

number of ill-disposed people, in all times and places, to carry reports against their neighbours, and especially against those who are, for any reason, objects of envy and jealousy, and it was not long before the King was informed that those Jews had refused to obey him. He was very much enraged, and sent for the men, whose names were, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and questioned them, whether they had disobeyed him, and if they refused to serve his gods, and worship the golden image which he had set up; and that they might be better disposed to obedience, he repeated to them what his heralds had already proclaimed, that all who refused to do as he had commanded, should be thrown into the fiery furnace; and then asked them scornfully, "Who was the God who was able to deliver them out of his hands?" Look, Elizabeth, for the third chapter of Daniel, and in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth verses, you will find the answer of the Jews to the King.

*Elizabeth.*—"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the King: Oh, Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

"If it be so, our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, oh King.

"But if not, be it known unto thee, oh King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

*Mrs. Arnold.*—"Nebuchadnezzar was so much enraged by this answer, that he ordered the furnace to be heated seven times more than it had been usually heated, and he caused those poor men, whom he believed to be in his power, to be bound as they were, with all their clothing upon them, and cast into the fiery furnace; and