

S. M.—What say you, Sir Knight Master of the Palace ?

M. OF P.—Your Majesty, in my opinion the strength of the King is the greatest.

S. M.—Has our friend Prince Zerubbabel an opinion on this question ?

M. OF I. [*for Zerubbabel.*].—Your Majesty, I have ; and with due deference to the opinions of the Sir Knights, the Chancellor and Master of the Palace, it is my opinion that the strength of woman is greater than that of either wine or the King ; but above all things, truth beareth the victory.

S. M.—Truth beareth the victory ! Prince Zerubbabel, you have made an important addition to my question, which deserves due consideration. On the morrow when the Council shall be convened, you will be prepared with suitable arguments in support of your several assertions. For the present, I bid you good night.

*The Sovereign Master retires.*

*The procession is re-formed and returns to the Council Chamber (Throne-room), and all are seated as before going to the banquet.*

S. M.—We will now recur to the question proposed at the banquet last evening. Sir Knight Chancellor, we will now hear your argument in support of your opinion that wine is the strongest.

C.—“ O ye Princes and rulers, how exceedingly strong is wine ! it causeth all men to err that drink it ; it maketh the mind of the king and the beggar, of the bondman and the freeman, of the poor man and of the rich, to be as one ; it turneth also every thought into jollity and mirth, so that a man remembereth neither