

latter translation the scale of Solomon's sacrifices astonished her. The first is, however, generally preferred. Solomon's "ascent" was a private viaduct across the Tyropaeon valley from Mt. Zion. **6.** And she said to the king, it was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom—This frank confession shews that the queen was a generous minded woman, without a spark of jealous envy in her breast. **7.** Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it; and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard—Usually things are represented to us, both by common fame and by our own imagination, much greater than we find them when we come to examine them; but here the truth exceeded both fame and fancy. **8.** Happy are thy men—Lit. "O the happinesses of thy men" (as in Psalm 1: 1; 2: 12 &c.) The plural suggests the number and variety of the advantages enjoyed by Solomon's servants. Happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom—It is clear that the queen of Sheba valued wisdom

above riches and rubies. **9.** Blessed be the Lord thy God—It is not likely that the queen became a convert to the true God, she does not say "my God," she makes no offering to the temple; and it was quite consistent with a heathen belief to acknowledge Jehovah as the God of Solomon and the source of all his prosperity, without feeling under any obligation to worship him too, far less to accept him as the only living and true God (ch. 5: 7; Ezra. 1: 3). Which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel—She praises God for raising up such a king. Because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice—She congratulates Israel on having a ruler like Solomon. The compliment to her royal entertainer is a very graceful one. **10.** And she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold—Over three million dollars, some say six. Compare Hiram's gift (ch. 9: 14). And of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon—With an exchange of costly presents this famous visit comes to an end.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. What commercial relations did Solomon have with the countries on the Red Sea? (1 Kings 9: 26-28; 10: 15). Why was Solomon thus exalted? (Ps. 91: 14; 1 Sam. 2: 30). What similar honor is in store for Christians? (John 12: 26). What lesson did Christ draw from this visit? (Matt. 12: 42). How earnestly should we search for wisdom? (Prov. 2: 4, 5).

2. What example does the Queen of Sheba here set to Christians? (Mal. 3: 16; Eph. 5: 19; 1 Thess. 5: 11). What kind of questions are profitless? (2 Tim. 2: 23). When shall desire for knowledge be fully satisfied? (1 Cor. 13: 12).

3. With what subjects is the christian's wisdom concerned? (1 Cor. 2: 6, 7). How does he acquire it? (1 Cor. 2: 10). What is necessary to receiving it? (1 Cor. 2: 14, 15; Prov. 28: 8; John 7: 17; 1 John 2: 27).

4, 5. Where did Solomon get gold? (1 Kings 10: 11). What display of it did he make? (ch. 10: 16, 17). What became of these shields? (ch. 14: 26). Mention some other articles imported by Solomon. Of whose glory is that of Solomon a type? (Isa. 60: 3, 6, 9, 17). When will this be fulfilled? (Rev. 11: 15).

6, 7. In what respect will the christian's surprise be as great as that of the Queen of Sheba? (1 Cor. 2: 9). Is man's incredulity in regard to spiritual blessings as excusable as that of the Queen of Sheba? (John 3: 11; 1 John 1: 1; Rom. 10: 9; Heb. 3: 19).

8. Against what kind of speech are we warned? (Eph. 4: 25). What important consequence depends on our speech? (Matt. 12: 37). What seasoning should be applied to our speech? (Col. 4: 6). How should our wisdom shew itself? (Jas. 3: 13).

9. From whom do rulers derive their authority? (Prov. 8: 15; Dan. 2: 21; Rom. 13: 1). What obligations does this lay upon us? (Rom. 3: 1-7; Eccl. 8: 2).

10. What present should we bring to Jesus? (Prov. 23: 26). What does he give in return? (2 Tim. 4: 8; 1 Pet. 5: 4; Rev. 2: 10).