

indignation against whatsoever would wrong or injure it. The emotion is here represented as operating so strongly within him that it impairs his strength ; it consumes as it were his bodily substance ; and it urges him on to act in such a way, in vindication of the cause which is so dear to him, that the assaults which have their real bearing against the object in which he is so interested, are directed against him. Still further, the object of this special interest is said to be God's house, and it is on account of the zeal which he manifests in behalf of this object that he is exposed to the obloquy of which he complains ; the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up ; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee have fallen upon me.

As to the precise import of the expression "house of God" we are familiar with its application to the place where the people of God are accustomed to meet for his public worship ; and the generations under the Levitical Dispensation were no less familiar with its application, first to the tabernacle, and subsequently to the temple, to which they were accustomed to resort as the place where God shone forth from between the cherubim ; and where, in connexion with the typical sacrifices which were there presented, his people poured out their hearts before him as their covenant God and Father. In this application, however, we need to remember that God dwelleth not in temples made with men's hands. He himself says, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool : where is the house that ye build unto me ? and where is the place of my rest ? and he points out the true import of the words, when he adds, "but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." The heart of his people, whether viewed individually or collectively, is the true house of God. It is of his church whom he hath loved with an everlasting love, and whom he hath redeemed not with corruptible things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, that he says, "This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it." The erection of this building is not yet completed. Some of its living stones have been prepared, and have been removed from this earth to the heavenly Jerusalem, others are in the course of being hewn and fitted for their intended place; and all in due time will occupy their appropriate position, when