that point, so that the series will appear to begin in fact with the violet stripe, the one always mentioned first in the textual order of enumeration.) The succeeding purple stripe, together with half the following crimson one, will complete the drapery for the first plank, the whole being in entire symmetry, panel and loops properly adjusted to the knob, and commencing as well as ending with a half stripe of the same color. The series will go on regularly, until we reach the



2. At length we have reached the most sacred of all the *penetralia* of the Tabernacle, which doubtless occupied the exact centre of the Holy of Holies (but a different

end of the first piece of cloth, which will terminate with a half stripe of violet at the middle of the 10th plank; and the second piece of stuff, resuming the same series with another half stripe of violet will carry on the order regularly again to the end of this piece, terminating with a half stripe of purple at the last third of the 19th plank. The third piece of cloth will there take up the same order with another half stripe of purple, which, together with half the adjoining stripe of crimson will complete that plank, and the corner will be reached in like manner by the first half of the next crimson stripe, the middle of each plank thus far being in every instance covered by the violet panel. Here the half-cubit of the rear corner-plank will change the adjustment, the remaining half stripe of crimson making the short fold at the corner (without any intervening flat panel), and the succeeding violet stripe carrying on the series across the joint of the planks to the next fold, which will consist of the purple and the crimson stripes falling under the knob in the middle of the first full rear-plank, as it should. This last arrangement will continue regularly till the other corner-plank is reached in like manner by the last half of the 8th violet stripe of the third curtain-piece; and half the adjoining purple one will make the short fold for that plank, precisely as has been done in the opposite corner; while the remainder of the purple stripe, together with the whole of the succeeding crimson will make up the (somewhat short) fold on the first (i. e. rear) third of the 20th south plank (reckoned from the front of the building). Here the violet stripe next following will once more fall in the middle of a side-plank, exactly corresponding to its fellow on the opposite side of the room, and the same arrangement will regularly continue for every other side-plank to the front corner, the third curtain-piece terminating with a crimson half-stripe at the rear third of the 19th plank, the fourth piece with a violet half-stripe at the front third of the 10th plank, and the fifth piece with a purple half-stripe at the extremity of the line (hidden by the other door-pillar). Thus, the reversal of the order of the stripes on the opposite sides of the rooms is so compensated by the change in the panels at the corners that strict regularity is maintained throughout the entire series, and yet complete correspondence in the position of the 20 violet cherubim-panels on each side, and the 7 at the end.

Once more, the Vail, being 20 cubits from the

front, and 10 cubits from the rear of the interior, will fall at the end of the first third of the 14th plank from the entrance ( $13\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} = 20$ ), or (what is the same thing) at the end of the second third of the 7th plank from the end ( $6\frac{2}{3} \times 1\frac{1}{2} = 10$ ); and this point will be at the junction of a crimson with a violet stripe on the north side, and of a purple with a violet one on the south side, in both cases immediately in front of the 14th violet (or cherub) panel from the entrance (where, be it noted, we have placed no pillar to hide it). This will give exactly 7 cherubim to each side, and the same number to the rear of the Most Holy Place, and 14 to each side and adjoining half of the Vail in the Holy Place, while the two on the Mercy-seat will correspond to the two on the Vail; in no instance a cherub on two colors at once. Moreover, if the Vail itself be made to consist of two broad stripes (purple and crimson) for its two cherubim, respectively, with a half stripe of violet on either edge (like all the other door-screens), this will complete the circuit of the colors continuously in their uniform order around the three sides of the Holy Place, as well as those of the Most Holy.

We are entitled to regard this marvellous series of perfect coincidences in the symmetry and congruity of the scheme which we have propounded for the adjustment of this set of variegated wall-curtains, no less than that of the plain roof-curtains, as a demonstration of its truth. Novel as it really is, and complicated as it may at first sight appear, it must in the end carry conviction with all who will take the pains to trace it out. When the great Kepler published the volume in which he promulgated his famous "laws" of the mathematical proportions existing between the motions and distances of the planetary bodies, that have since become the basis of all exact calculations in astronomy, not anticipating their immediate triumph in public acceptance, he is said to have uttered the memorable words, "I can well afford to wait even centuries, if need be, for an appreciative reader of my theories,—since God has waited 6,000 years for an intelligent observer of his universe." In the same spirit of reverent confidence, albeit on a much humbler scale, we may be allowed to claim for our discoveries in regard to this piece of the divine handicraft, that we can equally well afford to wait a few years, if we must, for an adoptive student of our theory,—since Moses has waited more than three millennia for a consistent expositor of his inspired account of the sacred Tabernacle.

spot in the Temple, 1 Kings viii, 8). This sole piece of furniture was the Ark,\* probably standing transversely in the apartment so as to exhibit to the best advantage its several parts, which are described in Exod. xxv, 10–22; xxxvii, 1–9.

(1.) In construction it was altogether similar to the other acacia-wood boxes which we have already considered, being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubits long,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  high (external dimensions), plated with gold inside and out, including the bottom and the top. This last, called the “Mercy-seat” (Heb. *kappóreth*, lit. a covering, but not in the figurative sense of *expiation*; hence used only of this article), was in fact a movable lid, of the same size as the Ark itself, and thus proved to have shut inside of the moulding-cornice (“crown”), which it had, like the other boxes, and of course flush with it, on the upper surface. It was likewise furnished with the usual apparatus for transportation, in the form of gold rings and gold-cased bars; but in this case they fitted together tightly, so as never to be removed, which convenience for daily use required in the other cases.† The golden censer, with which the High-priest once a year only entered the Most Holy Place, was doubtless set upon this lid.

(2.) Upon this lid also, near either end, were placed those most remarkable objects, the Cherubim, which are occasionally referred to in Scripture,‡ but of which the most various and often grotesque representations have been made by later writers and artists. We have, in this part of our work, to consider only their material form and their posture, leaving their symbolical significance to a later chapter.

The statues (for they were such in the present case) were hammered out (the same

\* Heb. *arón*, lit. a receptacle i. e. a chest; as a coffer for money (2 Kings xii, 9, 10), or a mummy-case (Gen. i, 26).

† The bars were not to be removed from the rings of the Ark because of its superior sanctity, which forbade all unnecessary handling (see 2 Sam. vi, 6, 7); and there was not the same occasion for ready passage about it when at rest as in the case of the other pieces of furniture similarly equipped.

‡ They are first mentioned in the account of the expulsion from Eden (Gen. iii, 24), where they have the emphatic prefix of the article (*the* cherubs, unfortunately neglected in the A. V.), as if already well known; and so in fact they must have been, especially to the Israelites, who were familiar with the representation of such figures on the Egyptian monuments. The winged animals of the Assyrian sculptures are also imaginary creatures of a like symbolical character, no doubt, but more gross in their conception. Our chief information concerning Scriptural cherubim (besides the passages here discussed) is drawn from the visions of Ezekiel (x, xl), in which they figure conspicuously; together with a few hints in Isaiah (vi). The forms in the account of Solomon's Temple (1 Kings vi, 23–29; 2 Chron. iii, 10–13) and Ezekiel's (xli, 18–20), although of colossal size, are

doubtless consistent with those in Exodus; and the living creatures of the Apocalypse (Rev. iv, 6–9) are but reproductions of them. It is noteworthy that the large cherubim of the Temple above spoken of are two in number, apparently corresponding to those on the Vail, and not to those on the Ark, which were there also. Those on the Temple walls were in like manner the representatives of the former embroideries on the side-curtains; and it is a curious corroboration of our disposal of them in panels with a fold between, that the Temple wainscot was carved with alternate cherubim and palm-trees (Ezek. xli, 18), the palm-trees taking the place of the fold, which could not well be imitated in wood-carving. For artistic effect, the head is there somewhat turned, so as to fairly show two adjoining faces only; and of course the nobler ones are selected. The identity of the “living creatures” of Ezekiel with the cherubim is evinced by the fact that under both names they are represented as supporting the triumphal car of the Almighty (2 Sam. xxii, 11; Ezek. i, 26; ix, 3; x, 1, 4); they both had wheels connected with them (Ezek. i, 15; x, 9); were entirely similar in form (Ezek. i, 10; x, 14, where the ox-face is called a cherub-face, because the figure had a bovine leg and foot); and in Ezek. x, 20, they are expressly identified.

word is used as in prescribing the Candelabrum) of (sheets of) pure gold; therefore hollow, and not a plating over carved figures, as were Solomon's (1 Kings vi, 35). They were doubtless in several pieces, put together like those of the Candelabrum. The figures themselves were fastened to the lid in like manner (Exod. xxv, 19, "of the Mercy-seat," lit. *out from it*, i. e. permanently a part of it).\*

In shape the cherubim were substantially human, but had the split foot of an ox; † and in addition to the man's face (the proper front) they had three others, namely,



FIG. 26.—Cherubim of an Egyptian Shrine carried in a Boat by Priests.

those of a lion and an ox (on the right and left sides, respectively), and that of an eagle (behind). Again, in addition to human hands, they had two sets of wings, one pair always folded (for the sake of modesty) obliquely downward and forward about the person, and the other used for flight or for various expressive motions or conditions. ‡ (See Plate V, G.)

\*None of the Heb. etymologies proposed for the word *cherub* is at all satisfactory. The surmise that it may be a transposition for *rekeb*, (a *vehicle*, namely, for Jehovah), is the only one in the least degree plausible. Nor do the cognate Shemitic languages throw any light upon the derivation. Probably it is of foreign origin, perhaps Egyptian.

†The "straight foot" of Ezek. i, 7, means the straight (or fore) leg. The same verse informs us

that their color (not of the legs only) was that of polished copper.

‡The description in Ezek. i, 5-14, where they are called *animals* (*chayóth*, A. V. "living creatures," like the *zoä* of the Apocalypse, A. V. unfortunately "beasts," totally different from the *cheväh*, of Dan. vii, the *theria* of Rev. xiii, which are *wild* beasts, a symbol of heathen political power, like those of the Assyrian monuments), is very particular, especially



They were no doubt the normal or full height of a man (i. e. 6 feet, somewhat less than 4 cubits), and are always spoken of as maintaining an upright position (2 Chron. iii, 13).\* In the specimens embroidered upon the side-curtains we have supposed the upper or posterior pair of wings to be folded at the back and at the sides, in a quiescent state, while those figured upon the Vail were with these wings expanded horizontally, and those upon the Ark had the same pair of wings spread obliquely upward and forward in a hovering or brooding attitude (Exod. xxv, 20, lit. "And the echerubs shall be [permanently] expanding [like a bird fluttering over its nest, Deut. xxxii, 11] their wings as to upward, surrounding with their wings over the cover").† They stood facing each other, and looking down upon the Ark. The symbolism of these postures we leave for the present, pausing here only to note that these last were on a level (one cubit from the ground) with those on the Vail, both being in a flying state, and at the same time they agreed with those on the curtains as resting upon something.

(3.) The sacred Ark contained four articles, the first and most important of which was that from which it derived its distinctive epithet, "Ark of the Covenant" (or "Ark of the Law"), namely, of God with his people; in other words the two tables of stone, on which Jehovah with his own finger wrote the Decalogue, after they had been prepared by Moses to replace the original two prepared by God himself, but broken by Moses in consequence of the idolatry of the "golden calf" (Exod. xxxi, 18—xxxiv, 29, Deut. ix, 10—x, 5).‡

The second article contained in the Ark was the autograph copy of the Law, written out by Moses and deposited there (Deut. xxxi, 26); presumed to be the Pen-

ver. 11, 12, which run literally, "And their faces and their wings [were] parted from as to upward; two [of the latter (as appears from ver. 9)] joining, each to each, and two covering their bodies. And each toward the surface of his face they went; toward whosoever the [i. e. their] spirit might be to go they went; they would not turn themselves about in going." In other words, these singular creatures had four faces and four wings apiece (but not four heads nor four bodies), both the faces and the wings being separated at the top of the compound person into two sets of two each; the upper two of the wings extending horizontally so as to touch those of the adjoining creatures (in the form of a hollow square), and the lower two bent diagonally toward each other over the middle of the person: as they had four fronts facing in every direction, and all actuated by a common impulse, they did not need to turn round in walking or flying; but moved immediately in the direction of the face fronting the desired way. In Isaiah (vi, 2-7), similar figures are called *seraphim* (i. e. *burning* ones, from their flame-colored bodies), having six wings (as in Rev. iv, 7, 8), four appropriated to purposes of modesty, the upper ones for veiling the face, and the lower the secret parts. We

will have occasion to recur to this passage of Ezekiel more minutely hereafter.

\* Differing in this respect from those of the Egyptian monuments (where they are sometimes kneeling) and the Revelation (where they are often horizontal in worship).

† This whole scene is aptly illustrated by the delineations of similar figures on the monuments of Egypt (see Wilkinson's *Anc. Egyptians*, i, 267-271), as well as of Assyria (Layard, *Babylon and Nineveh*, p. 643). Any objection to such representations, as conflicting with the second commandment, is obviated by the reflection that these were not figures of any actual being or creature, but only of imaginary objects.

‡ The only accessible stone in the immediate vicinity of Mt. Sinai is the bright red granite of Jebel Mûsa itself, which is cracked into layers and checks as if by fire, or the dark porphyry of the adjoining mountains. On the summit of Jebel Mûsa there is a thin layer of compact gray granite, which might have been used. In any case two slabs of this size, one under each arm, would have been a sufficient load for a vigorous man to carry even down hill. We offer below some estimates on this point.



tateuch in full, and thought to be the same afterwards discovered in the time of Josiah (2 Kings xxii, 8); but which must in the meanwhile have been removed, together with all the contents presently to be considered, for in the days of Solomon the Ark contained the two tables of the Law only (1 Kings viii, 9).\* The other articles deposited there were (as we learn also from Heb. ix, 4) a golden pot of the providential manna (Exod. xvi, 33, 34), and the miraculously fruitful rod of Aaron (Num. xvii, 10).†

\* This difficulty is discussed with great erudition and at large by A. Sennert in his essay on the contents of the sacred Ark (*De iis que fuerunt in Arca Fœderis*, Wittenberg, 1680, 4to), who reaches the conclusion that all the articles enumerated were originally placed either *in* or *near* the holy receptacle, and rejects the rabbinic opinion that a different ark is also spoken of, in which the broken tables of the original copy of the Law were deposited together with these additional relics; but he is unable to determine where or by whom the latter were eventually abstracted.

† Some curious calculations may be indulged in respecting the suitability of the dimensions of the Ark for these purposes. As it was originally constructed mainly or wholly for their reception and preservation, it may be presumed to have been just large enough in length and breadth to hold them conveniently; but as they were comparatively thin the box was made of shapely height, and thus there would be ample room above them for the other deposits.

But we will descend to a more minute comparison. These stone slabs were inscribed on both sides; and one contained, it is generally believed, the first five commandments (all of which relate to duties towards superiors [whether God, 1-4; or parents, 5]; while the other slab contained the remaining five (all of which relate to duties towards equals); thus corresponding very closely to our Lord's epitome of them into two precepts. The Ark had an interior capacity (if we have rightly estimated the thickness of its bottom and sides as being the same as in the case of the Table of Show-bread and the Altar of incense, namely  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a cubit) of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubits long,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide, and  $1\frac{5}{12}$  deep. This would allow the "Tables of the Law" to be each  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubits long,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide, allowing  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a cubit at the side for introducing the fingers in order to handle them, but giving no other play for sliding in transportation. These proportions, exactly 2 to 1, suggest a transverse, rather than (the conventional one of) a longitudinal, division of each face of either slab, yielding two columns, both exact squares, for inscription. Deducting  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a cubit for margin, we

have left (in all) 8 spaces, each precisely one cubit square, for engraving the only words ever known to have been directly written by the Almighty in human characters. Presuming these to have been identical with those preserved to us in the two copies of the Ten Commandments (although the passages recording them, Exod. xx, 2-17; Deut. v, 6-21, have some verbal variations, with regard to which we may presume that the former is the more exact transcript), we may proceed to distribute them according to the above scheme. With Masoretic nicety we have counted the whole number of Heb. letters in each edition (so to speak) of the Decalogue in the original, and find them to be as in the subjoined table (including the remarkable variation in the reason assigned for observing the Sabbath, and giving the notation of verses as in the English Bible, also the several commandments).

<i>Exod. XX.</i>			<i>Deut. V.</i>		
Comm.	Verse.	Letters.	Comm.	Verse.	Letters.
	2	41		6	40
I	3	23	I	7	24
II	4	59	II	8	58
	5	74		9	74
	6	29		10	29
III	7	51	III	11	51
IV	8	18	IV	12	34
	9	24		13	24
	10	74		14	108
	11	87		15	87
V	12	53	V	16	78
VI	13	6	VI	17	6
VII	14	6	VII	18	7
VIII	15	6	VIII	19	7
IX	16	15	IX	20	16
X	17	54	X	21	60

From this it appears that the first table (including the prefatory verse) would contain 593 (or 608) letters, and the second only 87 (or 96) letters: which is so enormous a disparity as to overthrow this logical division altogether, so far as any recognition in the original form of the Decalogue is concerned. (Judging from the most ancient MSS. and still older inscriptions, scholars are generally agreed that words were

3. As accessories to the sacred apparatus, we may appropriately mention in this connection the perfumery used for this purpose exclusively, minute directions for preparing which are given. This was of two kinds, one a solid, the other a liquid.

(1.) The incense,\* burned as we have seen above, was made of equal parts of four kinds of powerful spices, all of them except one being vegetable gums, namely (as is probable), storax, † onycha, ‡ galbanum, § and unadulterated frankincense, ¶ trit-

universally written without any spaces between them until comparatively recent times.) The only equable division (unless extensive gaps or vacant spaces are admitted—a very unlikely supposition) would seem to be to put the commandments concerning the Sabbath and parents (which are quite as much a civil and human as a divine and religious statute) into the second table; thus making one to contain 337 (or 277) letters, and the other 343 (or 427). By a similar equalization the subdivision on the two sides of each table would fall, in the first table at the middle of the second commandment, leaving three verses for each side (123 or 122 words to 144); and in the second table at the end of the fourth commandment, giving four verses for the first side (203 or 333 words), to six (mostly very short) verses for the second side (140 or 174 words, the disparity in the last possibly indicating a blank at the end.

