

afraid that you are going to speak unadvisedly. The fervid devotions, and exalted strains of praise, expressed by your wife and her three daughters, after the passage of the Red Sea, were like the inspiration of the Almighty." "Well, as to that, I say nothing. But this business of the offerings has been, from first to last, a trouble to me. You know, that in Egypt I dealt in brass, and in all the camp, I may be bold to say, there is not a better judge of brass than I am, and this piece of brass which I was carrying, I affirm to be more precious than gold. As soon then, as the business of the offerings came abroad, my wife and our daughters gave me no rest, till I should promise to present it as an offering for the sanctuary. I gave them some evasive answer, and carried another piece of brass to the elders. But, fool that I was, I could not keep my own secret. I told them that the one would answer for the work as well as the other, and that I was still rich in my brass. My wife presently trembled, and fainted away. When she came to herself, she looked upon me, and upbraided me; wept bitterly and said that she was most miserable. I urged her to explain her meaning—she was silent. I besought her—she was still silent. I conjured her in the name of the Lord. She then said, 'Oh Nabal my beloved Nabal, Oh that this brass of thine had gone down with the Egyptians to the depths of the sea; I have an awful foreboding that it shall prove thy ruin, unless it is now offered to the Lord. I am afraid thy soul shall soon be required of thee, for thou hast lied to the Lord God of Israel.' I saw that she was greatly affected, and I promised to contribute this brass also. She and her daughters spent the whole night in prayer, and, from what I overheard, I am persuaded that their affection for me is very strong. In the morning I set out with the offering. I heard by the way, that they would accept no farther contribution. However, as I greatly