

Solomon discovered the right answer to all the queen's questions and gave it to her; nothing was too deep for his discernment.

II. Surprised, 4, 5.

Vs. 4, 5. *Seen all Solomon's wisdom*; which had been fully tested by her questions. *The house*; not the temple, but Solomon's own palace. *The meat* ("food") *of his table*; the abundance and variety of the provision and the splendor of the service at some state banquet. *The sitting of his servants*; the royal officers and other distinguished persons privileged to sit at the king's table, who were seated at the banquet according to their rank. *The attendance* (literally, "the standing") *of his ministers*; servants who stood to wait on the banqueters, amongst them being the "cupbearers." *Apparel*; the magnificent robes. *His ascent*, etc.; the covered way or staircase leading from the king's palace to the temple. But the Rev. Ver. Margin has "his burnt offering which he offered in," etc., instead of "his ascent," etc., a description of a great religious service, following that of the banquet. *Spirit*; literally, "breath." The queen's breath was taken away with surprise. (Compare Josh. 5:1.)

III. Satisfied, 6-10, 13.

Vs. 6-8. *A true report*; a frank expression of admiration, without a trace of envy. *Thy acts*; which had brought into existence all these splendid buildings and the splendor of the king's court. *Thy wisdom*; shown in the answers to the queen's questions. *The half was not told*; nor would the queen have believed it, had she been told before she had seen it. *Happy are .thy servants*; not only or chiefly because of their splendid surroundings as because they had the opportunity of learning from the wisdom of the king.

Vs. 9, 10, 13. *Blessed be the Lord thy God*; whom the queen recognizes as the national god of Israel to whom honor was due for giving to Solomon his wisdom and greatness. The queen still, however, held to her alle-

giance to the god of her own land, and was not a convert to the Hebrew religion. *To set thee on the throne*. Solomon governed Israel as the Lord's representative. *The Lord loved Israel*; and therefore had made the prosperity of Israel's king and people His special care. *She gave*. Even an ordinary visit in the East cannot be made without bringing presents (see 1 Sam. 9:7), and large gifts are still the rule when Oriental princes visit one another. *An hundred and twenty talents of gold*; equal to about \$3,500,000 of our money. Vs. 11, 12 are a parenthesis, and v. 13 describes Solomon's farewell gifts to the queen, and her departure.

Light from the East

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THE QUEEN OF SHEBA—It seems that Sheba lay in the southwest of Arabia, the land behind Aden. The men of Sheba were to Joel (Joel 3:8) "a people far off." They were engaged in the caravan trade of those days. According to Isaiah 60:6, they carried gold and incense; Job 6:19 speaks of their coming in caravans; and the great trade-chapter of the Old Testament (Ezekiel 27) mentions them as handling spices and jewels and gold.

The story of this Arabian queen and Solomon was very attractive to the old Arabs and among them the story grew into a great body of legend. They told of the magical control Solomon had over the winds and the beasts, how the birds did his bidding and the spirits were his servants. They told of the lapwing bringing the tidings to him that afar off in Arabia a woman ruled, and that she worshiped the sun and that she had a wonderful throne. They told that Solomon sent a letter summoning her to abandon her false worship and submit to the true God, that she made a journey to him, but while she was on her way Solomon sent a spirit to fetch her throne to see if she would recognize it.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Consult our map of the modern city, and notice where the number 27 marks a spot in the temple grounds. The number is at the point of a V whose arms reach south. Now let us stand at the point of that V and face

south, so that we may have before us the space between those two spreading lines. The ground at our feet is paved with large flat stones. A few rods away directly before us tall pillars hold up a great screen of stone-