We have waded through the special dissertations of the following authors on this subject, and received but little aid or comfort in archæological respects: V. Schmuck (*De Præceptorum Decalogi Justa Distributione*, Leipsic, 1606, 4to;—by review of opinions), V. W. Wolfrum (*De Distributione Decalogi*, Wittenberg, 1606, 4to;—by logical propositions), S. Bohl (*De Vera Divisione Decalogi*, Rostock, 1637, 4to;—by the Heb. accents), C. Walther (*De Dualibus Tabulis Lapideis*, Königsburg, 1679, 4to;—by citations of Jewish authorities), J. J. Stromeyer (*Harmonia Decalogi*, Jena, 1712, 4to;—by parallel passages), G. F. Gernhard (*De Differentia Noni et Decimi in Decalogo Præcepti*, Coburg, 1748, 4to;—by logic and review of authorities), J. F. Hirt (*Primum Decalogi Præceptum non esse Negativum*, Jena, 1755, 4to;—by authority, the accents and logic). Nor have we found later discussions on the same subject more luminous for our purpose. Theological and ecclesiastical polemics seem to have been the mainspring of inquiry throughout. Keil, in his *Commentary on the Pentateuch* (Clark's translation, ii, 108–113), gives a clear and judicious review of the discussion, and settles upon a distribution substantially agreeing with ours.

Now a single slab of ordinary marble, of the size indicated above (let us say, for convenience of comparison and calculation, 4 feet long by 2 wide), if merely one inch thick, would weigh about 118 pounds,

as we have computed from actually weighing a smaller piece. The tables of the law certainly could not have been thinner than this, for they would have broken by their own weight in transportation; and the stone was probably not of less specific gravity than marble. At this minimum estimate, it would have been quite impossible for one person to carry two such up a steep and lofty hill (as Moses did the second pair of tablets), nor could he have clasped one of such dimensions under either arm. It is evident, therefore, that they were of but half that size, and thus intended to fit into the Ark side by side, or rather end to end. This will reduce each to a square of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubits, after deducting sufficient space along the sides for inserting the fingers to lift the tables when necessary, and will leave a clear centre or page for the inscription exactly one cubit square, besides a suitable margin.

Finally, it may be interesting to note that if this interior square were covered evenly by the lettering, there would be an average room of more than a square inch for each letter, or (as most letters are more or less narrower than a square) it would accommodate characters about an inch long, and leave an ample blank or interval between the lines. We may therefore suppose that the words were arranged in 10 lines with about 15 to 20 letters to the line; distributed probably in paragraphs corresponding to the several commandments, and perhaps leaving some of the lines short, where the letters in a clause were fewer or smaller than the average.

\* Heb. *ketóreth has-sammim*, lit. *incense of the aromas* (A. V. "sweet incense"), i. e. perfumed, in order to distinguish it from ordinary fumigation.

† Heb. *natáph* (A. V. "stacte"), lit. *ooze*, i. e. distilling like drops, a resin; in this case the product of the *styrax officinale*, a small tree of Syria.

‡ Heb. *shechéleth*, lit. *a scale* (like a finger nail); the shell of the perfumed mollusk, *blatta byzantina*, found in the Mediterranean, and yielding a musky odor when burned.

§ Heb. *chelbenáh*, lit. something *fat*, an exudation from several Oriental plants.

¶ Heb. *lebonáh*, lit. something *white*; the produce of some species of *boswellia*, grown in Arabia and Judæa.

urated together to a powder (Exod. xxx, 34-36). Late Jewish writers add to these ingredients certain proportions of myrrh, cassia, spikenard, saffron and salt, and also state that it was manufactured in quantities of 368 *manehs* (about 825 pounds) in a particular room of the Temple by a family of the Levites delegated for that purpose. The incense was burned twice a day (i. e. at the time of morning and evening sacrifice) on the Altar of Incense by three priests (in a later age, as we learn from Talmudical writers; but doubtless in a similar manner to the same act performed once a year by the high-priest alone upon the Mercy-seat, Lev. xvi, 11, 12), one of whom took away the golden fire-pan and ashes of the preceding offering, another brought in a fresh pan of live coals from the Great Altar, while the third performed the fuming by throwing upon the coals successive pinches of the incense, of which he carried a double fistful in the hollow of his left hand. (See the whole process illustrated very analogously from the monuments in Wilkinson's *Ancient Egyptians*, i, 125, Am. ed.) The dense mass of smoke, which so highly volatile a substance as the incense was would immediately create, was readily carried off by the open gables of the front room and the vent at the top of the gable of the rear room.

(2.) The ointment,\* employed in the consecration of the Tabernacle and its priests (and eventually in the inauguration of kings also), was composed of spontaneously-flowing myrrh and cassia, 500 shekels (about 680 pounds) each, and of cinnamon and calamus, half as much each, with one *hin* (about 4 quarts) of olive oil, carefully compounded into a paste (Exod. xxx, 23-25).

IV. The dress of the sacerdotal order, when on duty in the sacred precincts, was minutely prescribed (Exod. xxviii);† but as no shoes or sandals are mentioned, it may be inferred that the ministrants all went barefoot, notwithstanding the exposure in inclement weather; and this is confirmed by the command of Jehovah to Moses on the first interview in this region, to divest himself of foot-covering in the Divine Presence (Exod. iii, 5). (See Plate VI.)

1. The Levites, as being unconsecrated individually, had no canonical robes specifically appointed for them; and therefore wore the dress usual with male Orientals to the present day. This substantially consists of the following pieces, omitting the *sandals* for the feet, for the reason assigned above. First there is a nether garment or *shirt*, usually without sleeves, loose and flowing nearly to the knees; in general of white linen (now-a-days cotton, often colored), and this is commonly the only clothing, when the wearer is at hard work; but to appear elsewhere in such dishabille was accounted as virtually being naked. (See Fig. 30.) In the case of the Levites we may suppose that it was somewhat improved beyond the lowest type, but still it doubtless consisted (substantially like the drawers below described, but folded vertically) of a simple piece of cloth about one yard wide and two yards long, doubled at the top (where a slit is made for the neck), and stitched together at the sides,

\* Lit. (Exod. xxx, 25), "And thou shalt make it an oil of anointing of sanctity, a perfuming perfume, the work of a perfumer: an oil of anointing of sanctity it shall be."

† The directions, as usual in the sacred narrative, begin with the central object, which is here the inspired ephod; but convenience with us requires the opposite order.



except an aperture at their top for the arms, the latter being covered half-way to the elbows by the loose folds at the corners. This garment is held close to the body in the middle by a *girille*, an essential article of apparel, which served to form a pocket in the bosom and for tucking in the ends of the skirts when running, etc. (See Fig. 31.) Next comes, with all well-dressed people, an upper garment or *mantle*, frequently (among the poor) consisting only of a simple piece of cloth (linen or wool, colored or plain, according to circumstances), thrown loosely around the shoulders like a shawl, and hanging down nearly to the feet; but in more respectable society frequently assuming the form of a gown, with sleeves, especially when in public with no other garment. Besides these is a *turban*, or square piece of thin cloth (linen in those days of course), folded diagonally, and wound skilfully about the head, the

FIG. 27.—A *Fellah* Peasant.FIG. 28.—A *Bedawin* Sheik.

ends being tucked in (see Fig. 33); and lastly, a *cloak* (Arab. *abba*) for rough weather, consisting of a long, thick woollen shawl, with a hole for the neck, and wrapped close about the entire body. On holiday or particular occasions, these would be exchanged for new, clean and bright garments of the same kind, or (among the upper classes) for other more elaborate ones, accompanied by ornaments, chiefly in the form of jewelry, such as anklets, bracelets, etc.; for even men in the East do not disdain such finery. We may presume that the Levites, like other laymen, were decked with something of this higher style while ministering (“in the beauty of holiness,” lit. *in the ornament of sanctity*, i. e. in festive attire, 1 Chron. xvi. 29; 2 Chron. xx, 21; Psa. xxix, 2; xevi, 9). The annexed drawings, from photographs of modern natives of the Desert (Figs. 27, 28), are probably fair representations of the common out-door garb of secular Hebrews, of the upper and lower classes respectively, at the period of the Exode.

2. For all priests, however, a peculiar costume or “uniform” was imperatively



ordered, while they were officially serving at the Sanctuary, although of course on other occasions and elsewhere they wore the ordinary dress of plain citizens. It is described in Exod. xxviii, 40-43; xxix, 8, 9, as consisting substantially of four articles, in which we may easily recognise the most essential of the above Oriental elements of apparel, with one additional; and those appear to be all that ordinary priests were to wear, while the High-priest was to have the same with certain peculiarities and additions. In the case of common priests it served as a distinction from laical apparel and also from the Levitical, by being of a more ornamental style (A. V. lit. "for glory and for beauty," the latter word being the same which we have above translated "ornament," but here enhanced by a stronger term prefixed as an adj., i. e. "an honorary ornament" or official badge).

(1.) First was a pair of linen drawers\* worn for the sake of decency (as is expressly stated); which, we apprehend, were not in the Occidental form of trowsers,

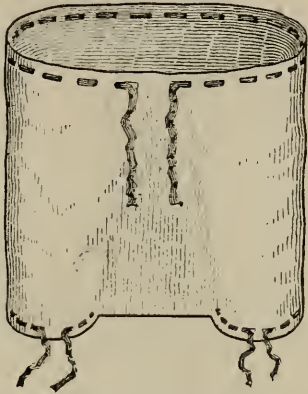


FIG. 29.—Modern Oriental Drawers for a Gentleman.

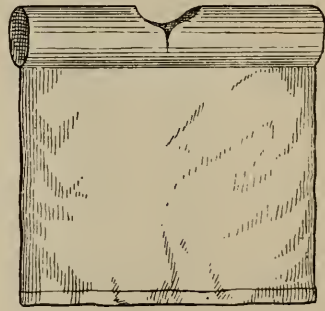


FIG. 30.—Modern Oriental Shirt.

but the nether integument (Arabic *libas*) of a modern Oriental dragoman or other genteel person, consisting merely of a single piece of linen cloth, but thin and of natural color, in the case of ordinary priests, about a yard wide and two yards long, doubled transversely into a square bag, and stitched together at one side and at the bottom; with the (selvedge) top open so as to be drawn together by a cord around the waist, and a hole left in each bottom corner for the legs, being filled up so as to be gathered by a similar cord at the upper part of the calf like a garter. (See Fig. 29.) It is loose and cool, and though somewhat clumsy (as the width hangs in folds between the legs, and stretches out in walking), yet not ungraceful, presenting a decent medium between frock-skirts and pantaloons. Vulgar people, who otherwise go

\* Heb. only in the dual *miknesáyim*, lit. *double wrappers* (A. V. "breeches"), used only of this article, which, appears to have been devised for the purpose; for Oriental nomads as well as peasants are proverbially *sans-culottes*. They reached "from

the loins and as far as the thighs," which must mean that they entirely covered both these parts, i. e. they went to the knee and necessarily enough below this to fasten securely and comfortably. The legs, like the feet, were doubtless bare.

entirely naked while at work in the open fields, especially in the sultry climate of Egypt, wear, in lieu of this, a simple loin-cloth.\*

(2.) Next came the tunic † either of unbleached linen or of wool, according to weather (plain for the ordinary priest), not long (for it was no doubt tucked into the drawers, like a shirt), and (it is generally thought) with sleeves (although none are alluded to in Scripture, and the statements of Josephus and the Rabbins are too late for this period), being evidently the common Oriental undress of the present day as above. (See Fig. 30.)

(3.) At the middle, where these two articles met, and covering their union, was the sash, ‡ indispensable (as seen above) at the present day in the East; consisting of a broad band of woollen cloth, usually of bright color (here, in the case of an ordinary priest, merely variegated, it is most likely), at least two yards long, wound into a girdle about the waist, and tied together in front, the ends hanging down like tassels. (See Fig. 31.) The high-priest's sash was quite different. (See Plate VI, D, iii.)

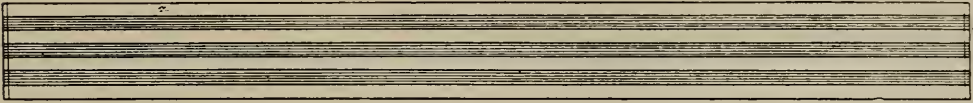


FIG. 31.—Modern Oriental Girdle (extended).

(4.) Surmounting the figure, and completing the sacerdotal apparel, was the cap (the material again not prescribed), for which a different term § is employed respecting ordinary priests from that used in the case of the high-priest. In the absence of all distinctive details, we are left to the mere etymological force of the word, aided somewhat by the customs of ancient and modern Orientals; and therefore we hazard the conjecture that the common priestly head-covering was simply the skull-cap (Arabic *arak'iyeh*), which is now worn by Syrian Mohammedans night and day (being frequently changed of course), as they generally shave the head; whereas the

\*The description of Oriental dress in Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, i, 39, is minute, but too elaborate to suit the Israelites, being largely affected by Turkish and European associations. The same is true likewise of most modern descriptions of the costumes of Syria and Asia Minor. The ancient Hebrew dress, especially of the period of the Exode, more nearly approached the present Bedawin type, which has never materially changed. The specimen in Cant. v, 11-15, is of course an unusual or wedding snit. The extreme simplicity of the principal Oriental garments makes them fit almost any person indifferently (Judg. xiv, 19; Matt. xxii, 11).

† Heb. *kethóneth*, lit. a *coverer*, A. V. "coat," always the garment next to the skin: as in Gen. iii, 21. When it reached to the ankles, like a gown, it was properly distinguished by the epithet *passím* (lit. of

the *steps*, i. e. feet, A. V. "of many [divers] colours," Gen. xxxvii, 3; 2 Sam. xiii, 18). The male dress of Orientals is much shorter than that of Occidentals. We must be constantly on our guard against copying European fashions in our representations of this subject. Facility of motion was the main requisite with the ancients in this matter, and even partial nudity was of little account, especially in ordinary avocations.

‡ Heb. *abnét*, lit. a *band* (A. V. "girdle"), a foreign word, used only of this priestly article, and thence transferred to the girdle of a man of rank (Isa. xxii, 21). It was therefore not the common belt (Heb. *chagór*, a *bindér*, fem. *chagoráh*, which is the term usually rendered "girdle" in the A. V.).

§ Heb. *mihyéah*, lit. something *arched*, A. V. "bonnet."

Hebrews appear to have kept their full hair, and to have dispensed with any head-dress in ordinary avocations.\* (See Fig. 32.) If we are correct, this priestly cap was made up to fit the head, and of this we shall find some confirmation when we come to consider the high-priest's head-dress. (See Plate VI, *D*.)

3. The pontifical regalia we will accordingly discuss in the same order, noting first the fact that all the articles above elucidated are present in some form or other

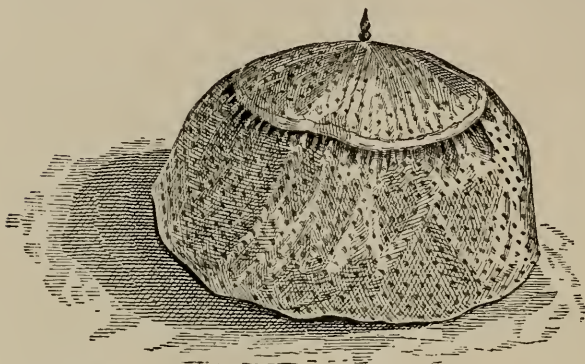


FIG. 32—Modern Oriental Skull-cap. (From a Syrian Specimen.)

“plaid muslin” of the present day. The sash was embroidered with needle-work, of fancy pattern, we presume, probably uniform, because no figure is mentioned, and (if a regular one) it would be distorted by the folds and the knot. The cap is exchanged for (or perhaps, as in the modern East, inclosed in) a regular turban § which,

\* We presume, however, that when greatly exposed out-of-doors, they wore something corresponding to the Bedawin *keftiyeh* for men, and the *vail* for women; both of which are nothing but a square piece of cloth cast over the head and hanging down over the shoulders, the men usually fancying gay colors, and holding theirs on by a cord around the head. (See Fig. 28.)

† In Exod. xxxix, 27–29, the shirts and caps are said to be of bleached linen, and the drawers of double-twisted material of the same sort, “for Aaron and his sons;” but from the fact that in the same list several articles are enumerated which were assigned to the high-priest alone, it would appear that the addition “and his sons” there designates only the prospective high-priests (as in xxviii, 4), and not ordinary priests, for whom accordingly these pieces of clothing are elsewhere (xxviii, 40–43) specified as being of “linen” simply, i. e. thin unbleached stuff.

‡ Heb. in the intensive conjugation, *shibbets*, to *interweave* (A. V. “embroider”), which is used only here and of the square reticulated setting of a gem (Exod. xxviii, 20), besides the derivative noun *tashbets* (A. V. “broidered”), applied likewise to this

in the high-priest's attire likewise, the drawers, shirt and cap remaining unchanged, except as to color and thickness of fabric.† The tunic is now said to be checked,‡ i. e. laid off in regular blocks by stripes of threads of thicker (double-stranded) and bleached linen both in the warp and the woof at regular intervals among the thinner (single-stranded) threads of the bleached linen foundation (for it was all still one color and material), like the

tunic only (Exod xxviii, 4). The material is explicitly represented as to consist wholly of *bleached* stuff (*shesh*, “fine linen,” ver. 39), in distinction from the natural color of the *unbleached* flax (*bad*, simple “linen,” ver. 42) of the drawers. The art of weaving in “diaper pattern,” which is a square checker, or in “damask pattern,” which is figured, but both without a change of material or color, the former being white, and the latter crimson, can hardly have been known at this early date or employed under the circumstances, as it requires an extra or *twilled* process running diagonally. The crossing of bands or stripes wider than one or two of the heavy corded threads of the “twined” or double-stranded linen would have made an uncomfortable ridge. (See Plate VI, *D*, i.)

§ Heb. *mitsnépheth*, a *colling* (A. V. “mitre”), used only for this pontifical article, and once (Ezek. xxi, 26) for the “diadem” of a prince; the simpler form *tsanéph* being employed indiscriminately (“mitre,” Zech. iii, 5; “diadem,” Job. xxix, 14; Isa. lxii, 3; “hood,” Isa. iii, 23), and the corresponding verb *tsanáph*, applied to convolutions (Isa. xxii, 18), as well as to this piece of attire (Lev. xvi, 4). We have avoided all unnecessary complications.



although likewise of plain white linen, was thus distinguished from the simpler head-dress of the ordinary priest. \* (See Fig. 33.)

