

not known, and various explanations of the terms used have been given, but certainty is unattainable. It is added, "And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song. He instructed about the song because he was skilful," v. 22.

On the former occasion we do not read of sacrifices, but now it is said, "when they that bare the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, David sacrificed oxen and fatlings." "It came to pass when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, that they offered seven bullocks and seven lambs." The favour of the Lord being thus secured, the procession marched forward, the people accompanying it with shouting and the usual demonstrations of joy. "All Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets and with cymbals, making a noise with psaltery and harps." The scene was exactly similar to what may be seen at the present day in the East on festive occasions, both civil and religious. Thus a missionary in Egypt describes one of the festivals of the Coptic church:—

"Sabbath, 24th. This was the great day of the Feast. We had service in English in one of the Dahabriyahs,* but it was impossible to get any Arabs together. All Suzar seemed crazy. The crowd in front and around the house was immense, and the discharge of fire-arms with the din of music and the shouting of the multitude, deafening. We went down to Mr. R.'s boat, to secure a little sabbath quiet. Had it not been sabbath the ceremonies of that day would have been an interesting study. The main feature in the procession was a boat drawn upon a rude sledge, and in it sat Mustapha's little daughter, decked out most gorgeously in flaming silks and jewelry and tinsel. The sight of it, together with the multitude shouting and singing and dancing and beating their musical instruments, recalled similar scenes, which are so frequent in the scriptures, as well as the removals of the ark of God, first to the house of Obbededom, and then to the house of David, when David and all Israel played

before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps and with psalteries, and with timbrels and with cymbals and with trumpets, and when King David danced and played before the ark."*

When the ark was brought up to the house which David had prepared for it at Jerusalem, the new arrangements for the service of the sanctuary commenced, and the service of song occupies a prominent place. "He appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord, and to record and to praise the Lord God of Israel, Asaph the chief," and eight others, "Jeiel with psalteries and with harps, but Asaph made a sound with cymbals, Benaiah and Jehazial the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. Then on that day David delivered first this Psalm to thank the Lord unto the hands of Asaph and his brother." (1 Chron. xvi. 4—7.) There are no words in the original for "this psalm," and some would read the words as merely meaning that he committed to them the duty of thanking the Lord. Others would supply "*a psalm*," as if this were the first introduction of David's inspiration, given to be used in the service of praise. But as a Psalm immediately follows, there seems an allusion to it. The same parties were appointed for the same duties in the daily sanctuary. "They left there before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, Asaph and his brethren to minister before the ark continually as every day's work required, * * * and with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest that were chosen, who were expressed by name, to give thanks to the Lord, because his mercy endureth forever, and with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God." (1 Chron. xvi. 37, 41, 42.)

David being disappointed in his desire to build an house to the Lord, was permitted by God to arrange the services of the sanctuary on a new scale, and to classify the priests and Levites for that end. At present we have to do only with the Psalmody. A full account of his arrangements in re-

* Nile boat.

* Lamsing's Egypt's Princes.