

offering sooner."

"Was ever anything so unfortunate," cries a woman in the crowd; it was always in my mind to bring this yarn, but I thought that there was no need to be in such a haste as some of my neighbors were; and now I shall be the only woman in our six tents, whose offering has been rejected." "Daughter," says the old man with the shittim wood, tapping her on the shoulder, "remember hereafter, whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with all thy might. For my own part, I only wish that I had offered, all at once, all that I had to offer." "Nay, father Uzzah," says one of the elders to him, "thou art too covetous of the pleasure of offering. How canst thou blame thyself? Thou hast brought several presents of that wood and they are found to be of very great use in the work." "Oh," cries the old man, "is He not the God of all my mercies? He has redeemed me from all evil; He has led me, and fed me, these fourscore years; what can I render unto Him for all His benefits unto me? I wish that I had been here yesterday." "Father," says his elder son "only remember how you were employed yesterday. To convert a sinner from the error of his ways is as acceptable a service, as to assist in raising the Holy Place. The Lord knoweth, for He searcheth all hearts, and He it was who taught us,—He knoweth that it is in our hearts to offer ourselves, and all that we have, to Him."

On their way home, Uzzah addresses his sons thus:—
 "Remember, my sons, that whom God calls to any duty, He calls to it *now*. To *delay* is to *refuse*. I saw in the crowd to-day a friend of mine, who is a very worthy man in other respects, but he is strangely unwilling to begin to do anything. I am almost glad that he lost the opportunity now, as I hope that the grief, which I am sure he will feel, will help to correct his tardiness."

The Lord is strengthening the cords of Sion. The