A notable addition to this pontifical head-gear was a gold tablet † tied with a violet (and therefore woollen) string ‡ (doubtless by passing it through a hole at each end) around the head, displaying on the front the engraved motto (in the old Heb characters), SANCTITY TO JEHOVAH, i. e. consecrated to his exclusive service. §

(1.) Proceeding now to the vestments altogether peculiar to the pontiff, as compared with his subalterns, we have a robe, ¶ which was but another tunic, of simple pattern and without sleeves, being in fact of the form which we have above described as that of an ordinary Oriental shirt, the selvedge merely stitched together for sides, with openings for the arms, and the hole in the fold at the top bound (like a coat of



FIG. 33.—Modern Oriental Turban (folded).

mail, A. V. “habergeon”) with an edge woven on in making, to prevent its ravelling or tearing. ¶ It was to be wholly of violet, hence wool both warp and woof. It was probably long enough to reach about to the knee. The bottom hem was decorated with a fringe consisting of alternate little bells of gold (probably a globe with a ball within it, like modern sleigh-bells) and artificial pomegranates (i. e. globular tassels) of woollen threads (tufted, as we presume,) of the three sacred colors, violet, purple and crimson (not mixed, we opine, but one of each in regular succession, like the bands on the curtains); the bells (as is intimated) being designed for giving notice of

\* Josephus's account of the high-priest's dress may possibly represent with some degree of accuracy the fantastic fashions of his own age. The tiara is especially ornamental; yet it does not wholly disguise the simpler form of earlier times as we have elucidated it. Its triple form is probably due to the addition of the diadem by the Asmonæans as princes, like the papal crown.

† Heb. *tsits*, lit. a *glitter*, i. e. a “plate,” or narrow thin strip.

‡ Heb. *pethil*, lit. *twist*, a *thread* (A. V. “lace”).

§ As the early Jewish writers are not agreed upon the width of this golden plate, nor whether the inscription was in one line or two, we have consulted the proprieties of the case, and the good taste of the majority of archæologists, in the matter. Josephus states that the pontifical frontlet made by Solomon was in existence in his own day (*Antiquities of the Jews*, VIII, iii, 6). In that case it was probably among the spoils of Jerusalem exhibited at the triumph of Titus, and finally deposited in the temple of Peace at Rome (*Wars of the Jews*, VII, v, 7). Origen, however, asserts that it was the original one of Aaron, and that it remained till his time; as also that it was

inscribed with Samaritan characters, by which of course he means the antique Hebrew (Whiston's note on Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, III, vii, 6).

¶ Heb. *mēil*, lit. an *upper* (i. e. outer) garment, spoken of any such piece of clothing in general use, sometimes “mantle” in the A. V.

¶ The text is very explicit (ver. 31, 32), lit.: “And thou shalt make a robe of the ephod, wholly violet; and there shall be a mouth [i. e. hole] of its head [i. e. top] in its middle: a lip [i. e. selvedge or woven edge] there shall be to its mouth around: the work of a weaver, like the mouth of a corslet, there shall be to it: it shall not be torn.” In other words, it was to be a single piece of cloth, with an opening for the neck made in the weaving. This could only be effected, in the simple loom of those days, by parting the threads, both of the warp and the woof, around a cylinder inserted for that purpose, and holding them in place by double overcast stitches crossing each other in opposite directions. It was not to be cut, but of course had a hemmed bottom (ver 33), and a seam at the side, with a space left open as an arm-hole. The seamless “coat” of later times (John xix, 23) was a *tunic*.



the functionary's approach (so that no impure person or thing might meet him, and thus, however inadvertently or unconsciously to him, expose him to divine visitation for entering upon his duties in that condition), and the woollen balls to afford variety. As their number is not given, we may conjecturally hang them (by a golden wire or yellow silk cord)  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cubit apart, making perhaps 12 bells and as many tassels, four of each color.\* (See Plate VI, *D*, ii.)



FIG. 34.—Ancient Egyptian Chief-priest (with apron-like drawers, leopard-skin ephod, tankard for libation, and censer).

(2.) Immediately over this article of dress (hence called “the robe of the ephod”) was placed the principal token of the high-priest's rank, called the *ephod* (its Heb. name, signifying a *girdle*, but not the common word for that piece of apparel); which was made of the same stuff as the Vail, tricolor woollen bands on a white double-stranded linen ground, embroidered with figures (we presume vine-form tracery) in gold (thin plates cut into narrow strips and used as thread, Exod. xxxix, 13). It consisted of two shoulder-pieces,† sewed together by the raw edges in a seam;‡ hence each about 1 cubit wide by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  long, hanging by the neck (where a hole of course was made and bound), one over the bosom, and the other over the back, down to the waist (very much like the *chasuble* of a Roman

Catholic priest). These were fastened (doubtless at the bottom) by a belting-strap § (one of course on each side), made of the same materials as the ephod itself (the ends tied together in a bow-knot at the hip). At the top seam, in the middle (as we presume) of the shoulder slope, were (sewed on) two studs (one on each side), consisting each of onyx, || large enough (perhaps  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a cubit square) to contain the

\* The Rabbinical statements concerning the 72 bells on the high-priest's robe, and that it was woven seamless (Edersheim, *The Temple and its Services*, pp. 72, 73), relate to customs introduced at a later age than that of which we treat. It does not follow from the allusions in Rev. i, 13: xv, 6, that the pontifical girdle was but a little below the arm-pits, for in that case the bottom of the breastplate could not have been fastened to it; any more than that the robe reached to the feet, as it clearly did not (*ibid.*, p. 72). These last two features, in the case of an active functionary, would have been effeminate, disproportioned and inconvenient. They are borrowed from the description of Josephus (*Antiquities of the Jews*, III, vii, 2), but are not countenanced by the language of the sacred text, as belonging to the original attire of the high-priest.

† Heb. sing. *kathéph*, lit. a lateral projection, designating the *top* or ridge of the shoulder, in distinction from the back part or shoulder-blade, for which a different word is employed.

‡ The Heb. terms are the same as those which we have shown, in discussing the Tabernacle curtains, to be carefully used in these senses. The ephod was not a single piece, like the robe over which it was worn, but made to be joined together at the top (the open sides were of course the straight selvedge), because that part had to be nicely fitted to the slope of the shoulders, as it was to sustain several appendages.

§ Heb. *chésed appudathó*, lit. “strap of its belting,” the latter term being from the same root as *ephod*.

|| Heb. *shóham*, of obscure derivation, and designating some kind of gem, but certainly not the *diamond*, for that cannot be engraved, and is too small and

engraved letters of 6 of the names of the twelve sons of Israel (beginning probably with that on the right shoulder, and arranged, we may suppose, from analogy of the loaves of show-bread, in a single column).\* The stone was set in a reticulated gold plate † (sewed by the interstices on the garment), to which was attached a twisted gold chain (lit. *links . . . wreathed . . . cords*, A. V. "chains . . . at the ends . . . wreathen"), for fastening it to the pectoral, as presently explained. (See Plate VI, *D*, iv.)

(3.) This last named, which was the crowning glory of the high-priest's regalia, and the most sacred talisman of his office, is styled a *spangle* (from its sparkling gold and flashing gems), ‡ and was substantially a bag of the same materials as the ephod itself, one span (or half a cubit, i. e. about 10 inches) square, when folded (at the bottom, and sewed together at the sides); the face (or outer layer) having on it (apparently stitched on like studs, at regular intervals, but probably very close together, so as to bend to fit the person) gold plates (doubtless of the same general style as those on the shoulders), in which were set precious stones, in four rows, engraved respectively with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.§ The entire "breastplate"

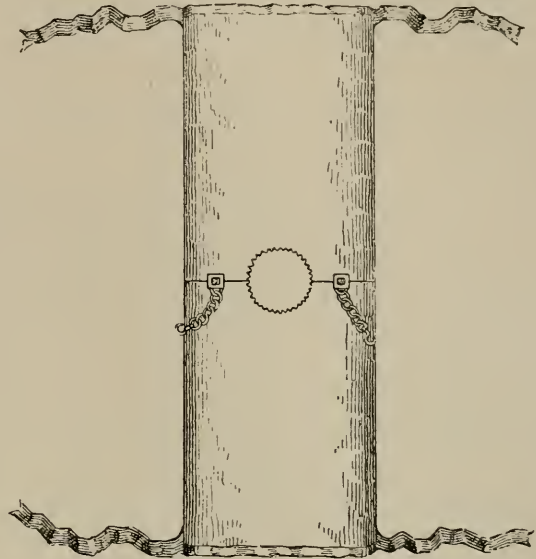


FIG. 35.—The Ephod (extended).

costly. It was the same as the eleventh stone in the breastplate.

\* The longest of these names (we suppose them here to be set down in the actual order of birth, namely, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Issachar, Asher, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin), is in the Heb. *Benjamin*, which has 6 letters (showing that our arrangement would produce a square): and if the names were displayed separately (not run together, as often in old MSS. and inscriptions), our estimate would allow each letter a space of  $\frac{1}{7\frac{1}{2}}$  of a cubit (about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of an inch, which is considerably larger than "great primer," the largest type used in modern book-printing). (See Plate VI, *D*, vi).

† Heb. *mishbétseth*, a texture by embroidery (Psa. xlv, 13, "wrought"), hence a netted socket for a gem ("ouch"). The Heb. term here used for the mode of insertion *musabbóth* (A. V. "set in," "inclosed in"), although originally the fem. plur. of a pass. participle meaning *turned about*, is constantly

used as a noun, in the sense of *reversal*, and therefore always stands before the word which it qualifies (in the construct), and not after it (as an adjective would). Accordingly we must here render, "Reverses of nettings of gold shalt thou make them; and in xxxix, 6, "reverses of nettings of gold," and in xxxix, 13, "reverses of nettings of gold in their bezels." In like manner, at Ezek. xli, 24 (A. V., "two turning leaves"), we must render "two folds of leaves;" and in the sole remaining occurrence of the word (Num. xxxii, 38, A. V., "their names being changed"), no other rendering is grammatically possible than parenthetically "transmutations of names."

‡ Heb. *chóshen*, lit. (it would seem, for the root is found in no other word) a *glistening* (A. V. "breastplate"), used only of this particular ornament; often with the additional epithet, "of judgment," because oracular decisions were obtained by its means.

§ In this case we presume the names were in the conventional order of encampment (in which the

was held upon the ephod by fastenings that are minutely and somewhat intricately described.\* We epitomize by saying that the pectoral had a gold ring in each of

same division of 4×3 occurs), as in the annexed dia- | room for letters much larger than those on the gram, doubtless three columns of four names each, | shoulder-studs. The modern equivalents of few if

3. Zebulon	2. Issachar	1. Judah
6. Gad	5. Simeon	4. Reuben
9. Benjamin	8. Manasseh	7. Ephraim
12. Naphtali	11. Asher	10. Dan

as symmetry of space requires, and as a "row" in reading would mean (but not elsewhere). As there was but one name on each stone, there would be any of the gems are known with certainty (compare the similar list in Rev. xxi, 19, 20). The following table identifies them as nearly as may be:

ROW.	ORDER.	A. V. RENDERING.	HEB. NAME.	MOD. NAME.	PROB. COLOR.
I.	1.	"Sardius"	<i>odem</i>	carnelian	light red.
	2.	"Topaz"	<i>pitdáh</i>	chrysolite	bright yellow.
	3.	"Carbuncle"	<i>baréketh</i>	emerald	grass green.
II.	4.	"Emerald"	<i>nóphék</i>	garnet	dark red.
	5.	"Sapphire"	<i>sappír</i>	lapis-lazuli	deep blue.
III.	6.	"Diamond"	<i>yakalóm</i>	chalcidony	pink.
	7.	"Ligure"	<i>léshem</i>	jacinth	buff.
	8.	"Agate"	<i>shebó</i>	agate	red streaks.
IV.	9.	"Amethyst"	<i>achlamáh</i>	amethyst	purplish.
	10.	"Beryl"	<i>tarshish</i>	topaz	dull yellow.
	11.	"Onyx"	<i>shóhan</i>	beryl	pale gr-en.
	12.	"Jasper"	<i>yashephéh</i>	jasper	clouded gray.

\* In this passage (Exod. xxviii, 22-28) it will be observed by the critical reader, that we have three terms carefully applied to the different aspects of a piece of cloth, precisely in accordance with the signification that we have previously pointed out; although they are confused in the A. V.: *éber* is the surface (as of the tables of the Law), *sapháh* is the free selvedge, and *katsáh* is a hemmed (or at least seamed) end. The other expressions in this description are also as before explained. For the sake of clearness we literally translate the whole of the last paragraph, with explanatory interpolations in brackets.

Ver. 22. "And thou shalt make upon the breastplate wreathed chains [i. e. links twisted or bent so as to lie all flat], the work of cords [i. e. links of round wire], pure gold."

Ver. 23. "And thou shalt make upon the breastplate two rings of gold; and thou shalt put the two rings upon the two ends [katsáh (i. e. upper or hemmed edge)] of the breastplate."

Ver. 24. "And thou shalt put the two cords [i. e.

chains] of gold upon the two rings towards the ends [katsáh] of the breastplate."

Ver. 25. "And the two [other] ends [katsáh (i. e. the end-links destitute of a hook)] of the two cords [i. e. gold chains (namely, those previously mentioned, ver. 14)] thou shalt put upon the two intertextures [i. e. reticulated settings], and [thus] thou shalt put [them] upon the shoulders [i. e. sides] of the ephod, towards the front of its face [(the same expression as used concerning the gable overlap of the roof-canvas, i. e. across its very face)."

Ver. 26. "And thou shalt make two [other] rings of gold, and thou shalt put them upon the two ends [katsáh (i. e. lower, but still seamed edges, because the two selvedges are there sewed together)] of the breastplate, upon its selvedges [sapháh, i. e. still such, although double], which [are] towards the surface [éber] of the ephod inward [i. e. lie close upon the ephod beneath, and never rise from it, as do the upper corners, when the mouth of the sack is opened]."

Ver. 27. "And thou shalt [also] make two [corre-



its four corners; the two at the top were joined to the ephod by a continuation of the twisted chains already attached to the shoulder-studs (the hook being apparently [as usual in such cases] on the end of the upper chain for entering any convenient link in the lower chain); the bottom rings were tied by a violet cord to rings inserted in the ephod at the point where the straps branched off. These four fastenings (the upper ones stronger, as bearing the weight) would stretch diagonally and keep the pectoral extended and yet closed, at the middle of the breast. (See Plate VI, *D*, v.)

(4.) Finally, the sacred pocket thus suspended over the very heart of the high-priest, where it would be inviolably safe, and at the same time accessible at a moment's

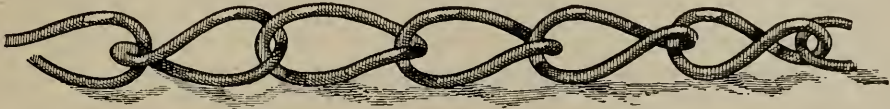


FIG. 36.—Twisted Chain.

notice, was designed—in a manner analogous (as we shall presently see more fully) to the inmost Ark of the Sanctuary—as a place of deposit for the most priceless boon of God to his fallen, erring children, a mode of ascertaining his will. The physical instrument of this form of divine communication was the famous *Urim and Thummim*, Hebrew terms that have greatly vexed the learning and ingenuity of interpreters, with less satisfactory results, perhaps, than any other part of the whole Tabernacle apparatus.\* Without entering in detail into the hopeless discussion on this mysterious sub-

sponding] rings of gold, and thou shalt put them upon the two shoulders [i. e. sides] of the ephod, from as to downward [i. e. near the bottom], from the front of its face [i. e. on its very face], to the conjunctions of [i. e. opposite] its joining [by stitches to the strap], from above as to [i. e. near the top of] the strap of the ephod."

Ver. 28. "And they [i. e. the makers or weavers] shall tie the breastplate from [i. e. by] its [lower] rings towards [i. e. to] the rings of the ephod with a thread of violet [wool], [so as] to be upon the strap of the ephod; and the breastplate shall not be shoved from upon the ephod."

\* The following is a condensed summary of all the positive information that philology and Scripture afford on this difficult but interesting topic; and neither Josephus nor the Rabbins seem to have had access to anything further, while the conjectures of modern writers are mostly worse than worthless.

The words "the Urim and the Thummim" are not proper names, the former being simply the plural of *ûr*, which is occasionally used in the sing. for *light* (as is its congener *ôr* constantly) in the sense of *flame* (Isa. xxxi, 9; xlv, 16. xlvii, 14; 1, 11; Ezek. v, 2; for

it is merely the infinitive of the common verb meaning *to shine*), and for *Ur*, the birthplace of Abraham; while the plural (besides the distinctive use here considered, occurring singly in Num. xxvii, 21; 1 Sam. xxviii, 6; and elsewhere in the compound phrase, Exod. xxviii, 30; Lev. viii, 8; Deut. xxxiii, 8; Ezra ii, 63; Neh. vii, 65) is used for the region of lights, i. e. the East (Isa. xxiv, 15, A. V. "fires"). "Thummim" likewise is only the plur. form of *tôm* (which is itself but a participial noun from the verb *tamâm*, frequently used to denote *completeness* or *sincerity*), meaning *perfection*, and usually rendered (in the sing.) "integrity" (Gen. xx, 5, 6; 1 Kings, ix, 4; Psa. vii, 8; xxv, 21; xxvi, 1, 11; xli, 12; lxxviii, 72; Prov. xix, 1; xx, 7), "uprightness," "upright," or "uprightly" (Job. iv, 6; Prov. ii, 7; x, 9, 29; xiii, 6; xxviii, 6), "perfect" or "perfection" (Psa. ei, 2; Isa. xlvii, 9), "simplicity" (2 Sam. xv, 11), "full" (Job. xxi, 23), "at a venture" (1 Kings xxii, 34; 2 Chron. xviii, 33), but in the plur. only in connection with *Urim* (as above). The plural form of both words does not necessarily imply that there were many of each kind of object, nor even that the two were distinct articles; but rather according to a frequent Heb.



ject, we may safely say, in brief, that these terms designate some means of oracular response, on questions of public importance, by Jehovah through the high-priest. The manner in which they are introduced (“*the Urim and the Thummim*,” like “*the Cherubim*,” on their first mention), yet without any explanation, shows that they were well known already to the Israelites; and this adds force to the presumption, confirmed by an inspection of the monuments, that they were the originals of which the symbolical images known to Egyptologists as those of the double goddess of Truth and Justice,\* and probably also the idolatrous Teraphim of the early Mesopotamians and later Syrians, were the counterfeits.† However that may be, we find this mode of divination, if so we may respectfully designate it, in use among the Hebrews from this time forward, as it appears to have been in the patriarchal days (Gen. xxv, 22, 23), down to a late period of the Jewish commonwealth, when it suddenly and silently disappears altogether from history; doubtless because superseded by the clearer and fuller *Lights and Perfections* of personally inspired prophets, whose oral deliverances, afterwards compiled by themselves in permanent documents, have survived the vicissitudes of transcription and denationalization, and still guide and cheer the saints on their march to the heavenly home.

idiom, these peculiarities of the phrase express as follows: the plur., emphasis or quantity; and the duplication, attribution or quality; so that a free translation would be *full light* as to amount and *perfect* as to kind, i. e. complete illumination; in modern terminology, a *definite oracle*, in distinction from the vague and ambiguous intimations from other sources, whether heathen shrines, providential auguries, or even inspired vaticinations, such as had been the only resource of previous ages and other nations.

