

Persia, new hopes are inspired of protection and support in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding the House of the LORD, an undertaking in which we have been so long and so often impeded by our adversaries on the other side of the river; for Darius while yet a man in private life made a vow to GOD, that should he ever ascend the throne of Persia, he would send all the Holy Vessels remaining at Babylon back to Jerusalem.

Our excellent and faithful Companion ZERUBBABEL, who was formerly honored with the favorable notice and friendship of the King, now offers his services to undertake the hazardous enterprise of traversing the Persian Dominions, and seeking an audience with his Majesty. He will embrace the first favorable opportunity to remind him of his vow, and impress upon his mind the almighty force and importance of TRUTH; and from his well known piety and integrity, no doubt can be entertained of obtaining his consent that our enemies be removed far hence, and we be no longer impeded in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding our City and Temple.

H. P.—ZERUBBABEL, the Council with great joy accepts your noble and generous offer, and will invest you with the necessary passports by which you will be enabled to make yourself known to the friends of our cause wherever you may meet them. But in an undertaking of so much importance, it is necessary that you enter into an engagement with us to be faithful to the trust reposed in you. Previous to your doing so, however, I will invest you with this sword with which to defend yourself against your enemies. (*After presenting sword continues.*) Sheathe your sword and kneel at the altar upon your