

one feeling and one mind seemed to actuate ancient Israel. Pleasing as we see, from the King on the Throne, to the poorest in the realm, bringing the best and most costly gifts they could procure and pouring them into God's treasure house. Self appears to have been conquered, it was for Jehovah they did it and nothing would be too costly. Each of the events to which I have alluded, were raising a house for God. 1st. Tabernacle in the wilderness when Israel in poverty and wanderings gave to the utmost of their ability. 2nd. The building of Solomon's Temple which I described in an earlier portion of this essay, the people required to be restrained from instead of being urged to give. How strange, and painful the contrast between then and now. The third instance was the building of the second temple. In these days of covetousness and self-indulgence, just imagine people having to be told to bring no more offerings to God's house. Nor did the Jews for one moment consider that their lavish generosity made Jehovah their debtor in any respect. It is in these times alone that the claim of human merit is urged. And David expresses the feeling of every humble Christian heart, "Of thine own have we given thee." The free will offerings differed from the tenth, it was not expected from all the people, and even where it was expected there was no rule as to how much or how little should be given, that was left to the discretion of the giver. What a man gave willingly God accepted; but when the willing spirit ceased, the offering was not urged. It was said to him as to Christians afterwards. Let every man do as he is disposed in his heart, not "grudgingly nor of necessity." "Give a portion to seven and also to eight; if the clouds be full of rain they empty themselves upon the earth." Seven the number of perfection, eight or many in need, the day may be near when you may need the help of those we have bound to us by kindness. The very argument which covetous men use against liberality, the wise man uses for it, clouds meaning evil. Now is the time for liberality before the evil days. Therefore sow thy charity in faith, without doubt or hesitation and the bread cast upon the waters will return with increase when God wills. Our benevolence should and must be judiciously given if we want to be really useful to the aged, sick, and industrious poor, for we commit an offence before God if we encourage idleness. A good man would much rather earn what he requires, here is where helping hands and kind hearts come in, if we cannot know the circumstances of those we relieve, employ others to dispense our charity first enquiring into the truth or urgency of the cases. Let us consider for a few minutes the case