As to the actual application of this instrumentality for predicting events, we find various significant facts. The object in question was small, light and non-fragile (so as to be easily carried in the pouch of the breast-plate). It (or its equivalent) was duplicated freely in the pontifical family (1 Sam. xxii, 18), but the acting high-priest alone had the prerogative of consulting it (1 Sam. xxiii, 2, 4, 6), and the secret of using it was at length lost even to the hierarchy (Ezra ii, 63). The questions put by its means were categorical, and the answers were equally explicit, although not always a simple affirmative or negative (1 Sam. xxiii, 9–12; 2 Sam. v, 23, 24); and sometimes refused altogether (1 Sam. xxviii, 6). All this implies a material apparatus, a public consultation, and a palpable reply, either by visible or audible signs; and excludes all theories of priestcraft, fortune-telling or legerdemain, making the whole a *bona-fide* supernatural indication of what no mortal could of himself discover or predict. Beyond this everything concerning it is uncertain, and the speculations of scholars are scarcely worth recounting.

\* See Wilkinson, *Anc. Egyptians*, ii, 27; v. 28 large edition.

† We hazard the opinion that this species of augury was by means of an image (probably of clay rudely modelled) representing *truth* as the essential attribute of deity. It was worn in the bosom, which is the Oriental pocket, so as to be always at hand and familiar. Like the cherubim, its purely ideal character relieved it of the charge of idolatry. The only clue to its mode of manipulation for obtaining an oracular response is afforded by 1 Sam. xiv, 19 (for the *ephod* and not the *ark* must be there referred to; comp. ver. 3, and see Keil on the passage), where the expression “withdraw [literally “gather up”] thy hand” shows that it was held in the open hand during consultation. It does not seem, however, to have been absolutely necessary in the process at all, for on several occasions no mention of it whatever is made (1 Sam. xxiii, 2, 4; 2 Sam. v. 19, 23; xxi, 1), and in one instance at least it was impliedly absent, the priestly vestment itself being only an ordinary one of simple linen, such as appears to have been worn by the whole lineage of the high-priest (1 Sam. xxiii, 6; comp. xxii, 18). This lends color to the suspicion that the response was not given by any peculiarity of the object in question itself; but was merely divined through some professional skill acquired by (perhaps rather was a specially inspired intimation vouchsafed to) the officiator (comp. John xi, 51). Finally, inasmuch as in several of the above cases even the priestly intervention is not positively stated, it may be that the king or any other public functionary was qualified to ascertain the divine will by this means.

## CHAPTER V.

### SYMBOLISM OF THE TABERNACLE.

WE approach this enticing branch of our treatise with much caution, and only after we have prepared the way for it by a careful analysis of the facts and elements upon which a figurative application of the whole or any of its correlated parts should rest. We are moreover warned, by the extravagant and unseemly mystifications of most predecessors in this attempt, how liable a fertile fancy is to mislead even a well-stored head and a well-disposed heart in a field where so little is fixed by determinative bounds, whether historical, logical, philosophical or artistic.\* The only safe

\* Much that has been given by former writers as symbol on this subject is merely *metaphor* or figure of speech instead of representation by object. The symbolism of the Tabernacle, as developed briefly by Josephus and Philo, is purely *cosmical*; and in this they are followed more at length by Bähr. The jejuneness and frigidity of such an exposition are sufficiently obvious. Later expositors have usually vibrated between this and the merely clerical idea of the Tabernacle symbolism, or else they have gone off on some tangential line suggested by their own subjective proclivities. Such whims can neither be proved nor disproved; the competent objection to them is their inadequacy and their triviality. They mistake accidental and partial coincidence for designed and sustained correspondence. Scriptural typology must be deduced by rigid exegesis and a broad view of the divine economy, especially in its soteriological relations. This is the core of revelation. The legitimate tests of the symbolism of the Tabernacle, as of that of any Jewish or Christian institution, are natural congruity, spiritual suggestiveness, and biblical sanction. It is not enough to cover the requirements of a perfunctory ritualism, a stolid ecclesiasticism, or a conventional nationalism, much less to satisfy the most obvious demands of an outward naturalism; the deep value of a universal, sempiternal and soul-saving import must be reached. The Tabernacle was the visible hearth-stone of the invisible Church, then first laid in a fixed though still (as ever on earth) migratory habitation; it was the type of that "house of God" which was designed to embrace the globe, to be the germ of heaven, and yet to domicile in the humblest heart. Its archetype, modelled in the conclave of

the eternal Trinity, and for a brief season disclosed to Moses, still remains in the celestial sphere, to be unveiled at length to the full satisfaction of all the saints. There we shall forever admire the perfection of the symbol.

We here rehearse, somewhat in detail, a few of the most plausible of these schemes of symbolism, in order that the reader may see for himself how arbitrary, incoherent and futile they really are. The oldest expositions of this branch of our subject are by the two learned Jews so often alluded to already by us. As interpreted by Flavius Josephus (*Antiquities*, III, vii, 7), the holy of holies represents heaven, the holy place and the outer court the sea and the land; the twelve loaves on the table of show-bread denote the months of the year; the seventy parts of the candelabrum are the divisions of the planets, and the seven burners the planets themselves; the four components of the veil signify the natural elements, the linen being the earth, the purple the sea, the blue the air, and the scarlet the fire; the pomegranates on the high-priest's robe mean lightning, and the bells thunder (!); the breastplate is the earth, because central in the universe; the girdle is the ocean, because encircling the world; the shoulder studs are the sun and the moon; the twelve gems are the signs of the zodiac. The notions of Philo Judæus (*Life of Moses*, iii, 4-15) are very similar, but more elaborate and sometimes intricate or even confused and erroneous: the five front pillars are the number of the external senses, and the gold [inside] is the mind itself; the numbers 4 and 28 of the colored curtains are perfect parts of the decade (?), and 40, as a prolific number (?), symbolizes man as fashioned in the workmanship of nature; the

guide, in our judgment, is direct Scriptural warrant for the aesthetic analogies and spiritual adumbrations which this elaborate and (for the times) elegant structure must

materials of the curtains represent the elements, linen coming from the earth, purple from the water, hyacinth being the color of the air, and scarlet that of fire; the ark is an emblem of the merciful power of God, the two cherubim representing respectively his kindly and his creative character; the altar of incense is a symbol of gratitude (without which even the sacrifices on the outer altar are unavailing—a beautiful idea); the candelabrum is placed on the south side like the celestial luminaries, and the lamps are the seven planets; the table of show-bread, on the north side, like the most productive winds from that quarter (?), represents the fruits of the earth; the four-lettered name on the high-priest's frontlet conveys various meanings depending upon that number; and so on at a considerable length. The early Church fathers largely adopted the same cosmical explanation of the Tabernacle. Among mediæval writers, when orthodox and even pietistic, the symbolism of the subject is exceedingly vague. The venerable Bede, in his treatise *De Tabernaculo*, etc. (inserted at the end of his commentary on the Pentateuch, in Migne's *Patrologia Latina*, xci, 394-498), makes every thing emblematical of Christ, his Church and his saints: the Ark is his Incarnation, its wood a type of his immaculate body, its length of his patience, its breadth of his charity, its height of the future glorification, the whole cubit being that of himself, and the half that of his followers, etc. (i, 4); the cherubim are a name for the angelic virtues, their wings denoting the velocity of the resurrection body, stretching in protection over the mercy-seat, their number corresponding to the two Testaments, etc. (i, 5); the curtains of different colors represent the various gifts of the Spirit, the white linen corresponding to the beauty of justification, the blue to the celestial temper of the saints, the purple to the blood of entire devotion, and the scarlet to the fire of perfect love, etc. (ii, 2); and so on through a prolix series of mystical interpretations, generally fortified by fanciful quotations from the Latin Vulgate. Herman Witsius devoted a learned and acute treatise (*De Tabernaculi Levitici Mysterioris*, in Vol. I of his *Miscellanea Sacra*, Leyden, 1736, pp. 318-363) to the consideration of the structure and import of the Tabernacle, but he has advanced little on the latter point beyond the obvious practical and religious lessons of the subject, and the general Messianic bearing of the component parts of the edifice and its appurtenances, expressly declining (§ ii) to enter further into the symbolism. Bähr (in his *Symbolik des Mos.*

*Cultus*, noticed in chap. ii above) discusses at large the cosmical significance of the numbers that enter into the dimensions and divisions of the building, and briefly the ethical and liturgical relations of the various elements and pieces of apparatus; but he very scantily shows their harmonious adaptation to each other in a moral point of view, and he scarcely alludes to their interior Christian significance. (In his later work on the Temple he retracted much of this cosmical idea, and made the Tabernacle the centre of the national scheme of Judaism.) The volume of Friederich (*Symbolik der Mos. Stiftshütte*, likewise noticed above) goes to the other extreme, and in the effort to apply the similitude to the human body as a residence of the divine Spirit, runs into disgusting particulars. One of the most recent works that venture in detail into this part of the field (Atwater's, noticed in chap. ii above), while justly criticising (pp. 156-161) the excessive Christology of one of the early Protestant discussions of the Tabernacle in its minutiae (J. Lund, *Jüdische Heilighümer*, ed. by his son, Hamburg, 1695, 8vo; and later), and afterwards consuming five chapters in a general survey of the symbolism of numbers, forms, colors, substances and animals, chiefly in heathen usages (which are little to the point here), yet at last itself, beyond some of the most obvious needs and bearings of the edifice, its furniture and its vestments, points out only certain sporadic and superficial resemblances and analogies, some of which are based upon merely metaphorical expressions, while others, however ingenious, are of doubtful pertinence or authority: for example, to take the specifications first in order (p. 270 and following), under the heads of *form and number*; that the Outer Court symbolizes the Old Covenant, the Holy Place the New Covenant, and the Most Holy the beatified state, the last alone being a perfect cube; that the 48 planks of the walls are an emblem of the product of the 12 tribes or apostles and "that number [4] which stands for the kingdom of God" [?], whereas "the dimensions of the curtains were not significant" (the next illustrations [p. 280-285], as we have shown, are based upon an erroneous or defective interpretation); and so through the subsequent heads. The very latest publication on the subject (Randall's, noticed above in chap. ii), after reviewing at some length the conflicting views of writers on the symbolism especially of the cherubim (ch. xxv, xxvi), adopts (p. 324) the explanation, that they "are to be regarded as symbols of the



have been intended to body forth; and this exposition of the true aim and inner moral of such a picture-lesson to the comparatively infantile mind of the Israelites must be sought either in the explicit statements of the sacred text (whether of the Old or the New Testament), or else in the inferences naturally growing out of them, and requisite in order to maintain their coherence and symmetry. We therefore propose, not summarily to reject, nor yet polemically to dissect the occult and often microscopic resemblances which most writers on the subject have debated or fancied in these gorgeous emblems, ranging through earth, air, sea and sky; but to compare, combine and deduce, almost *de novo*, what strikes us as a self-disclosed and tangible system of religious truth modelled into the coincidences and varieties of this remarkable piece of handicraft. We shall find that its doctrine, no less than its composition, is organic and harmonic, especially in its most peculiar features.

In a general way, we may remark, as a preliminary thought, that the Tabernacle, as a whole, being in fact but a *tent*, is occasionally referred to in Scripture as a type of a *transient* sojourn. Such it was among the nomadic Israelites in the Desert, while on their journey to Canaan, which was a symbol of the passage of saints through the stage of mortal probation to their heavenly home; and such it was to Jehovah, prior to his more permanent residence in the stone structure of the Temple on the permanent site of Jerusalem. In a more special sense it may perhaps have prefigured the occupancy of a human body by the Messiah during his stay on earth (John i, 14, render "tabernacled" instead of "dwelt;" and compare Peter's language, Matt. xvii, 4); and it is an apt figure of the frail abode of every one of his followers on earth (2 Pet. i, 13, 14).

#### I. The first thing that occurs at the very threshold of our attempts at recon-

glorious qualities or attributes of the Saviour in carrying on the great work of our redemption, and of the attributes or qualities [which] his ransomed people will share with him in the glory of his heavenly kingdom." This compound statement he professes to derive from Atwater, whose language, however, is more simple (p. 262), that they "represented humanity raised from its death in Adam to fulness of life in Christ:"—a lame and impotent conclusion, as it seems to us, for the mystical import of a pure idealism so centrally enthroned in the penetralia of the sacred building; and all deduced from the bare use of the term "living creatures" applied to these impersonations in Ezekiel and the Revelation. Think of Jesus and his saints finally embodied in these weird forms! Among recent commentators of note, Kalisch (*On Exodus*, p. 491-499) rehearses and criticises very fairly the various schemes of symbolism, ancient and modern, especially that of Bähr, and himself proposes (p. 494) a few points on the principal features of the Tabernacle which might apply with nearly equal propriety to any ethnic system containing the same elements. Keil (*On the Pentateuch*, ii,

182-185, Clark's translation) gives in the main a sensible scheme, but very general and defective on several items: the building embodies the kingdom of God, as then confined within time and space; facing the four points of the compass, its quadrangular form was a type of the world as the scene of divine revelation, the square, and especially the cube, being reserved for the most interior perfection; the gold denoted god-like splendor, the silver moral purity, the white ("invariably named first [?] among the colors") represented holiness, the hyacinth heavenly origin and character, the purple royal glory, the crimson imperishable life, and the cherubim the kingdom of glory (!). Very much in like style are the schemes of Lange (*On Exodus*, p. 113-128, Schaff's ed.), briefly the *Bible Commentary* (i, 357-393, Am. ed.), more copiously the *Pulpit Commentary* (Exod. vol. ii). The great fault of even the best of these schemes is their indefiniteness and lack of application to particulars, as well as their leaning too exclusively upon later adaptations (rather than interpretations) of similar emblems in the N.-T. writings, thus arriving at a superficial explanation.



struction or survey is the principle of thorough proportion that reigns throughout the mechanical execution of the Tabernacle, extending to the smallest and most secret parts.\* This appears on the face of the plan and its accompaniments in the numbers and sizes given by the architects. We will take these in their arithmetical order, gradually contracting to the central identity. They all have a natural, rather than a metaphysical basis.

1. The simplest and earliest, as well as the most scientific and perfect mode of enumeration is the decimal one, which in modern metrology threatens to supersede all others in exact or even popular specification. The ten fingers evidently suggested the digits (their namesake), and men spontaneously count by their means. In the Tabernacle all the ground-plans and elevations proceed by tens (or a multiple or integral part of ten); and wherever this is practicable, it is maintained in the subdivisions of space and material. This is too obvious to need illustration.

The practical lesson from this basal distribution seems to us to be, that the entire edifice, with its court, its rooms, its walls, its pillars, its curtains and its fastenings, was meant to be a thing of convenience as well as of regularity; and that its economy, both in construction and in use, was to be a mathematical teacher to the unschooled but acute genius of the chosen people. Even to our own day, the lesson, that "order is heaven's first law," and that the most perfect conventional exponent in numerical proportion is essential for the purpose of expressing and maintaining this order, is by no means superfluous; indeed it is growingly appreciated and inculcated.

It is true, the duodecimal system, as in the multiplication table, is occasionally employed in the Tabernacle, suggested perhaps at first by the months of the year (although this is not strictly true of the Jewish calendar, and is itself but an artificial basis for calculation), and in the present case emphasized by the number of the sons and tribes of Israel; but this is carried no further than those few particulars that directly memorialize the ancestral and territorial sections of the nation, and have no essential root in the great features of the Tabernacle and its cultus.

2. The next primary † number, namely, the septenary, that runs throughout the dimensions, but less conspicuously, was obviously drawn from the days of the week, an Edenic distribution, for reasons which the most exact experience of modern times has

\* Proportion is the grand principle that combines unity with variety, holding the universe together, and rendering man a miniature of Deity. It is the harmony of the spheres and the symmetry of the atom. It is the algebra of beauty and the mechanics of morals. It is the prime quality of object-teaching, from the horn-book to the calculus; and very properly does it stand prominent in the frontispiece of the picture-lessons of the Tabernacle. It is the ground idea of the whole structure. For the Architect of Nature works always by rule, and the products of his recreation are destined eventually to exhibit no less perfection. They are to be copies on a smaller scale of his infinite proportions.

† We observe here incidentally but significantly, that the three primary (and in Heb. nomenclature the "sacred") numbers 7, 3 and 1, which (like the prismatic colors, blue, red and yellow,) make up the others, are all *odd*, and hence indivisible without fractions. The first two yield by addition the round 10, the second by successive self-multiplications that most peculiar of all squares 9 (the magic sum of all the other digits ranged around the central 5, and the instant dissolvent of all other products), while the unit, perfect in itself, neither increases nor diminishes the others by proportion. The complicated relations of involution and evolution of course are foreign to so primitive an arithmetic.

vindicated as necessary for the human economy, both in the individual and in society. It comes in most opportunely to resolve the singular variation in the length of the inside curtains as compared with the roof-canvas ( $7 \times 4 = 28$ ), and especially as a basis of the two factors 4 and 3, which enter so largely into the other dimensions; and may have been intended to serve as a reminder of the Sabbath as well as of the sacredness of an oath (Heb. a *severing*).

3. The quadruple distribution, as just observed, prevails in the square horizontal forms generally adopted in the Tabernacle, as well as in many of the upright ones (the number of the door-way posts for example, and the rings at the corners of the pieces of furniture); and has its own distinctive lesson (as we will presently see).

4. The triple arrangement, as the remainder of seven, has a very marked position as a factor in the Tabernacle economy (as already noticed), and although we think the allusion to the persons of the Deity here as premature as would be a reference to the mathematical proportions of the triangle, yet the tripartite division of the terrestrial universe (earth, air and sky; or more accurately land, sea and atmosphere), as well as of its associated elements (water, fire and air), or even of its great kingdoms (animal, vegetable and mineral), and the forms of life (beasts, birds and fishes), including the constituents of man himself (popularly called body, soul and spirit), cannot have been altogether accidental correspondences to this architectural fact, any more than they are to the aphorism that almost everything may be as readily (and, usually, more logically) divided into threes as into halves.

