

dest sailors had not perceived even a threatening in the sky, and were surprised at the extent and hurry of the preparations; but the required measures were not completed, when a more awful hurricane burst upon them the more experienced had ever proved.

*The Diamonds of the Ephod.*—Dama was a jeweller at Ascalon, and distinguished by many virtues. One day the elders came to him to purchase precious stones to ornament

part of the costume of the high priests which the Bible designates under the name of the Ephod. They explained the object of their visit, and offered him a reasonable price for the diamonds they desired Dama replied that he could not let them see any stones at that moment, and requested them to call again. Desirous of terminating their choice without delay, and fancying that the reply of the Jeweller was only a pretext to increase the value of his merchandize, the elders insisted on closing the business immediately.

As some fine stones were absolutely necessary, and as Dama possessed those of the requisite quality, they doubled and trebled his offer, which they had first offered; but as Dama persisted in his refusal, and resisted their solicitations, they went away in great bad humour. Some hours afterwards he was placed before them the requisite diamonds for which they tendered the price they had first offered; but he said, "I'll only accept the price which you first proposed to me this morning; for that is all the stones are worth."

"Why, then, did you not close with us forthwith?" asked they in astonishment.

"When you came my father had the key of the chest wherein the diamonds were inclosed; and as the old man was then asleep, I should have been obliged to awake him, to satisfy your demand. At his age, a short hour of sleep does him a great deal of good; and for all the gold in the world I would not be wanting in respect to my father, or deprive him of a moment's enjoyment." The elders, affected by these feeling words, spread their hands on the head of Dama, and said, "Thou shalt be blessed by Him who has said, 'Hear ye, O ye father and thy mother,' and thy children shall one day pay thee the same respect and love thou hast displayed to the Author of thy being."