

so hedged in with restrictions, or where better Masonic discipline is obtained ; hence, it is not to be supposed that it would be open to the disgraceful imputation cast upon it by this wandering "Druid."

THE TEMPLES.

A PAPER READ BY R. W. BRO. B. E. CHARLTON, AT THE LAST REGULAR MEETING OF
BARTON LODGE NO. 6, HAMILTON.

The subject of the following paper is the temple, or rather temples, of Jerusalem, and in considering the rise, the marvelous splendor, and the fall of each, we must necessarily obtain glimpses of the Jewish nation.

Long after the victorious Israelites had conquered every other fenced city, the fortress of Jebus remained impregnable. Planted on its rocky heights, guarded by its deep ravines, and yet capable on its northern quarter of an indefinite expansion, it seemed the very personification of strength and endurance. On this the future Mount Zion, with singular prescience, David, almost immediately after he became undisputed monarch of Israel, fixed as his new capital.

The inhabitants prided themselves on their inaccessible position. "David," they said, "shall not come up hither," and to evince the security they felt, they placed the blind and the lame on the walls to defend it. At once David offered the highest prize in his realm, the chieftainship of his army, to the soldier who should first scale the fortress walls. To Joab the proffered post was the highest object of ambition. With the agility so conspicuous in his family, he with a few daring followers, clambered up the cliff and dashed the defenders down and was at once proclaimed captain of the host.

The inhabitants were probably in most part left undisturbed, but the city known thenceforth as Jerusalem, grew rapidly in extent and population, and the walls soon embraced not only Mount Zion but also the heights of lower elevations named Mount Moriah and Mount Acre.

The threshing floor of Araunah, or Ornan, a powerful Jebusite chief, probably the king, was situated on the top of Mount Moriah, and it was upon this bold rock that the grand and imposing temple of Solomon was afterwards erected.

The Ark of the Covenant, still in exile on the outskirts of the hills of Judah, was to be moved in state to the new capitol. A national assembly was called from the extremest north to the extremest south. The king at the head of an army of 30,000 men and an immense concourse of people, marched in long procession with music and dancing, and great pomp and ceremony, bearing the precious symbol until it stood beneath the walls of the ancient fortress so venerable with age, when the summons went up from the procession to the dark walls in front—"Lift up your heads O ye gates and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors and the King of Glory shall come in." From the lofty towers the warders cry, "Who is this King of Glory?" and the answer comes back, "Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts, he is the King of Glory."

From this time forth the preparations began to be made for building the temple. David, as you are aware, was only permitted to gather materials and prepare the plans for this future glory of the Jewish nation, but with such zeal did he prosecute his darling project that he succeeded in accumulating the enormous amount—according to the most authentic calculations—of 100,000 talents of gold, equal to \$300,000,000, and a thousand thousand talents of silver or \$1,500,000,000, besides brass and iron without weight, and an abundance of stone and timber. I may mention that historians differ very much as to the value of the Hebrew talent. According to Rollin the value of the gold and silver gathered by David would amount to £860,000,000 Stg., or more than \$4000,000,000.

This vast accumulation of treasure amassed from the spoils of war, the tribute of subject nations, and the voluntary contributions of his own people, together with the plans of the great temple, including even the most minute details of vessels and ornaments, David handed over to his son and successor Solomon. The latter almost as soon as he found himself securely seated on the throne set about the great undertaking.

On the coast of the Mediterranean sea, distant about a hundred miles from Jerusalem, was the renowned city of Tyre, the capital of the kingdom of Phœnicia, and the most powerful maritime city of the day, in fact the London of antiquity. To Hiram King of Tyre Solomon sent a message, informing Hiram that he intended to build a