

challenge what offends, as being not in keeping with the calling of the saints, For many a thing gets its sanction or its excuse from the heart of a saint that cannot stand before the judgment of faith.

Reuben, Gad and Manasseh have to explain themselves, and to give fresh pledges to Moses that they by no means separate themselves from the fellowship and interests of their brethren ; and they do this with zeal, and with integrity too. In this they were not with Lot. Lot's conduct separated him, for the rest of the journey, from Abraham. But not so these Tribes. With zeal they assert their purpose to be still with their brethren. Nay, they would by no means have taken the Eastern Gilead, had this produced a forfeiture of their identity with those who were to be in the Western Canaan. They are to give pledges too, that they will be foremost in the action which still remains on the behalf of their brethren's inheritance. By no means do they contemplate anything like the loss of fellowship with them ; in this they are above Lot. But still they have stopped short of Canaan. They are not in the full power of the Canaan-calling—not, in the thoughts of the man of God, a dead and risen people ; for they are pausing (ere the promised inheritance be reached), for the sake of their cattle, in the wilderness.

Moses, however, does not let them go, as Abraham let Lot go. They are not to be treated in