

REJECTED OFFERINGS.

(Exodus 36.6.)

Rendered by constraint and tardily.

When Moses' was commanded to raise up the Tabernacle, the people were invited to contribute materials. As soon as this was known through the camp, men and women came in crowds, bringing the Lord's offering. Gold, silver, brass, linen, jewels, and bracelets, were consecrated to the God of the whole earth. Yea, their hearts were so stirred up, and their spirits made so willing, that at last it was found necessary to cause it to be proclaimed saying, "*Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.*" It is evident however, that these offerings were not made by all whose circumstances would have enabled them to contribute. The contributors are denominated *as many as were willing-hearted*, and *all the wise-hearted*; a mode of expression which implies that there were some who wanted this willingness and wisdom of heart. The proclamation for restraining the people from giving their offerings any longer, would occasion many varied displays of character and feeling. Scenes something like the following, would occur among the people——

The appointed heralds sound the trumpets : the people run to learn the cause. Amongst them a young woman listens to the proclamation, and hears with grief, that the time for making offerings has expired. Her aged mother had lifted up the corner of the curtain of the tent, and seen her daughter returning in tears ; she inquires the cause. The young woman answers, "Oh mother, you would not allow me to offer these ear-rings yesterday,