

state of quasi subjection of the tribe of Judah to the kings of Syria continued for about 120 years, and then, about 600 B.C., the Babylonian conqueror, Nebuchadnezzar, completely subjected the Jews, destroyed Jerusalem, and its splendid Temple, carried off its treasures, and drove the Jews into captivity, where he forced them to work upon his sterile and unproductive lands in the eastern part of his domains. A banished people in a state of slavery they remained for 70 years, until Cyrus, King of Persia, allowed them to return to their former home.

Where, when, and how then, I ask, was Masonry patronized by the Princes of the House of David?

Upon their return to Jerusalem, the Jews commenced to re-build the Temple, under the leadership of Zerubbabab, while Ezra and Nehemiah re-established the Mosaic laws and worship; this, however, caused differences among the people, and a dissenting sect, the Samaritans, was formed, internal strife again set in as before, and materially delayed the progress of the temple building. The actual architects and builders of the temple, however, were not Jews, none of them had learned any trade during their 70 years of captivity, nor had they during preceding centuries of uninterrupted wars pursued any trade. Zerubbabab, therefore, procured architects, builders and mechanics in general, from the Phœnicians, as Solomon had done before him. The principal men among the Jews acted as overseers of the work; they paid the masons and carpenters, and other workers, in money, meal, drink and oil; and, besides doing that, they blew trumpets, played cymbals,

sang together, and offered burnt offerings to the Lord; their common people performed the work of common laborers.

The Ancient Temple was completed in the ninth year of the reign of Darius, king of Persia.

The religious strifes among the Jews themselves prevented them from ever becoming a united people, and they were frequently and easily subdued by other nations. In fact, history has no parallel where a whole nation is so completely subjected, led off into captivity men, women and children, kept there over a generation without even an attempt to shake off the chains of slavery, and gain that inestimable boon—liberty—which is even inherent in brute creation, except the Israelites and Jews. In 333, B. C., Alexander the Great conquered Palestine; in 320, B.C., it became a Province of Egypt; and 200, B. C., it was incorporated with the empire of Syria. The only instance we have of an appearance of an independent spirit is when the Jews freed themselves from the Syrians, and were thereafter governed by their own Princes, the Maccabees, since 168, B.C., but, as before, internal feuds set in, making it an easy task for the Romans to subdue them. Since 60, B. C., the Jews were forced to pay tribute to the Romans. The second Temple was beautified by Herod the Great, between 48, B.C., and A.D. 2, and under Titus Vespasianus, A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, and with it the second Temple; since that time the Jews became dispersed over all countries.

Taking the history of architecture, we find among the different styles that