5. The duplicate division, too obvious in the Tabernacle to need specification, is based upon the sexual distinction, no less than the grand distribution of "the earth and the heavens," the former again being divisible in the land and water. Its great lesson is the dualism that pervades not only nature (chiefly as opposites, e. g. heat and cold, light and darkness, but sometimes as allies, e. g. food and drink, light and heat), but still more significantly the moral realm (virtue and vice, God and Satan).

6. Finally the single object, as the germ of all, most strikingly suggests the unity of all things, especially in God the universal Maker, Preserver and Judge, and (most relevantly to this connection) the only being entitled to adoration in any realm of existence (heaven, earth or hell).

The cubit itself, which, as we have seen, is constantly the unit of measure throughout the Tabernacle and its appurtenances, is a natural standard, being the normal length of the fore-arm, or the distance from the elbow to the wrist in a full-sized man (Deut. iii, 11); and in the figurative idiom of the Hebrew its name is characteristically *ammáh*, which is merely a variation \* of the word *ém*, a *mother*, not so much (as the lexicons explain †) "because the fore-arm is the mother of the (entire) arm"

\* It is in fact the fem. form, for *ém* (a "mother" in the lit. sense), being a primitive word, actually has the masc. or root form.

† Gesenius expressly says, "mother of the arm," citing Deut. iii, 11, as authority; and Fürst substantially does the same, giving the word the original sense of "elbow-joint, then arm, and lastly more specially the fore or lower arm."

(a metaphor not very obvious surely), but because the cubit (or *ulna*) is the "mother" (as it were) of all dimensions (whether in the human body\* or elsewhere).

It deserves notice that no irregular multiples or fractions are employed in the measurements of the Tabernacle, nor (with the exception of the dimensions of the Table of Show-bread and of the Ark, which are a regular aliquot part, namely the half, of 5 and 3 respectively), is any *mixed* number, consisting of a whole number and a fraction, either expressed or implied.†

II. As the next element of symbolism we place color, for that is truly the basis of form, since the shape of objects is really determined (ocularly) by the variations of color or the degrees of shading at the edges; and the outlines differ according to the point of view or the aspect, while the color, at however great distances (if the object be distinctively visible), remains constantly the same. Indeed without color, which is but a variation of light, any object is altogether invisible. We should note that all the colors of the Tabernacle were what are called "fast," i. e. permanent, or not liable to fade; hence none of them are drawn from the vegetable kingdom, nor used in dyeing vegetable materials.‡

\* In like manner tailors and mantua-makers frequently reckon the proportions of a garment by the length of a finger, or the size of the chest; and glove-fitters by the diameter of the hand or even of the wrist. In fine we may compare the kindred standards of a palm, a finger-breadth, etc.

† In the number 12 the essential symbolism is to be sought, not in the months of the year (which among the Hebrews, being lunar, were often 13), much less in the signs of the zodiac (which are an astronomical refinement), but in the product of the only two subdivisions possible of the number 7; for the "dozen" is a modern unit arithmetically, and even in the multiplication table the decimal limit would have been more natural, and probably more convenient. This number accordingly is only employed in Scripture *conventionally*, and derives its whole significance from that of the tribes of Israel, whence it was transferred to the apostles as representatives of the Christian Church. It is therefore purely national and ecclesiastical.

In like manner the number 7, while having no strictly natural type, was formally adopted as the *sacred* number from the institution of the Sabbath as a holy season, and accordingly it enters conspicuously into the symbolism of the Tabernacle as an element of dimension in the enigmatic curtains only, and in the deeply significant lamps of the candelabrum.

So again the numbers 3 and 4, components of 7 and 12 by addition and multiplication respectively, are not derived from any such abstract notions as (for the former) the three divisions of the universe (air, earth and sea), dimensions of space (length, breadth and

thickness), or the Trinity, nor (for the latter) the four points of the compass, etc.; but are rather the basis of the only two perfect forms (besides the circle, which is the type of unity), namely the square and the triangle, of which we treat elsewhere. Accordingly, they also appear only in the *utilitarian* details of the Tabernacle, unless we except the tripartite or quadruple colors (strictly quintuple) of the sacred textures.

‡ If it be true that "order is Heaven's first law," it is equally true that proportion is Order's first law, and that number is the basis of proportion. Form or figure is ultimately resolvable into the three constituents of the number, relative dimensions and proportion of the parts, the latter two of which are also expressible only in numbers; and all these are in the department of mathematics, which applies two of the senses, touch and sight, to the mutual corroboration of absolute truth. Color, on the other hand, is an independent quality, recognisable only by the latter of these senses, and residing wholly in the surface of objects, which likewise is the field of the former sense, while their substance is comprehended under form and number. It is certain, however, that color itself is produced by the shape of the exterior particles of the matter of bodies, for it is refracted, diffracted and reflected according to this, and the hue of substances may be changed by merely polishing or powdering them, the superficial atoms acting as minute prisms in resolving the rays. Color, therefore, is a purely accidental or artificial quality of the outside, while those attributes that have been hitherto considered are native and inherent to the essence of the matter.



1. We begin therefore with black, which is, strictly speaking, the absence of all color, and therefore the emblem of secrecy, mourning, etc., as darkness is of death, sin, etc. In the Tabernacle, accordingly, where cheerfulness is the prevailing idea (for the worship of Jehovah, however awful, is not to be regarded in a forbidding aspect), there is but little occasion for using this color (popularly so called); and even then it is in a softened phase, namely, the dusky goats'-hair canvas. Here it is taken in the amiable or benign symbolism of protection or privacy, as the roof covers and screens the dwellers from exposure to the sun and the rain, and also from the public gaze or intrusion. For a similar reason there was no artificial light in the Most Holy Place, as this was the secret chamber of Jehovah, illuminated regularly by his own sun alone, and occasionally by his specially revealed Shekinah. Thus he "in whom (intrinsically) there is no darkness at all" (1 John i, 5), nevertheless, under the preparatory dispensation of Judaism, "would dwell in the thick darkness" (1 Kings viii, 12), until the Light of Life, "the effulgence of his glory" (Heb. i, 3), came forth from "the light that no man can approach unto" (1 Tim. vi, 16), to open the secrets of his nature to man (John i, 18), and to dissipate the gloom of sinfulness and the grave (2 Tim. i, 10).

2. As the harmonious blending of all the prismatic colors, although itself not reckoned as a (peculiar) color at all, white continually reappears in the Tabernacle, the opposite of black and the emblem of innocence in the Scriptural sense of justification, including pardon, purity and peace. It gleams in the silvery sockets, hooks, rods, etc., emblems of the attractive points of connection between the various stages in divine worship. It is untinged in the inviting exterior of the Court, and in the cleanly inner garments of the pontificate; \* and it is tinted with softer hues in the

For this reason we are prepared to expect that its symbolism will be conventional in the highest degree, and we shall accordingly find that it enters into the sensuous imagery of the Tabernacle to express covenant relations only, addressed solely to the eye of faith, and not belonging to the natural properties of things. The three remaining senses are in their turn presented each with their appropriate fields of symbolism in the concomitant of worship, the silver trumpets for the ear, the incense for the nose, the tithes for the palate. Modern science, however, has demonstrated that all the senses are affected by undulations or pulsations upon the nervous extremities of the appropriate organ, and that colors no less than sounds, and doubtless also smells, tastes and tactual perceptions, are differentiated by arithmetical ratios in the waves and strokes through the medium. The proportions of numbers therefore are constantly the index of order in nature, and this is at least a hint of the method of "grace upon grace" graduated after the lesson of the parable of the pounds or the talents.

\* On one occasion only, namely, the great day of

annual atonement (Lev. xvi, 4, 23, if we are correct in understanding the "holy garments" of simple "linen," there mentioned, to have been a special suit of unbleached stuff), was this rule departed from, in order to symbolize the general sinfulness of the priesthood as well as laity, whom the high-priest then impersonated, as if in weeds of half-mourning. The earthly representative was not allowed to enter Jehovah's immediate presence without a badge of his imperfect purity, but the ever sinless High-priest ascended within the heavenly vail in his original vesture of perfect glory.

There was also a utilitarian purpose in this change of clothing, in order not to soil the pontifical regalia with the blood which the high-priest was required to sprinkle so freely during this ceremony about the entire premises (ver. 14, 15, "upon the mercy-seat eastward" is immediately explained by "before" the mercy-seat, i. e. on the ground in front or on the east side, not on the lid of the Ark itself; so in ver. 18, the "altar that is before the Lord" is the copper altar of burnt-offering, not the golden altar of incense).



entrance and side screens and in the more ornamental parts of the high-priest's apparel. If, as we have conjectured, the fur of the inner skin-blanket of the walls were that of a grayish goat or antelope,\* it will correspond well with the unbleached material of the sacerdotal drawers (of flax), cap and shirt (either of flax or wool), worn next the person; not so dazzling white as to show the slight discoloration of necessary wear, but yet white enough to betray any real soil or foreign substance. This may have hinted at the every-day hue of practical piety in this work-a-day world, not too nice for mortal touch, and yet not stained by actual sin; while the unsullied lustre of the bleached linen on the outmost inclosure, and on the body and head of the high-priest, was a type of the immaculate pale of the true church of God, and of the spotless character of its true ministry—above all, of its sinless Head.

3. Foremost among the true colors of the Tabernacle was what in common parlance may be called "blue," but was in reality a mixture of indigo-blue with deep-red. So also was the next color (they are always named in the same order),† the dif-

\* The *tachash* was of course a ceremonially "clean" animal, and this at once excludes all the conjectures of a marine creature, whether of the seal or porpoise tribe; for although these may possess fins, they certainly have no scales (see Lev. xi, 9-12; Deut. xiv, 9, 10). It was probably of the goat or antelope genus, several specimens of which of a suitable character are found in the adjacent regions, and one of them especially (*antelope barbatus*) is said to bear the closely similar name of *tachassè* in the native dialect of the interior of Asia. The use of *tachash*-skin for shoes (Ezek. xvi, 10) is not in reference to coarse sandals, but to a soft material for ladies' wear. In the absence of a definite identification, we cannot securely seek for the symbolical import further than to presume that the fur was fine and beautiful. The rougher and stronger external skin was colored for artistic effect, and afforded a rich contrast to the dark roof and the yellow planks. Beyond this it is not worth while to pursue the symbolism.

† Atwater observes (*The Sacred Tabernacle*, p. 284, note): "The colors of the [wall] curtain called *the tabernacle* are always mentioned in the order which follows, namely, fine-twined linen, blue, purple, and crimson; but in all other cases, including the three veils and the sacerdotal garments, the colors are enumerated as blue, purple, crimson, and fine-twined linen. No one has suggested a reason for the difference of arrangement." One of these statements is not strictly correct, for in Exod. xxxix, 29, the colors of the high-priest's girdle are enumerated in the same order as those of the wall-curains, namely, "fine-twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet." This shows that no special significance attaches to the position of the white, except in its relation to the

gold, and so long as the other three colors are in their proper order, as they invariably are. Indeed it proves that the white was not a stripe at all, for in the description of the girdle of the ephod (which we can hardly suppose to have been different in this respect from the principle girdle) the white occupies again the last place (xxviii, 8; xxxix, 5). This is also corroborated by the fact that a similar variation occurs as to the relative order of the gold embroidery in the two accounts of the curtain for the court entrance (xxvii, 16; xxxviii, 18). The reason why the linen is named first in these two instances only (namely, the curtains twice, xxvi, 1; xxxvi, 8; and the principle girdle once, xxxix, 29) seems to be the great length of these pieces of cloth (the longitudinal threads being of that material) as compared with the others. In the account of the same colors used in Solomon's Temple (2 Chron. ii, 7, 14), the order is not at all observed, except as to the inner vail (iii, 14); because in that piece of cloth alone was it then employed, as there were no side curtains. We may further remark that the regular order, by which the gold (or its equivalent, the embroidery) is mentioned first, and the linen last (whenever these occur at all), is never varied except when (as in the cases of the linen noticed, and that of the gold already cited), the ground and figured colors are enumerated in the aspect of *materials* in bulk or in process of manufacture, rather than as made up articles (so the gold last, in the account of the contributions, xxv, 4; xxviii, 5; xxxv, 6, 23; of the men's work, xxxv, 35; xxxviii, 23; of the ephod, xxxix, 2, 3; of the breast-plate, xxviii, 15; xxxix, 8). The addition of "linen" to the list of pomegranates in xxxix, 24 (where "twined" refers to the colored threads), is a mistake

ference being that in the former the blue predominated, in the latter the red. These two are the only instances of a compound color occurring in the whole description (except the implied brown and gray noticed above), and they serve to show that no scientific analysis of rays is regarded. Green, it will be noticed, is altogether excluded, notwithstanding its abundance in nature, and its pleasant effect upon the eye, especially in a verdureless desert; perhaps because it is suggestive of the earth, and hence too worldly, and also because it is almost exclusively vegetable. Blue, however, especially of the warm violet shade, is eminently characteristic of heaven (the cerulean sky, with a reddish tinge prevalent in the Orient), and hence interpreters, as by common consent, have not failed to recognise the symbolism here. "Blue" was used alone, to indicate the unalloyed serenity of the celestial world, the topmost goal of human aspiration; or in alternate stripes (never commingled, except with the white light that underlies and transfigures it) of more gorgeous hues, to intimate the successive stages of terrestrial life and station, through which mortals must pass in order to attain it.

4. The Tyrian purple of antiquity was universally accepted as the emblem of royalty, which in some countries had the legal monopoly of it, as among the Mohammedans green is the exclusive badge of a lineal descendant of the prophet. It is therefore so appropriate to the mansion and servitors of the supreme King that we need not dwell upon it. It stands between the blue-red and the deep-red, as its gradation naturally requires, and suggests that royalty, as yet unknown to the Hebrew polity, should eventually come as a mediator between God (in the azure heavens) and man (of the copper-colored flesh);\*—a human vicegerent of divine authority, and a Victim with a two-fold nature and dignity.

5. The remaining shade of red therefore, crimson (not "scarlet," which is too bright and flame-color to suit the gradation and symbolism), or cochineal-red,† can only point to blood, shading off from its arterial hue (that here especially denoted as freshly shed), through the purplish color of raw flesh, into the bluish cast of the veins, but everywhere in Scripture designating the life-principle of man and beast (Gen. ix, 4-6), and the essential element of atonement (Heb. ix, 22). Here is a wide field for scientific and religious investigation, to which we forbear to do more than introduce the reader, leaving him to explore it with the copious aids easily accessible to him.‡

6. The gold so lavishly bestowed upon the Tabernacle, both solid and laminated as well as in threads, and perhaps likewise (as we have surmised) in the silken stitches of the embroidery, yields the remaining color, yellow, which is obviously symbolical

of the A. V. (comp. xxviii, 33). The order of the words in question therefore, while everywhere true to the symbolism, is nowhere mystical or cabalistic.

\* It is noteworthy that *adám* ("man") and *adamáh* ("ground") both mean *red*, i. e. deep flesh-color, which is also that of unburnished and yet untarnished copper.

† The Heb. explicitly identifies it with a worm.

‡ Dr. H. Clay Trumbull, editor of the *Sunday-School Times*, has collected, with great learning and research, a mass of information on the wide-spread and deep relations of blood in the religious beliefs and customs of ancient and modern nations, in his interesting and valuable work, entitled, *The Blood Covenant* (N. Y., 1885, 8vo), which is in entire harmony with the pertinence of the symbol in this connection.

of the sun, as the great source of light (white) and heat (bright red as in flame).\* Through the metal, however, as the standard of coinage, it becomes the emblem of valuation.†

\* It may be observed that fire (which is a sort of orange, or mixture of red and yellow) is not represented here, perhaps on account of the dangerous tendency to its worship in the East.

† We have seen that the three wool-colors, violet, purple and crimson, are always in the same order, and we have presumed that they were invariably thus placed on the door-screens and elsewhere, reading no doubt (after the Heb. style) from right to left. Is it too great a stretch of fancy to suppose that this too is significant? Perhaps it symbolizes, first, the all-embracing and all-covering sky, for the horizon bounds every view laterally, and the zenith every one vertically (hence we have begun and ended each screen with a half-stripe of violet); second, that royalty is the next form of supremacy, the celestial Sovereign being above all; third, that blood is the basis of unity in race and sympathy; and hence the universal Lord became incarnate for man. The background and overlay of gold intimates the price of human redemption, both as originally provided, and as eventually paid; and the ground-color, white, points to the spiritual purity which is the origin and aim of the whole scheme of the *Atonement*. We may then translate the entire hieroglyph thus: HEAVEN'S ROYAL BLOOD PURCHASES PURITY. In the Hebrew idiomatic arrangement of words the significance would be equally apt and emphatic, and the form as precisely tallying in epigrammatic conciseness, for the five substances (or rather colors) are invariably named (when mentioned together in this connection) in the same order ("gold, and-violet-[wool], and-purple-[wool], and-crimson-[wool], and-bleached-[linen]"), so as to compose symbolically the ideogram, which we will endeavor to represent in English equivalents thus, *Yiquá hash-shamáyim mim-malke-hém be-dam-ó eth-tohorath-énu*, literally, *Will-buy the-heavens from-their-King by-his-blood our-cleansing*, i. e. *Heaven will procure of its King our purification with his own blood*. The sacrifice of the God-man upon the cross is the only ransom of the human race from sin and its divinely pronounced penalty.

