

than those that wrote it. We must, however, prefer Moses to Colenso, who would tell us that *Suchah*—a roof or covering, is the generic term of which tent and booth are species, comp. 1 Kings xx. : 13-16; Job xxxvi. : 29.

*Secondly*,—I have already shown that there were no such numbers of the Israelites, and so they would not need so many tents.

*Thirdly*,—Colenso is again mistaken when he says they had no tents in Egypt. The statements about door-posts and lintels apply quite as well to tents, as to houses of brick or stone. The chief employment of the Israelites was that of shepherds, whose designation was, "*such as dwell in tents*,"—Gen. iv. 20; Cant. i. : 8; 1 Chron. iv. 41, v. 9-10.

Nor is it true that they could only have hair or skins to cover their tents. If they could make scarlet, and fine-twined linen, they could make light coverings for tents—and we have no reason to say they did not.

We shall have occasion to notice in another place the assumption that the Israelites had no warning, or time to prepare, before they left Egypt. We notice, in passing, that centuries before, they had warning of their leaving,—Gen. xv. : 14, xlv. : 4; Exodus iii. : 16.

*Fourthly*,—there is no evidence that every one, or even a large fraction of all Israel dwelt in tents. The text referred to, reads thus :—

"This is the thing which the Lord hath commanded : Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents." Amongst a people migrating there are always those who are tender, and those who are strong. The former, such as women and children, and the old, require tents, the others can do without them. Hence, the direction here given is three-fold. First, every man is to gather what is needed, "according to his eating." Second, how much on an average, "an omer for every man." Third, those in charge of tents are to provide "for them which are in his tents." This last part of the command beautifully teaches that the tender—the feeble—the dependent—should be duly cared for "in the tents."

As to the carrying of the tents, I suppose the Egyptians would be glad to give them wagons, or anything else, to take them out as they did to bring them in. When they gave them their jewels, they would willingly give them anything to get rid of them, for said they: "We be all dead men." There were other animals to