

the reigns of ARTAXERXES and AHASUERUS, and to devise some means whereby they might gain the favor of the new Sovereign, and obtain his consent to rebuild their City and Temple. If you are desirous of participating in the deliberations of this Council, it will be necessary for you to assume the name and Character of ZERUBBABEL, a Prince of the house of Judah, whose hands laid the foundation of the second Temple, and whose hands the LORD promised should complete it. Do you consent?

C.—I do.

H. P.—You will then attend to the reading of a lesson from the records of our fathers.

SCRIPTURAL ACCOUNT.

Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to set forward the work of the house of the Lord. Then stood Jeshua *with* his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Heradad, *with* their sons and their brethren the Levites. And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the Lord, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because *he* is good, for his mercy *endureth* forever towards Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. [Ezra 3: 8-11.]

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the Lord God of Israel; then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye *do*; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither. But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chiefs of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build a house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the Lord God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us. Then the people of the