Expressed Hebraistically as a *rebus*, the elements will stand as in the following table. It may be observed that the three great realms of nature are all represented; the mineral (as basal) by the first substance, the animal (as most important) by the next and principal three (the sea, as being most populous, by two; and the air by one), and the vegetable by the last: the hues begin with a faint one, and end

with the mildest; while the intermediate ones are brilliant, in the order of the intensity of this strong-

Order.	1	2	3	4	5
Heb. name.	Zaháb.	Tekéleth.	Argamán.	Shaní.	Shesh.
Object.	Gold.	Cerulean Mussel.	Tyrian Conch.	Oak Fly.	Linen.
Color.	Yellow.	Violet.	Purple.	Crimson.	White.
Idea.	Price.	Heaven.	Royalty.	Blood.	Purity.

est tint (red); the earth, with its (mixed but predominant) color (green), as elsewhere noted, is studiously ignored in expression; but with its living tribes is every-where supposed in fact. The first, the middle and the last thought are abstract, the other two concrete (the second divine, the fourth human); each thus linked together: the initial purpose is redemption, the central one supremacy (of the God-man), the final one holiness. This central legend, emblazoned on every avenue to the divine Majesty, and also on the person of the pontifical mediator, silently proclaimed with celestial rays (Psa. xix, 1-4), the grand secret of the one true faith, devised in the eternal counsels of the Almighty (Col. i, 26, 27). It is the gospel of the Tabernacle, and a fit culmination of the symbolism of the entire edifice and its paraphernalia. It is the germinal idea at the core of this architectonic embodiment of the Levitical cultus, the perpetual countersign of all real members of the universal Church, and the key-note in the everlasting song of the redeemed (Rev. v, 9, 10). It is the one essential doctrine both of Judaism and of Christianity, the cardinal fact foreshadowed in the former and realized in the latter. Like the prismatic bow of the first covenant with the second progenitor of our race (Gen. ix, 13), and like the mystic ladder of Israel's dream (Gen. xxviii, 12), it bridges the void between heaven and earth. It may be reserved for modern science to desery in its variegated bands the spectrum that shall disclose something of the inner nature of that far-off world where in his glorified humanity the divine Son is fitting up the home of his saints.

As the width of the successive colored stripes is not given (they were doubtless co-equal in each piece of stuff), we have taken the liberty of varying them in



III. The remaining element of objects in and about the Tabernacle, that strikes the sense of sight as well as that of touch, is figure, and this we will consider both as relates to mathematical form and to general shape,—the one a conventional or utilitarian sort of distinction, and the other a popular and æsthetical one, yet both blended in actual occurrence.

1. Angular figures are mostly artificial, and therefore predominate in the mechanism of the Tabernacle, especially the rectangle, and this chiefly as a square; for the triangle appears but occasionally, as the bisection or diagonal of the quadrilateral. This figure is evidently the symbol of regularity, and leads us back to the idea of perfect proportion, with which we set out in this branch of our discussion. The cube or third multiple of the same dimension, however, is rarely if at all found, (except in the “tabernacle” part of the Most Holy Place), perhaps because it is monotonous. The oblique parallelogram is altogether avoided, as being unshapely.

2. More difficult of construction (without the contrivance of the lathe), and yet more abundant in nature, is the round figure, whether plane or spherical; and this is fairly frequent in the Tabernacle apparatus, although never explicitly stated. It is the type of symmetry, every point of the periphery being equidistant from the centre. To make it symbolical of the planetary bodies would be to anticipate the Copernican system.\*

this respect so as to suit the panels or spaces which they were intended to fill; and it is a very remarkable coincidence that the violet falls exactly in the plain panel for the cherubim on the interior wall curtains. It is interesting to find moreover that in our arrangement of the folds the violet loops are always attached to the corners of the violet panels, as congruity requires. Moreover every hanging begins and ends with violet—heaven being the source and aim of the Atonement. The white linen foundation speaks of the purity and strength that underlie the whole scheme of redemption.

Even the color of the superimposed embroidery is in harmony with the above symbolism, for as yellow is the emblem of the sun, this orb, the fourth element in the cosmical system, fitly wanders over the face of the others, especially of the blue sky, not only calling into being the (vegetable) forms of beauty (vines, etc.) but also personifying the (animal) powers of nature (the cherubim).

It is noteworthy that as the temples and persons of the Egyptian and Assyrian monuments are figured all over with significant inscriptions, so the drapery of the Tabernacle and its high-priest is thoroughly pictured with this central lesson of the redemptive scheme.

\* Of the three simplest figures, namely, the circle, the triangle, and the quadrangle, representing respectively the unit as an emblem of eternity, the triad as

an emblem of strength, and the parallelogram as an emblem of convenience, the first and the last appear in the symbolism of the Tabernacle as representatives of perfect form from opposite points of view suitable to their nature: namely, the one subjectively from within, as a type of self-poised independent completeness, in the pillars, the laver, and certain details of the apparatus; the other objectively from without, in the superficial arrangement of the apartments, and the shape of certain pieces of manufacture. Their respective solid forms, the sphere and the cube, are of rare occurrence; the former, which is the proper symbol of Deity, and therefore not to be graphically represented (according to the second commandment), scarcely appearing at all (for even the pomgranates and the bells are imperfect models); the latter only in the inmost shrine, the very abode of Deity, and thus the appropriate type, not only of heaven itself (into which Christ has finally entered, and whither his redeemed shall follow him), but also of the (as yet) invisible Church (whither under Christianity all the saints are even now admitted as priests each for himself). The two altars are squares, but not cubes, as if denoting a minor degree of perfection, the offerings, whether external and physical (like animal victims) or internal and spiritual (like clouds of incense) being limited (at least on earth) by the natural infirmities of the saints. The individual planks of the walls, which may symbolize the “living

3. The most unique of the forms introduced among the accessories of the Tabernacle is that of the cherubim, and, although purely symbolical, they have accordingly been the greatest puzzle to interpreters, who, being thrown upon their wits alone, have often taken the most unwarrantable liberties in divining their significance. We venture to expound them as cosmical emblems of the divine attributes, or as modern science (somewhat atheistically, we fear) styles them, "the laws of nature." They are the creative and providential functions of God, exercised in behalf of his human subjects through the agency—not of angels (who are actual persons, i. e. free moral beings), as Scripture represents to be done in the supernatural relations of the world, but of special imaginary beings, invented for this sole purpose, in the national and ecclesiastical spheres. Accordingly they are depicted as having a material form, and an animated existence; as invested with a (human) body, yet ruddy as polished copper (not feathered, except probably on the wings; nor hairy, except of course on the head, and possibly about the feet); as standing on the cloven feet and upright (pliable) legs of a ceremonially "clean" creature, to which free locomotion is secured if needed, or a firm position when at rest; as possessing arms for convenient and efficient service, and likewise wings for independent transportation, the latter double for the purpose of a garment. (The consentaneous "wheels" of Ezekiel, to denote a support to the divine throne, with their fellows of eyes [in Rev. iv, 6, 8, the eyes are many, and on the person], denoting vigilance in every direction, are a later device of the theophantic machinery.) The four faces (the countenance being the distinctive feature by which to recognise individuals) are the main index of their typical significance: the human denotes intelligence, the leonine strength, the bovine perseverance, and the aquiline rapidity;\* so that we have the complete picture of an omniscient, omnipo-

stones" of the true Temple, are accordingly rectangular merely, as being finite components of the divine abode; and the outer apartments (holy place, sanctuary as a whole, and entire court) are for the same reason emblematic of this earthly state of existence and worship, which will be dispensed with in the celestial Temple by the occupants of "houses not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Yet even the earthly fane was not absolutely perfect either for divine residence or worship, for it was surmounted by the prismatic peak, which pointed skyward to the superincumbent cloud as the place of the continual immanence of deity, rather than to the occasional Shekinah below. The outer room of course denoted a less degree of the divine presence, as to the unconsecrated or nominal worshipper, and the outer court even less, as to the lay or Gentile world; the former still under the shade of the sacred vocation, and the latter only under the broad canopy of heaven's general covenant. The triangle is of infrequent occurrence, and its solid, the pyramid, seems to have been avoided as an Egyptian type of stability, both hybrid

(for the base is not triangular) and inapposite (for the Tabernacle was neither stationary nor perpetual).

\* Even the relative position of the four faces of the cherubim appears to be significant: the human, as is befitting the lord of creation, occupying the front; the leonine, as king of the lower orders, ranking next on the right; the bovine, as chief of the domestic animals, supporting on the left; and the aquiline, as prince of the air, bringing up the rear. As symbolical of the laws of nature the fourfold aspect of the cherubim is neither arbitrary nor accidental, but points to every quarter of the earth (comp. Job xxiii, 8, 9; Zech. vi. 1-8), whither they are the vehicles of sovereign Providence, acting with the far-reaching aim of sagacity, the right hand of efficiency, the left of persistency, and the pinions of celerity; and with these essential attributes all their members correspond. Ever since the fall of man they forefend his access to the elixir of life by the sword of mortality brandished outward in the three directions of disease, accident and old age; they garrison the Church impregnable against all assaults (comp. Matt. xvi, '18).

tent, uniform and ubiquitous maintenance and superintendence of the external fortunes and affairs of the body of true worshippers, i. e. the Church in all time. \* It was for

standing on guard at the portal of the King of kings, and presiding over the depository of his statutes; they are specially subsidized in every ecclesiastical crisis (as in the book of Ezekiel), although they only appear to the inspired eye (comp. 2 Kings vi, 17), and they will not cease their ministry till the close of time (Rev. iv, 6-9, etc.).

\* It need occasion neither alarm nor surprise, if the early preconceptions of these singular forms, which have been idealized by the fancy of poets and painters and even of sober theologians into "cherubs" of infantile and charming guise, have to be brushed aside by the rigid facts of prosaic analysis and cool exegesis; but the love of truth compels us to dismiss all such vague and chimerical ideas. We shall be content if we reproduce them in a shape not positively repugnant to native delicacy. (In our picture the portrait of the lion, which is the most difficult to harmonize with the others, is copied from a photograph of a specimen, particularly mild at the moment, in the Zoological Gardens of London.) We must ever bear in mind that they were intended not to amuse but to symbolize, to delight the spiritual apprehension rather than to fascinate the eye. All sensuous imagery would have savored of idolatry; and this the sacredness of the shrine most intensely abhorred. Furthermore, modern notions have largely confounded cherubim with *angels*, although in Scripture the two are widely different in character, function, and representation. The latter are properly embodiments of personal and moral agents, real beings; the former are merely exponents of ideal and natural qualities, configurations not only nonexistent but impossible in fact. The cherubim are undraped save by wings, in order to denote their original simplicity of sentiment (*in puris naturalibus*) and their nonconformity to artificial fashions. Angels on the contrary always seem in Scripture to have appeared in the ordinary costume of men, even if with a halo. In the passage usually cited in support of the winged form of angels (Dan. ix, 21), Gabriel is explicitly called a "man," nor is there the slightest intimation of his otherwise than perfect human form. The phrase "being caused to fly swiftly," is a curious instance of alliteration, *māph biāph*, which may be rendered literally "made to fly with weariness," i. e., having suddenly arrived with the fatigue of a long journey; for the former word is frequently used in the metaphorical sense of rapid motion, irrespective of wings, and the latter word has no connection with flying. Both words are evidently taken somewhat

out of their ordinary meaning, for the sake of agreement in sound. Indeed the best modern Hebraists derive them both from the same word—and that the latter one, which is grammatically the more probable (both from its form and the idiom)—and render the clause "utterly weary." Thus all trace of winged angels disappears from Scripture; for the locomotion in Rev. viii, 13; xiv, 6, was a special adaptation, as in xii, 14; and other instances adduced (Judg. xiii, 20; Psa. civ, 4; Isa. vi, 2; Matt. xxviii, 3) are not to the point.

As to the seemingly uncouth combination of animal and human elements in the cherubic figures, our prejudices must give way before the plain descriptions of the Bible, and the delineations of contemporary religions. The monuments of Egypt and Assyria frequently represent similar custodians of palaces, temples and sacred rites as having feathered wings and a bird's beak, and in other emblematic carvings in like cases a human face surmounts the body of a bull or a lion. Sometimes a more ignoble beast, or even a fish or a serpent is pressed into service. Pagan mythology is full of such hybrid forms. The sphinx is one of the most notable riddles of antiquity. Nobody imagines that such creatures actually existed. The Scriptural cherubim are a great improvement upon even the classical models, and their very oddity renders their significance the more striking.

The substantially *human* form likewise of those occult figures the Urim and Thummim, can scarcely be doubted after an examination of the passages where they are referred to, and especially upon a comparison with the teraphim of the Hebrews and the images of the Egyptian shrines. The reader, however, will observe that the genuine ones are never mentioned in the Mosaic account as objects of worship, but only as a sort of talisman for divination. At this focal point of the sacerdotal apparatus, therefore, we again meet with a most striking premonition of the *atonement*, which links earth to heaven, and allies God with man; not now, as in the sacred colors, which are an aspect of the vicarious sacrifice for man before God, but in the theanthropic shape, which bodies forth the Deity before man, as the other great design of the assumption of flesh by the Son of God. Jesus is not only *the light* (*úr*) of the world (John i, 5, 9; viii, 12), but the sole perfect (*thâm*) human being, who reveals the divine nature and purposes (John i, 18), not alone by his person, which is the express image of the Father, but also in his life, which is the effulgence of His glory,—not simply by



this cultus that the Tabernacle itself was erected, in place of the casual, isolated and impromptu devotion of persons or families previously, with whatever rites or in whatever order each might see fit, whether borrowed from traditions or profane sources, or dictated by caprice or fashion. So essential is a meeting-house that it has at length taken the name of a "church;" and so useful is a ritual that even non-liturgical communions have adopted some conventional order of service. If they shall succeed in retaining the divine supervision symbolized in the cherubic guards, they may promise themselves permanence and success in the earth; but it is only by preserving the spiritual baptism prefigured in the fire of the Cloud, the Altar and the Shekinah, that they can hope to fit the souls of their membership for the inward communion either here or hereafter.

The varied postures of the upper set of cherubic wings, to which we have previously called attention, remain to be expounded. On the wall drapery, where the figures are entirely stationary, we have conceived the wings as being folded nearly vertically\* (as described in Ezek. i, 24, 25, "When they stood, they [not "and had"] let down their wings"); and this seems to us fitly to denote the quiescent attitude of the cherubim there as the fixed custodians of the holy apartments. On the Vail, however, where they are raised a cubit from the ground, in mid-air (so to speak), of course they would be represented as flying; their wings being extended horizontally, so as to touch those of the adjoining cherub (as described again in Ezek. i, 9, 11 [render "parted from as to upward," instead of "stretched upward," i. e. separated at the top outwardly from the body], 23, 24]), like active sentinels, barring the passage-way.† Finally over the Ark, on the lid of which they stand,‡ and yet are raised as

his precepts, which are the norm of infallible truth, but likewise by his example, which is the complete pattern for all saints. If we are correct in supposing that the object in the pectoral pocket of the high-priest was in fact single, although in name, for the sake of superlative emphasis, both double and plural, then this sole and peerless God-man, who once disclosed his innate splendor to the privileged three on the mount of transfiguration, and occasionally gave glimpses of his beatified glory, as to the protomartyr and to the pre-eminent apostle, is the real and apt antitype of this divining symbol as well as of the Shekinah between the cherubim; and the same who will be finally gazed upon, as the cynosure of the true fane, and the unsetting sun of the new heavens, by all the devout there forever recognised as "kings and priests unto God."

\* Probably over the other pair, so that, as on the Egyptian monuments, they appear as if having but two.

† Not now armed, as in Gen. iii. 24, but allowing the high-priest to enter, yet not without his raising the Vail, and thus for the moment displacing them.

‡ The Ark was closed by a lid, not as a sign of

secrecy (for the Law was proclaimed with the most portentous publicity), but in token of inviolate safety and perpetuity; and the cordon of cherubs was significant of the same guaranty. The Shekinah glow occasionally vouchsafed upon it, as a mark of the divine acceptance of the "blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel" (Heb. xii, 24, the one calling for vengeance against the fratricide, the other for pardon; see Luke xxiii, 34), when offered by the devout high-priest as a representative of his people, was a message of "mercy glorying over justice" (as we may properly render James ii, 13; comp. Psa. lxxxv, 10) symbolized by the Decalogue lying below it; and this justification, which takes place in the arcana of heaven, is testified to the worshipper without by the spirit of adoption (Rom. viii, 15, 16; Gal. iv, 6), which the ascended Advocate has sent into the hearts of believers (John xvi, 7) as a notice of his own triumphant reception within the Vail (Acts ii, 33; Heb. x, 12).

The material on which the Decalogue was inscribed was an emblem of its formal rigidity (see 2 Cor. iii, 3, 7), the number of its tables indicated the trustworthiness of its testimony (see Deut. xvii, 6), their

high from the ground as on the Vail, they are in the act of alighting; and therefore lift their wings somewhat higher, face one another, and bend their arms embracingly towards the Mercy-seat (Exod. xxv, 20), as if it were their nest.\* Their interest gradu-

engraving on both sides was expressive of its full significance (comp. Rev. v, 1), and its square form denoted its perfection (comp. Rev. xxi, 16). The divine autograph was a seal of its direct authority, which even the Son has never abrogated (see Matt. v, 17, 18).

The disappearance of the autograph tables of the Decalogue after the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians was the signal for a more earnest study of the Law by the Jews, which ensured its transferral to their minds so as never to be again forgotten, in letter at least (Jer. xxxi, 33).

\* This central object of the whole economy of the Tabernacle affords a most signal example of the casual and inaccurate style current in the interpretation of the symbolism of the entire subject from the earliest times to the present day. The lid of the Ark has been made an emblem of divine reconciliation without the slightest foundation for the conceit. The prominence and universality of this error deserve a detailed refutation.

(1.) *Philologically* considered the Heb. word *kappóreth* is a fem. participial noun from *kaphár*, which means to *cover*, and therefore signifies merely a *covering* or "lid" to the box. It is used of this article only, because none of the other pieces of furniture or utensils had a movable cover. The Septuagint version translated it by the Greek term *hilastérion*, which means *propitiatory*; the Latin Vulgate imitated the rendering by *propitiatorium*, and the later versions have heedlessly adopted the same idea, as in the Authorized English "mercy-seat," which the Revised Version has retained. Hence a world of mistaken sentiment and false poetry has been freely constructed throughout Christendom by allusions to this supposed symbol, based upon a sheer blunder of translation. It is true, the verb, especially in the *Piel* or intensive conjugation, from which this word is immediately derived, often has the figurative sense of *covering up* or pardoning sin; but this very rarely occurs without expressing mention of guilt and a preposition to connect the object with the verb, and thus point out the figurative relation. The Most Holy Place is once (1 Chron. xxviii, 11) styled "the house of the *kappóreth*," but this was never a distinctive or prominent title of the building or the apartment; though in David's time it may naturally have been used for the home about to be prepared for the long houseless Ark itself, of which the *kappóreth* was so conspicuous a part. There is no sufficient linguistic

reason for departing from the obvious literal meaning of the word here, as denoting a cover to the chest.

