

one pool to the other, indulging in pleasant reminiscences of his boyhood—almost sees his father's face as he stoops over the stone parapet and looks down into the water,—a gleam of sunshine darting across the Pool makes the water sparkle as it touches the ripples which the light wind makes on its surface ; it recalls Nathan to the present, tells him the afternoon is waning, and he will need all the time now left him if he would fulfil the purpose for which he came to Jerusalem.

In a second he is mounted, and in an hour his fleet footed Arab mare has brought him again to the house of Hiram's friend. It is the hour for entering the Synagogue ; and Nathan, clothed in sackcloth, puts off his shoes as he enters the door of the holy place, to keep the fast of the ninth of Ab ; there to lie prostrate before the Lord, and with head bowed in the dust, listen to the solemn words of penitence and prayer from the elders of Israel. An old man with hair as white as snow, pleads : " O Lord thou hast seen my wrong ; plead thou my cause. The crown is fallen from our head ; (woe unto us, that we have sinned ! Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.)"

Another beseeches the Lord, saying ; " Our fathers have sinned and are not, and we have borne their iniquities. For this our heart is faint ; for these things our eyes are dim."

Yet another prays with tears and strong cries. " Wherefore dost thou forget us forever, and forsake us so long time ? Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned ; renew our days as of old." A moment's