

applied; *e. g.*, the steam propelling wheels of industry, urging ship through adverse winds toward its goal; gas touched by fire springs from insensibility and noxious influence into illumination. So a life, though frail, yet wisely stored and applied, supplies energy for usefulness, communicates light and happiness, and bears on towards the heavenly harbor.

III. Vapor furnishes a curtain on which the sun paints panoramas of glory. So Christ can picture in our lives the landscapes of the heavenly life for the delight and encouragement of others. J. S. K.

A Dedication Service.

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.—2 Chron. vii: 1.

THE temple was a system of spiritual symbols, which the New Testament has interpreted for us: *e. g.*, the corner-stone is Christ; the stones of the foundation, the men of inspiration; the stones of the walls, believing souls; the great altar, the cross; the golden altar, with its incense, the prayers of the church; the ark, God's covenant in Christ; the cherubim, life present and eternal. So the light and fire, the "glory of the Lord" that came down symbols.

I. Something *supernatural*. Solomon with all his wisdom, and Hiram's artisans with all their skill, could not have invented that. The king was as impotent before it as the lowest slave from his provinces was before him. So there is an "unprogrammed" part of the service which is being conducted by the powers of another world. Strange forces have made the edifice their dwelling.

II. That glory was not merely a supernatural phenomenon, something sent from God; it symbolized *God Himself*. *Shekinah* means dwelling. When our version reads, "I will dwell among Israel," the Hebrew says: I will *shekinah* among them. God is here.

III. The divine presence came in response to a man's consecration prayer; its great Amen.

IV. The *shekinah* remained in the Temple. Though the outer glow of it was withdrawn a gleam of it lingered within the Holy of Holies, illumining that windowless apartment, dropping its softened light upon the ark of the covenant, with its tables of the law, its golden mercy-seat, and the cherubim of life. So God will remain with us; and the sign of His presence will be that a light falls upon the Bible, our ark of covenant, making its laws of righteousness gleam into our consciences, its assurance of grace fill us with peace, and its promise of life glow in our hopes until we enter that temple where "the Lamb is the light thereof." L.

Communion Service.

An Anxious Question.

Lord, is it I?—Matt. xxvi: 22.

I. CHRIST is certain to be betrayed by some of His professed friends.

II. None are so strong, so loyal, so loving as to be utterly removed from the peril—Peter.

III. Solicitude: (a) natural leads to watching unto prayer; (b) morbid leads to gloom and weakness; (c) intelligent leads to study the causes that lead to betrayal; (d) practical prompts to remaining close to Christ; Judas left the company of the disciples and the Master for that of his foes. J. S. K.