(2.) *Exegetically* regarded, nothing could be more inappropriate than the notion of any peculiar or atoning quality or reference in the lid of the Ark or anything connected with it. True, it was the seat of the divine Shekinah, when present; but this was occasional only, accessible to the high-priest solely, but once a year at that, and deterrent when it did occur (see 1 Kings viii, 11). The cherubim that stood upon it were in like manner forbidding rather than inviting; for, as at the gate of Paradise, they were designed to warn off all intruders; and with a like intent the Ark itself was closed from all inspection by the cover in question. Privacy and severity were the regnant principles in the entire arrangement of this article most especially. There is not the slightest hint that clemency or pardon was signified, but, on the contrary, the most rigid seclusion and inexorable justice. The high-priest himself was not allowed to approach it in his robes of office, but as a culprit doomed to degradation and death. Inaccessibility and sternness were its chief or only lessons. Such passages as Exod. xxv, 22, which speak of communication from that spot, have reference to Moses exclusively.

(3.) *Authoritatively* expounded, we are not at liberty to appeal to the apostle's allusion in the Epistle to the Hebrews (ix, 5, where the popular term *hilastérion* is of course employed, but without any special stress or interpretation); for the context shows that the main purpose of the reference is to bring out a contrast in this respect between the Jewish "mercy-seat" and the Christian, rather than to make the former symbolical of the latter. Thus, whether we consider the rent vail as the separation between this world and the other as regards the glorified Redeemer in heaven, or his justified believers on earth, it is emphatically true that Christians only are privileged to enter the sacred presence with assurance of welcome (Heb. x, 19-22). The true and only *propitiatorium* is the person of Jesus Christ (Rom. iii, 25; comp. Heb. ii, 17; 1 John ii, 2; iv, 10); and this cannot with any propriety be symbolized by the Ark, for although the sprinkling with blood occurred in connection with both, yet in the case of Jesus it was his own blood poured forth upon his own body, while the Ark had no blood of its own, and the victim's

ally deepens and intensifies in the sacred deposit intrusted to their care amid the darkness, the silence and the loneliness of the Holy of Holies, and at length they hover over it with the affection of foster-parents. Throned within this triple line of mystical guards, the blazing symbol of the King of kings occasionally deigned to manifest itself to the favored but representative worshipper, in all that mortal eyes could bear of the divine glory (Exod. xxxiii, 18-23; xxxiv, 5-8), while overhead perpetually hung the milder token of Jehovah's presence before the public gaze, in the nimbus \* alternately white and glowing.

4. In the sacred Ark, although designated by a different term from that of Noah, † we may still recognise the common idea of preservation; in the present case

did not actually come in contact with it all (as we have shown on p. 77, note). The arguments adduced in favor of the popular view by the writer of the *Bible Commentary* (i, 368, Am. ed.) are insufficient to countervail these objections. The only sense in which the idea of a *propitiatory* could be entertained, consistently with sound Christian typology, would be the local one of a favored spot where Jehovah deigned to show himself in token of special approbation of the worship rendered him; but for this thought the term "throne" would have been more appropriate, a meaning which cannot be extracted from *kappóreth*, although it is implied in the word *yoshéb*, sometimes used by the sacred writers in poetical passages alluding to the sanctuary (lit. "the [One] sitting between the cherubim," etc.). Among eminent modern Jewish and Christian scholars, some are still in favor of the rendering "mercy-seat" (so Kalisch, Lange, Keil, Michaelis, Tholuck, and a few others); but the great majority of the best linguists and interpreters favor the simpler version "lid" (so De Wette, Gesenius, Fürst, Schott, Zunz, Knobel, Herxheimer, Leeser, Benisch, Sharpe, Delitzsch, Kuinöl, Winer, and many others); some are undecided (Rosenmüller, Ewald, Hengstenberg, etc.).

\* Heb. *anán*, the dense thunder-cloud, loaded with the refreshing shower, yet charged with the electric flashes. Sir Walter Scott, in the song which he puts into the mouth of the captive Jewess Rebecca at her evening devotions, while awaiting death by fire as a sorceress for her benevolent cures (*Ivanhoe*, chap. xxxix), has so beautifully expressed some of the symbolical features of the pillar of cloud and fire, that we transcribe it here, taking the liberty of making a few verbal changes (especially to avoid anachronisms and the speaking of "Israel" in the feminine):

When Israel, of the Lord beloved,  
Out of the land of bondage came,  
Their fathers' God before them moved,  
An awful guide, in smoke and flame.

By day, along th' astonished lands  
The cloudy pillar glided slow;  
By night, Arabia's crimsoned sands  
Returned the fiery column's glow.

Then rose the choral hymn of praise,  
And trump and timbrel answered keen;  
While Miriam's music poured its lays,  
With maid's and warrior's voice between.  
No portents now our foes amaze,  
Forsaken Israel wanders lone;  
Our fathers left Jehovah's ways,  
And He has left us to our own.

But present still, though now unseen,  
When brightly shines the prosperous day,  
Be thoughts of Him a cloudy screen  
To temper the deceitful ray.  
And oh, when droops on Israel's path  
In shade and storm the frequent night,  
Thou God long-suffering, slow to wrath,  
Be still a guiding, cheering light!

Our harps we left by Babel's streams,  
The tyrant's jest, the Gentile's scorn;  
No censor round our altar beams,  
And mute our timbrel, trump, and horn.  
Yet God has said, "The blood of goats,  
The flesh of rams I will not prize;  
A contrite heart, with humble thoughts,  
Is my accepted sacrifice."

The allusion to a screen against prosperity, however, seems to us, although delicate, yet rather equivocal. The smoke by day and the flame by night rendered the cloud conspicuous at all hours, and at the same time formidable to foes and friendly to allies as a sign of the lambent fire within, a token of power and warmth no less than of light. During the nocturnal passage of the Red Sea (Exod. xiv, 20), the pillar showed a bright side toward the Israelites, but a dark one toward the Egyptians; aiding and comforting the former, but impeding and threatening the latter. (See Psa. lxxviii, 8; lxxvii, 17; 1 Cor. x, 2.)

† Heb. *tebáh*, a foreign word, prob. signifying a *chest*, and used only of this vessel and of the basket



as a depository of the divinely-given tables of the moral law,\* in the other as a temporary receptacle for such of the animal tribes of the vicinity as could not otherwise be readily reproduced. The significant manner in which an apostle alludes to the flood (2 Pet. ii, 5; iii, 6) seems to have led the framers of the baptismal service in the English Prayer-Book to regard Noah's Ark as typical (for it is there associated with the passage of the Red Sea, as if likewise "prefiguring Holy Baptism"). Be that as it may, Noah's ark, as being the very first inhabited structure known to have been planned by the Almighty Architect, it might be presumed, however different its design, to offer some points of analogy to the Tabernacle at least, and possibly to the Ark under consideration. It is therefore worth our while to make a brief comparison.

(1.) The dimensions of the Noachian edifice (for such it was before being launched by the Deluge) are given likewise in cubits; namely, 300 long, 50 wide and 30 high (about the proportions of a large merchantman or steamer of the present day), which (with the exception of the length, which in a sea-vessel must always be relatively greater than that of a house—for the latter would not stand securely if so narrow) are not greatly out of ratio with those of the Tabernacle walls ( $30 \times 10 \times 10$ ), nor with those of the Tabernacle Ark ( $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ). The ark of Noah had three stories, the Tabernacle one and a half, and its Ark properly but one; showing a gradual reduction in this regard. As we are not informed what partitions, if any, were made in the successive floors of Noah's ark, we can not compare it in this respect with the Tabernacle or its Ark; but we may presume that there was a corresponding decrease in their number. Internal decorations of course are out of the question in the case of both the other arks. The contents, however, were in a certain sense germinal in all three; the first contained the vital seeds of a new population for the globe, the second the hero-nucleus of a fresh nation, and the third the essential principles of all morality.

(2.) It is in the architectural style of the three structures that we would naturally expect to find the greatest degree of conformity, as emanating from the same Mind; and here we are not disappointed. All three were essentially a rectangular box (neglecting the tent-roof of the Tabernacle, which was properly no part of the wooden *mishkán* or "dwelling"). Plain, indeed, was this form for a ship, and not very artistic perhaps for a house or even for a chest; yet it was admirably adapted in fact to all of these uses, the first to be floated, the second to be "pitched," and the third to be simply set down. The roof, which we have just laid out of the account, presents nevertheless some very curious points of resemblance; for although flat of course in the case of the Mercy-seat, it must have been more or less sloping in the Noachian ark, as in the Tabernacle, to carry off the rain. At the eaves especially we find recurring an arrangement remarkably similar, and yet characteristically different, for the purpose of shedding the drip; the bottom cubit of the roof-material all around, which

in which Moses was inclosed (Exod. ii, 3, 5), both intended to float on the water. It is not a little singular that on the Egyptian monuments (as we have seen) the shrine and a boat are so often associated together.

\* That this was the simple purpose of the Ark is evident from Deut. x, 1, 2; indeed from ver. 3 it seems that the Ark was prepared in advance. This was the peerless jewel of the entire casket and treasure-house.

in the Tabernacle was turned down over the top of the walls, was here carried out as a cornice or projection, and left an opening of that width in the top of the side walls, for light and ventilation, (Gen. vi, 16).<sup>\*</sup> In this opening was set the lattice,† which Noah first opened to let the raven and the dove out and in (Gen. viii, 6), and through which, as it was situated at the ceiling of the upper story,‡ he could see the towering tops of the surrounding mountains (ver. 5). It was only after the return of the dove with a fresh olive-leaf in her mouth, which assured him that the ground was sufficiently dry to warrant him in doing so (ver. 11), without danger of swamping his vessel in some valley, that he ventured to take off part of the side boarding itself,§ and then for the first time actually *saw* that the ground was thoroughly dry (ver. 13). This explanation so fairly clears up this difficult passage, and at the same time so corroborates our view of the Tabernacle, that we trust the reader will pardon what otherwise might seem to be unnecessary digression. (See Fig. 37.)

(3.) The ark of bulrushes (i. e. papyrus reeds), in which the infant Moses was placed by his mother (designated as we have seen above by the same word as the ark of Noah), is significant likewise of preservation, and has many other features of similarity. It was a wicker box of about the same proportions as the average noticed above, being shaped like a sarcophagus or mummy-case, coated too with bitumen inside and out (corresponding to the plating on the boards of the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant), draped with the babe's clothing, and requiring for his breathing an opening around the top of the floating cradle of the future law-giver similar to that of the Noachian ark, effected doubtless by the omission of some of the longitudinal courses of wattles. (See Fig. 38.)

5. In the tables of the Decalogue deposited within the sacred Ark we at once recognise the symbols of moral law, not now for the first time promulgated—for the sins against God and the crimes against man there prohibited have always been outlawed by the universal conscience; but yet it was needful that these fundamental principles of ethics should be formally re-established and authoritatively published to the newly formed commonwealth of Israel. We perceive therefore that, while the ten commandments are specifically Jewish enactments, they are also cosmopolitan and perpetual statutes—"common law" as we now say; yet in the theological sense no

\* "A window [Heb. *tsóhar*, a "light," used only of this object, and in the dual of *noon*; a different word is employed in viii, 6] shalt thou make to the ark, and in [rather "to," lit. "toward"] a cubit shalt thou finish it [the ark, not the window, as the gender shows] above [rather "from the top downward," lit. "from as to upward," the identical expression applied to the same space in the Tabernacle (Exod. xxvi, 14)]." This space, where the boarding-up of the sides was omitted, was protected from the rain by the over-jutting eaves.

† Heb. *chalón* (lit. a perforation, A. V. "window"), constantly used of latticed openings in the side of Oriental buildings.

‡ We conceive that the middle story of the ark, being dark and chilly, was occupied with provender for the animals, while the hold would make an excellent cistern for fresh water (filled by the 40 days' rain) necessary not only for use during the whole year's confinement, but also for ballast.

§ Heb. *mikséh*, "covering," the very word exclusively applied elsewhere to the outside blanket of fur on the Tabernacle walls. Perhaps the exact part here referred to was the door in the side of the ark (of course in the bottom story), which was fastened on the outside (vi, 16; vii, 16), as was necessary in order to resist the pressure of water, which during the Flood would be very great.

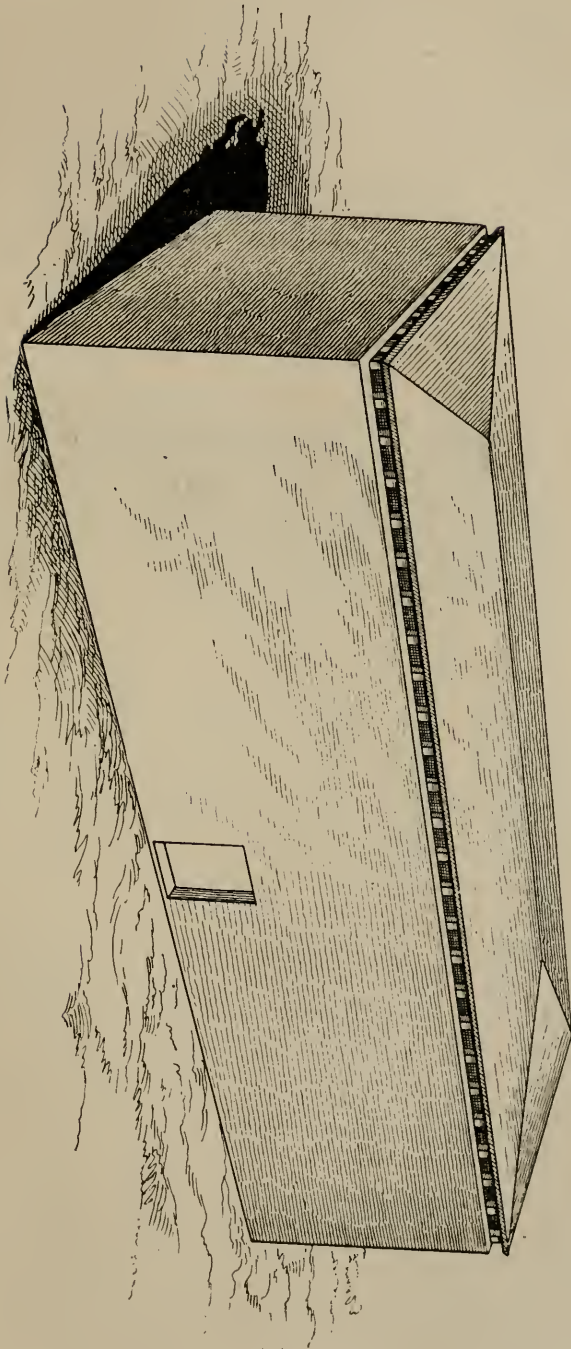


Fig. 37.—Restoration of Noah's Ark.



more a ground of salvation for fallen man—who has already broken, and unaided can never keep them—than the ceremonial code of the Pentateuch is. They emphasize indeed certain principles of legislation, notably monotheism and the Sabbath, because these had been—and alas still are—sadly neglected; but in the main they simply reiterate the cardinal rules of civilized society. They are all negative in substance—as was the first command in Eden, and as criminal behests usually are; and yet they attach no specific penalty, implying the extreme one of ecclesiastical excision and physical death. They are personal in application (“thou shalt”), and unmistakable in import. Finally, as our Lord expounded them (Matt. v, 21, 22, 28), and as the enlightened Jew easily discovered (Rom. vii, 7–13), the meaning goes far deeper than the letter, and reaches to the spirit and intention of the soul (Heb. iv, 12).

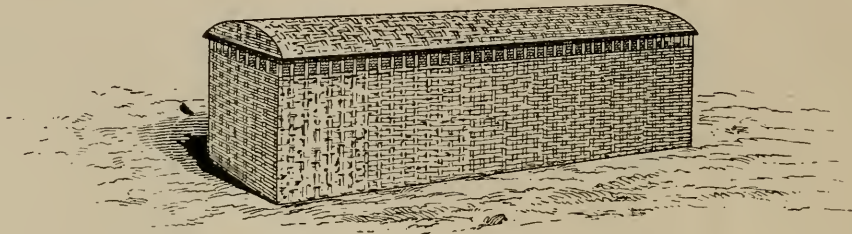


FIG. 38.—Probable Form of the Ark of Bulrushes.

The typical character of the stone tablets is finely brought out even by Old-Testament writers (Prov. iii, 3; vii, 3; Jer. xvii, 1; xxxi, 33), but still more clearly by those of the New Testament (2 Cor. iii, 3, 7; Heb. viii, 10; x, 16), as contrasting with the tender receptivity of the heart; and the breaking of those prepared by Jehovah himself, as ominous of a covenant never fully renewed, is intimated in Moses's own premonitions of the frequent and final apostasy of his people (Deut. ix, 7–24; xxxi, 16–27).

6. The remaining features of the structure of the Tabernacle and its paraphernalia, such as the variety in the colors and arrangement of the drapery, the swellings in the stem and arms of the Candelabrum, the jewels and additions to the pontifical robes, etc., although in a degree useful, were chiefly ornamental; and in that light they symbolize the element of beauty as one of the important constituents in this lesson-picture of Jehovah to his infant people. The æsthetic is never neglected by the divine Architect, nor was it sacrificed to utility in the somewhat severe style\* of the

\* It is proper to observe that while the Tabernacle, both as a whole and in its details, can hardly be called elegant, as compared with the Temple and other gorgeous specimens of architecture, yet it was far from rude or out of taste. Indeed not only eminent skill, but also great magnificence was displayed in its design and decorations, and the materials were often of the most costly character. The rich stuffs,

precious metals and valuable gems lavished upon it were part of the “spoil” demanded by the Israelites as a just return from the Egyptians for long years of hard servitude (Exod. xii, 35, 36). The means of keeping up the sacred services, such as flour, oil, etc., argue some communication with their settled neighbors during the long sojourn in the Desert. Egypt is to this day the source of merchandise for the Arabs





FIG. 39.—The *Acacia Seyal* (tree, branch, flower, and pod). (From a photograph of a very fine specimen in Wady Feiran, near Mount Sinai.) To face p. 91.



Tabernacle, any more than it is in nature, where birds and flowers and graceful forms mingle in delightful harmony with the athletic forces and the rugged aspects of earnest existence. True science and chaste art are the legitimate twin offspring of genuine piety.

IV. Having thus nearly exhausted the external aspects of the Tabernacle equipments, we may properly inquire whether the various materials used in its constitution and operation may not likewise have some symbolical meaning. They are, as we have seen, drawn from all three kingdoms of nature, the mineral, the vegetable and the animal. We will take them up as nearly as may be in the order of their occurrence.

