

ple ten; its width in both instances being the width of the house. The windows were broad within, but narrow without. All round there was an additional construction of three stories, which leant upon the outer wall of the house. Thus was the Temple, like the heart, concealed.

Solomon was assisted by Hiram, King of Tyre, in building a Temple to the living God. He knew that the skill of the Tyrians was not given them for nothing. Not Jews only, but Gentiles must have their hand in building the Temple of God. They, together with us, contribute their share in building up the Church of God. How justly, therefore, does our Order enrol among its ranks all those who are willing to make use of their skill and gifts to the service of the God of Heaven.

Solomon raises a tribute for the work, not of money, but of men. Thirty thousand Israelites are levied for the service; yet not continually, but with intermission; it is enough if they keep their courses one month in Lebanon, and two at home; so as ever ten thousand work, while twenty thousand breathe. From this we learn that God is so favorable to his creatures, that He requires us not to be over-toiled in the works of His own service. Due respirations are requisite in the holiest acts.

We read that the main stress of the work lies upon proselytes, whose both number and pains were herein more than the natives'; they are employed in bearing burdens, in hewing stones and doing other inferior work. There is no man so mean but may be in some way useful to the Church of God. Those that cannot work in gold and silver and silk, yet may cut and hew; and those that can do neither, yet may carry burdens. Even the services that are more homely, are not less necessary. Who can dishearten himself, after this, in the conscience of his own insufficiency, when he sees God can as well serve Himself of his humble labour, as of his brilliant talents or skill?

The Temple is framed in Lebanon, and set upon Sion. Neither axe nor hammer were heard in that holy structure. There was nothing but noise in Lebanon, nothing Zion but silence and place. Whatever tumults are abroad, it is fit there should be all quietness and sweet concord within the Church. Alas, that the axes of schism and division, or the hammers of furious contentions, should be heard within God's Church! His Church is not built with blows; with blows it is beaten down. May the hearts of all the members be knit together in the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace, that they may mind and speak the same things! May our Order give a luminous example of this peace and harmony, and work with all its might to bring about unity in the Church of God on earth.

Now is the foundation laid, and the walls rising, of that glorious fabric, which all nations admired, and all times have celebrated. Even those stones which were laid in the base of the building were not ragged and rude, but hewn and costly: the part that lies covered with earth from the eyes of all beholders, is no less precious than those that are more conspicuous. God is not all for the eye; He is pleased with the *hidden* value of the living stones of his spiritual Temple. How many noble graves of His servants have been buried by obscurity; not discerned so much as by their own eyes; which yet as He gave, so He crowneth!

Solomon's Temple was remarkable for the costliness of the materials and the beauty of the proportions: here was nothing but white marble without, nothing but cedar and gold within. Upon the hill of Zion stands that glittering and snowy pile, which both invites and dazzles the eyes of passengers afar off; so much more precious within as cedar is better than stone, gold than cedar.

He divided the interior of the Temple into two portions by means of a partition wall of cedar, twenty cubits long, within which was the Holy of Holies. The Holy place before the door was forty cubits long. The whole was wainscotted with cedar, and adorned with carved buds and flowers, palms and cherubim. The Oracle, covered with six hundred talents of Gold, was for the ark of the Covenant—the heart, calmly bright with the Gold of faith, that has to keep within it the Covenant with God. In front of the Oracle, over-laid with Gold, was the cedar wood altar of incense. Against the back wall of the Oracle were placed two cherubim of olive wood, with expanded wings, reaching to each other, and to the corners of the apartment, overlaid also with gold. Before the Oracle there was a curtain with cherubim woven in it. In front of the house he erected two brazen pillars—Jachin and Boaz—eighteen cubits high, with rose-shaped summits of five cubits, surrounded with pomegranates and foliage, in the form of a chain.

But what do we bend our eyes upon, stone and wood and metals. God would never have taken pleasure in these dead materials for their own sakes, if they had not had a further purpose. Methinks, I see four Temples in this one. It is but one in matter, as the God that dwells in it is but One; three yet more in resemblance, according to the division of those in whom it pleases God to inhabit; for wherever God dwells, there is His Temple.