

herbs, to the passover cup. But this is Jerusalem where the people meet, Jerusalem after the long exile, the city with ruined wall, but dear old Jerusalem. No other place like this for the precious passover feast. I seem to see them gathered here and there in many homes. The lamb has been slain, the doorposts sprinkled, the feast begun. And now, hark! It is the joyous Hallel they are singing. Rich and strong and full and triumphant are the notes of sacred psalms rising as on wings before God.

Their fathers' God is with them.

The purposes of Assyria's king he has guided even as the water's flow is directed in the spring. The temple has been rebuilt. Jerusalem gets new honor. Sing higher, stronger, sweeter, richer, every voice! Oery alone, in the night, under the solemn stars, that Jehovah's mercy endureth forever!

### Orientalisms of the Lesson.

BY REV. J. T. GRACEY, D.D.

The one hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and twelve he-goats is a sacrifice that is still numerically equalled and even exceeded in the East. At the annual gathering at Mecca the number of animals slaughtered varies from one hundred and eighty thousand to four hundred thousand. The accumulated refuse of this vast slaughterhouse breeds pestilence, and Mecca becomes one of the few great centers from which cholera spreads over the world. In this Feast of Sacrifices it is enjoined by the Koran that every household must slaughter a sheep at sunrise; the sultan gives away to others to be slaughtered as his share three hundred thousand sheep. Dr. Van Lennep says there still occurs yearly on Mount Gerizim a sacrifice resembling that of the paschal lamb. The Arabs sacrifice a sheep on the top of Horeb and cast its body over the rocks, which Stanley says is suggestive of the Jewish scapegoat sacrifice, "the sin offering" of the twelve he-goats alluded to in our lesson (Ezra 6. 17).

### By Way of Illustration.

BY JENNIE M. BINGHAM.

Verses 14, 15. God's plans were carried out through human instrumentality. He is the Master builder, we are the workmen. Bishop Phillips Brooks says: "You cannot set the world right, or the times, but you can do something for the truth, and all you can do will certainly tell if the work you do is for the Master, who gives you your share, and so the burden of responsibility is lifted off. This assurance makes peace, satisfaction, and repose possible, even in the partial work done upon earth. Go to the man who is carving a stone for a building; ask him where

is that stone going in the temple, and how he is going to get it into its place, and what does he do? He points you to the builder's plans. This is only one stone of many. So, when men shall ask where and how is your little achievement going into God's great plan, point them to the Master, who keeps the plans, and then go on doing your little service as faithfully as if the whole temple were yours to build."

Verses 16, 19, 20. A dedicated house and a dedicated people were the foundation for service. "Ye are the temple of the Holy Ghost," and now personal consecration is the door to Christian work. A short time before Mr. Wendell Phillips died, a friend asked him, "Mr. Phillips, did you ever consecrate yourself to God?" "Yes," he answered; "when I was a boy fourteen years old, in the old church at the North End, I heard Lyman Beecher preach on the theme, 'You belong to God;' and I went home after that service, threw myself on the floor in my room, and prayed, 'O God, I belong to thee; take what is thine own. I ask this, that whenever a thing is wrong, it may have no power of temptation over me; whenever a thing is right, it may take no courage to do it.' From that day to this it has been so." Eight years later this boy, just graduated from Harvard College and Law School, turned away from the proud traditions of his family and the allurements of fame and wealth, and for nearly fifty years was a leading advocate for the African slave. There was a close connection between Wendell Phillips's hour of consecration and his after life of service.

Verses 17. O, that man would accept the testimony of Christ touching the blessedness of giving! He who sacrifices most, loves most; and he who loves most is most blessed.

There is a sign of the millennium down in Maine, where, about a year ago, a church disciplined five members because they would give nothing.—*Dr. Josiah Strong.*

Verses 22. "Kept the feast with joy; for the Lord had made them joyful." "Lightning and sunlight represent well the nature of worldly and spiritual joy. Carnal joy, like lightning, is short-lived, transient, and scorching. Spiritual joy, like sunlight, is lasting, healthful, and healing." Joy is the characteristic of the Christian life. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice." In a message where there are two commands, both are for joy.

Golden Text. In the Dark Ages the Nitrian monasteries of Egypt were luminous centers of learning, and priceless manuscripts were accumulated therein. But for four or five centuries these ancient structures were more like sepulchers