1. The largest in quantity of these materials, and that most used in dwellings, especially those intended for transportation like this, because furnishing the greatest strength for the least weight, is wood, which in this instance was taken from the acacia-tree, not merely because this was the most—almost the only one—accessible in sufficient quantities, nor yet simply because it was firm and durable, but—as we apprehend—also because by reason of its terrific “touch-me-not” thorns that tree was a fit emblem of the unapproachable majesty of Jehovah, and of all that pertained to him.\* This was the symbolism likewise in the case of the burning bush that Moses

there. The mines of the Sinaitic peninsula were a noted penal station of the ancient Egyptians, and regular trains of supplies were kept up for the military guards and convicts sent thither. These men were readily accessible to the Israelites, without danger of interference from the home government, now thoroughly reconciled to their emigration. Moses himself had the benefit of a forty years' experience as a refugee in this very region. The beaten caravan route from Damascus (Gen. xxxvii, 25) ran along the Philistine shore (Exod. xiii, 17). The cross-line of pilgrimage to Mecca is comparatively modern, and does not touch Mt. Sinai, which, however, appears to have been an ancient shrine of religious resort (Exod. iii, 1), as the inscribed rocks of its neighborhood seem to show. Its native population must always have been sparse and nomadic.

\* The tree is well described by Tristram (*Natural History of the Bible*, p. 391-2): “There can be no question as to the identity of the *shittáh* with the acacia, the only timber tree of any size in the Arabian desert. The species of acacia there found is the *acacia seyal*, a gnarled and thorny tree, somewhat like a solitary hawthorn in its habit and manner of growth, but much larger. It flourishes in the driest situations, and is scattered more or less numerously over the whole of the Sinaitic peninsula. The timber is very hard and close grained, of a fine orange brown color, with a darker heart, and admirably adapted for fine cabinet work. Its leaves are small and pinnate, and in spring it is covered with its round tufts of yellow blossom, which grow in clusters round the branches,

like little balls of fibre, and have gained for it its poetical epithet of the ‘yellow-haired acacia.’ It belongs to the natural order *leguminosa*, and its seed is a pod like that of the laburnum.

“But it is best known for its commercial value as yielding the gum arabic of trade and medicine, which is exported in great quantities from the Red Sea. The gum exudes from the tree spontaneously, as I have often observed in hot weather, but is also obtained more systematically by making incisions in the bark; and the Arabs not only collect it for sale, but for food in times of scarcity. They also say that it allays thirst. The bark, which is a powerful astringent, is used by the Bedawin for tanning yellow leather, and the camels are fed on its thorny foliage.

“The burning bush of Moses (Exod. iii, 2), called *seneh* in Hebrew, was no doubt an acacia, the Egyptian name of which is the equivalent, *sunt*, while the Arabic is *seyal*. The species is the *acacia nilotica*, found also in the desert, and rather smaller than the true *seyal*.

“There are several other species of acacia found in Palestine, but all similar in habit and appearance; as the *acacia farnesiana* on the coast, the *a. serissa* in some of the wadies, and *a. tortilis* in some of the southern wadies. These must not be confounded with the tree commonly called acacia in England, which is an American plant of a different genus, with white papilionaceous blossoms—the *robinia pseudo-acacia*.” The Heb. name for the tree is *shittáh* (fem. sing.), while for the wood it is *shittim* (masc. plur., i. e. the sticks). (See Fig. 39.)

saw in the same vicinity, which he was forbidden to approach (Exod. iii, 5). May not the *manna*—that article of food so strange to the Hebrews that they had no name for it (Exod. xvi, 15),\* but which we know was a type of Christ as the Bread of Life (John vi, 31-35), may not this dew-like substance have been a preternatural exudation from this very tree?—as the strikingly similar and highly nutritive “gum arabic” of commerce is the natural one from at least one species of the same genus (with which they must have been well acquainted in Egypt).

The wood was employed in the Tabernacle chiefly for overlaying with metal, and was thus in a double sense a symbol of support, as it held up—whether naked or so covered—the textile portions of the tent-like structure. So the Israelites themselves—and all their fellow-creatures, but more especially saints—are upheld naturally as well as spiritually—by that tree of life, invisible since Eden, which emblemized the alimentive and curative power of God (Rev. xxi, 2).

2. First mentioned among the metallic substances of the Tabernacle was copper, employed most copiously, not, as we apprehend again, merely on account of its comparative cheapness, but rather for its deep color, and especially because it is capable (by some art now lost) of being hardened like steel,† and therefore the symbol of durability.

3. Next in order of dignity among metals, but used with much liberty in the Tabernacle, was silver, the obvious symbol of clearness, by its white lustre. Its employment for the trumpets is appropriate for the excellent tone thus produced, symbolical of the Gospel message (Ezek. xxxiii, 3; 1 Cor. xiv, 8; Rev. viii, 6; xiv, 6).

4. The most costly metal, gold, was profusely employed about the Tabernacle, but wholly for inside work; and is a universal standard, and therefore a symbol of value.

5. Returning to the vegetable kingdom for the accessories of the Tabernacle structure and outfit, we find linen, or the product of the flax-plant, most prominent for the hangings and clothing. It is a symbol of cleanliness, which, as the old prov-

\* Heb. *man hu*, *What (is) it?* A. V. incorrectly, “It is manna.” Mich. Liebentantz, in his little monograph on this subject (*De Manna Israelitarum*, Wittenberg, 1667, 4to) nearly exhausted the sources of information (chiefly of a philological character) accessible in his day. The copy in our possession has MS. notes on the margin, apparently by the author himself. The true manna of the Desert is probably to be substantially identified, not with the medicinal substance current under that name among druggists, which is a saccharine cathartic exuding from certain species of the ash-tree, but with the *gum arabic* of commerce, tons of which the writer saw piled in sacks on the banks of the Nile at Aswân awaiting shipment down the river. There are several other Oriental trees which yield sweetish products often called manna, especially the *turfa* or

tamarisk, distillations from which are collected in small quantities at Sinai, but form a syrup, not at all answering the Biblical description, which moreover includes some miraculous features, especially the double quantity and the keeping quality on Friday, while none fell on the Sabbath.

† Homer speaks (*Odyssey*, ix, 39; but some understand *iron*) of tempering copper for tools, and the Egyptians are thought (by Wilkinson. *Anc. Egyptians*, ii, 158) to have cut even the flinty Syenitic granite with it. They had extensive copper mines in the desert of Sinai, the refuse and pits of which are abundantly evident to this day at Surabet el-Khadim. They do not appear to have been acquainted with iron, and this metal accordingly does not find a place among the materials of the Tabernacle; nor would it have been suitable, from its liability to rust.

erb has it, is "next to godliness," and was a point of great concern in the sacred paraphernalia.

6. Next in importance for similar use was wool of sheep, a ceremonially clean animal, evidently a symbol of warmth.

7. For canvas alone was the goats'-hair (another "clean" animal) employed, which here seems to be a symbol of compactness, as the roof-covering required that quality in an eminent degree.

8. The unshorn rams'-skins, tinted for beauty, are a symbol of protection from weather.

9. The fur blankets were a symbol of softness. If of goats or antelopes, they likewise were from a "clean" animal. No further substance from the animal kingdom appears, except perhaps silk as an alternate for gold, and the red or crimson, likewise from a worm; finally the two purples, from sea-shells.

10. The rope, probably also of flaxen thread, used as stay-cord, may be taken to represent strength, as linen twine is the least liable to break of any.

11. Finally in this list of substances we set down, what are perhaps the most expensive of all for their size, the gems or precious stones, which, as they were to receive the engraving, may be regarded as a symbol of hardness.

V. Supplementary to the foregoing list, among elements employed in worship, we find water, as the symbol of regeneration; (perpetual) fire, as representing (quenchless) zeal; oil, as emblematic of richness; wine, of cheerfulness; salt, of wholesomeness; flesh, of substance; fat, of choice (as being the best part); blood, of life; meal, of vigor; and spice, of acceptability. Most of these are so frequent in the metaphors of the Bible that we need not dwell upon them in detail.

VI. A more noteworthy feature of the arrangement of the various parts of the Tabernacle, and one which we might have considered under the head of its relative proportions, but which we preferred to scrutinize a little more closely by itself, is the gradation of comparative or official sanctity evinced in the successive apartments and pieces of furniture.

In a general way it is obvious that the entire mansion and precincts are set forth as the residence of Jehovah in the style of an Oriental king, and that this was his special home among his chosen people. The successive door-screens kept out all intruders, and the furniture was such as suited his royal state and convenience. In the court-yard were performed the culinary offices of the establishment, the food was cooked (as it were) on the Brazen Altar, and the washing was done at the Laver. The Holy Place represented the reception-room, where official business was transacted; and here the night-long lamp denoted the ceaseless vigilance and activity of the Heavenly King. The Table of Show-bread was his board, furnished with the three principal articles of Oriental subsistence, bread, oil and wine; and the Altar of Incense was the place appointed for the reception of homage and petitions from his subjects. The interior apartment was his secret chamber for his own private counsels and retirement.

1. After leaving the outside world of purely secular interests, we have first the



large court accessible to all priests and Levites, but (except for individual privilege) to none others.\* This inclosure therefore symbolizes a sacred ministry in more than the usual sense of God's people. Within this again we find the Laver, which is emblematic of true piety (such as can only flow from a renewed heart, Tit. iii, 5), and is placed there as an indispensable prerequisite to any acceptable divine service, especially of the priestly representatives of the people (Heb. x, 22). The Great Altar is a figure of the personal consecration which they are to make of their whole selves to holy duties.

2. In the next remove from secular life, the Holy Place, to which no Levite was ordinarily admitted, we see the exclusive tokens of a functional priesthood, which was necessary in the cumbrous and technical routine of sacrificial offerings, and was accordingly regarded as the only feasible medium of approach to the divine Majesty. Under the Gospel this whole system of human intervention is abolished, with the ritualistic system upon which it was founded, and every believer, whether old or young, male or female, becomes a king and a priest (for himself or herself only, however) before God (1 Pet. ii, 5, 9; Rev. i, 6, etc.) The Candelabrum represents the intelligence with which such service must be undertaken, the Table of Show-bread (lit. "of the [divine] presence") the conscientiousness with which they must be discharged, and the Altar of Incense the prayerfulness with which they must be accompanied. Nor let it be supposed that these spiritual requirements were not understood by devout worshippers, whether clerical or laical, among the Hebrews (Luke i, 10).

3. Withdrawing now to the inmost chamber, the Most Holy Place, which was the immediate abode of Jehovah, and debarred to all but the incumbent of the high-priesthood, we find naught therein save the Ark and its Mercy-seat, to body forth the invisible deity; the one by the writings deposited therein, as an explicit record of moral principles; and the other by the figures standing upon it, as a conventional type of natural laws. The high-priest himself is the representative of his entire order, and through it of the laity; but since the one great Day of Atonement has passed, in which Jesus as the Christian's sole high-priest has entered into the actual and immediate presence of the celestial Glory, there is no need or room for any other mediator between the soul and God (Heb. ix, 11, 12, 24). The Vail is a type of his flesh (Heb. x, 20), rent at the crucifixion (Matt. xxvii, 51), so that all saints may now enter the Holiest boldly (Heb. x, 19), clad in the regalia of Christ's own righteousness (Rev. xix, 8).

VII. We conclude this branch of our subject, and with it our whole theme, by remarking that the crowning glory of the Tabernacle and its service lay—and was universally understood as lying, in the gradual scheme of divine revelation couched under the three modes of divine manifestation, which we have been considering. Let us dwell a little longer upon them in detail.

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\* The phrase, "door of the tent" [not "tabernacle"], so often used of the rendezvous of the people [i. e. of their representative heads] (Lev. viii, 3, 4, etc.; but not when spoken of the priests), was merely outside the front screen of the court door-way, for it is the same word (*péthach*, lit. an *opening*) that is likewise applied to that of the building itself, but never to the inmost Vail.

1. The Shekinah\* was intended merely to mark the divine abode and presence in some physical and visible manner, and conveyed no intimation of the divine purposes beyond what that simple fact implied. It manifested itself in two phases, each characteristic, and having two seemingly opposite traits: a brilliancy (significant of disclosure) and a smoke (indicative of concealment); in other words, the revelation was yet but partial.

(1.) In the "pillar of a cloud by day and of fire by night," this contrast was by alternation; the exhibit, however, was constant in one phase or the other. The object here was simply guidance in the journey, and therefore it was an index of the locality where Jehovah preferred his tent to be pitched, and when he wished it to be removed to some other spot. Hence it began with the first march, and ceased when the Tabernacle reached its last resting-place. At the passage of the Red Sea, it changed its position from the head of the marching column to the rear, in order to interpose a barrier between the Israelites and their pursuers (Exod. xiv, 19, 20, 24); during the giving of the Law, it stood upon the summit of Mt. Sinai (Exod. xix, 9, 16-20; xx, 18-21; xxiv, 15-18), whence it descended to the tent temporarily occupied as an office by Moses (Exod. xxxiii, 9, 10), returning to the summit of the mountain during the second interview there (Exod. xxxiv, 5); and on the completion of the Tabernacle proper it took up its permanent station above the building, removing only during the march (Exod. xl, 34-38). It is therefore the emblem of divine revelation in its lowest or general aspect of social direction in the secular or semi-ethical crises of human affairs. The ordinary hazy hue may be compared to the quiet approval of heaven upon national or personal conduct when right; and the flashes of lightning, which at times frightened beholders, may be the vindictive warnings of Providence against wrong-doing. (See also pp. 10, 86.)

(2.) The occasional glow over the Mercy-seat was a token of a special condescension of Jehovah, less public, but still in view of some national or ecclesiastical act of devotion; and is an emblem of the grace that prompts and rewards such an expression of religious quickening. Forlorn indeed is that state or church or individual of whose conscious centre it need be inquired, "Where [is the divine] glory?" (1 Sam. iv, 21.)

2. A more specific form of divine communication by the Almighty respecting the secrets of his administration is found in the mysterious Urim and Thummim, which, however manipulated, were resorted to only on special emergencies, chiefly public, but yet having a private bearing. They seem to correspond to the monitions of conscience in the natural heart, and to those of the Holy Spirit upon the renewed one—the two related like the eye and light to each other; as they involved quite distinctly the subjectivity of the recipient (high-priest), who acted as a medium.

\* Late Heb. or Chald. *Shekináh*, lit. a *residence*, the term invented (not Biblical) to describe what in the Bible is called only "the glory of Jehovah." It is spoken of as habitually "appearing" in public view on memorable occasions of divine intervention, especially in connection with the Tabernacle and other scenes in the Desert, and also at the dedication of Solomon's Temple. It is distinct from the special theophanies vouchsafed to the patriarchs and prophets of Old and New Testament times, as the latter were *personal*, and the other popular; these exhibited a bodily form, more or less distinctly human, while that was merely a light. In the Transfiguration of our Saviour the two aspects were blended and fulfilled.

3. Finally we have in the Decalogue, treasured in the archives of the sacred Ark, the clearest and fullest code of ethics ever divulged to humanity at large, and one which all later legislation or revelation, and all modern ingenuity or science, have not materially improved nor successfully impeached. Many illustrative applications and enforcements have been added, but the moral law as expressed in those ten commandments stands unrivalled and unrepealed in every dispensation and among all save barbarous people. Few are the evils of heart or life which their strict observance according to their true intent and spirit would not prevent or relieve.

Our difficult and somewhat venturesome task is now accomplished in as brief space as any one could reasonably demand. We think we have made out our case without any special pleading, and have therefore a right to subscribe, Q. E. D.\*

\*To borrow an illustration from a science generally regarded as furnishing the most commanding and irrefragable kind of proof, we may say that, as the coincidence of two arcs, figures or planes, in three points, especially if angular, is an absolute mark of equality or identity throughout, so the correspondence in our scheme of the Tabernacle with its Scriptural description in the three essential elements of metric outline, utilitarian adaptation, and dignified significance, is a conclusive attestation that the value of the hitherto unknown quantities has been truly ascertained. In order to eliminate any suspicion that even such an equation is accidental, we may further point to the fact that each of these three confirmations is itself triplicate or even compoundly so: the numerical statements or implications as to the ground-plan, the elevations, and the roof or wall coverings respectively, however separately and independently given or deduced, precisely tally in dimension; the mechanical adjustment of the various parts, whether expressed—sometimes in full, sometimes laconically, sometimes merely hinted,—or understood, is at once systematic, simple and efficient; the ideal import of the whole,—from the Levitical court (with its roasting flesh), through the priestly fane (with its aromatic fumes), into the pontifical shrine (with its celestial glow),—by the physical elements (drawn from all the realms of nature), the corporeal organisms (animal victim, human agent, or cherubic phantasm), and the conventional tokens (perpetual fire in the outer court, continual light in the Holy Place, and constant shade in the Most Holy),—in the liturgical apparatus (whether sacrificial fixtures, or costly implements, or gorgeous paraphernalia),—is admirably progressive, eminently instructive, and sublimely

decorous. Nor is a single feature inconsistent, unnecessary or trivial in the entire category of details. A theory that so fully and fairly unites all the facts and principles must be sound; and in the nature of the case there can be no more convincing argument. The sacred record is the only testimony, its careful interpretation the best jurist, and common sense the highest tribunal. The ultimate verdict we are content to abide. In conclusion of this already extended note, which may seem to some of our readers to savor of overweening confidence, if not of consummate egotism, it is proper to add that we are well aware of the degree of assurance with which many of our predecessors on this subject have put forth their schemes of adjustment; but we are sure that a number of them at least must have had secret misgivings of their sufficiency, although few have had the candor to avow (as Brown frankly does, p. 43;—he proceeds, it should be borne in mind, on the flat-roof theory) their sense of inability to meet the requirements of the case. We have the hardihood to assert, and we are conscious of no vanity in doing so, that our only apprehension in the matter is lest our readers may enviously pass our explanations and reasons by, as ingenious and possibly plausible speculations, and may thus remain unconvinced for lack of real and thorough examination. We have no fear of their final assent (except of course that of the personally prejudiced, and especially of those already publicly committed to a different opinion), if they will only take the pains to verify our positions by a careful comparison with the Scriptural statements and the mechanical and artistic demands of the case. To this the theme, if not the book, is fairly entitled.



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N.B.—The initials of authors referred to are given within parenthesis marks immediately after their principal name. Foreign words in the captions are set in *italics*. The letter *n* attached to the number of a page indicates a *foot-note*, and *c* denotes a *wood-cut*.

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