

CHAPTER XIII

CHRIST AT THE FEAST OF TABERNALES

THE time, the place, and all the attendant circumstances conspired to give meaning and power to these extraordinary words. For seven days the Feast of Tabernacles had been celebrated. On the seventh night scarcely any one in or about Jerusalem thought of sleeping. Throughout the whole of that night the Temple was a blaze of illumination. The court was crowded with men who danced with lighted torches in their hands. An orchestra of Levites on the broad stone steps of the Temple accompanied the dancers with various musical instruments. A dense multitude of people in front of the Temple, waving branches of palm and myrtle, joined in the chorus, which rolled over the city and was taken up in the booths on the surrounding hillsides. It was an all-night celebration which must have left the people in the morning thirsty