EZRA-NEHEMIAH.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE TWO BOOKS AS A WHOLE*,
ACCORDING TO THEIR CANONICAL ORDER.

(Division.)

A1 | EZRA. THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.
A2 | NEHEMIAH. THE REBUILDING OF THE WALLS.

(A1, above). EZRA. THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.
(Introversion.)

A1 B 1. 1–4 (N†). THE PEOPLE. EMANCIPATION.
C 1. 5–2. 70 (P). THE RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL.
D 3. 1–2 (Q). THE ALTAR. BUILDING AND FEAST.
D 3. 7–6. 22 (Q). THE TEMPLE. BUILDING AND FEAST.
C 7. 1–8. 32 (P). THE RETURN UNDER EZRA.
B 9. 1–10. 44 (N). THE PEOPLE. DEDICATION. REFORMATION.

(A2, above). NEHEMIAH. THE REBUILDING OF THE WALLS.
(Introversion and Alternation.)

A2 E 1. 1–6. 19 (K†). THE WALL. REBUILDING. DISORDERS OVERCOME.
F E 7. 1–4 (N). JERUSALEM. CHARGE OVER.
J 7. 5–73– (P). THE RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL.
G 7. 7–8. 18 (Q). FEAST OF THE SEVENTH MONTH (436 B.C.).
F H 11. 1–36 (N). JERUSALEM. RESIDENTS IN.
J 12. 1–36 (N). THE RETURN UNDER EZRA.
E 12. 27–13. 31 (K). THE WALL. DEDICATION. DISORDERS OVERCOME.

* In Hebrew manuscripts of the Bible, and the early printed editions of the Hebrew text, these two books are always treated and reckoned as one book: the 686 verses being numbered from the first verse of Ezra to the last verse of Nehemiah; the middle verse of the one book being given by the Massorites as Neh. 8. 32; while of the ten Sedarim (or Cycles for public reading), the fourth begins at Ezra 8. 35 and ends with Neh. 2. 18. See note at foot of p. 632. Moreover, the notes which the Massorites place at the end of each book are placed at the end of Nehemiah, and not at the end of Ezra. Cf. note on the books of SAMUEL, KINGS, AND CHRONICLES, p. 396.

The Structure of the one book is set forth as above, the two Divisions being given in their Canonical Order.

Ezra confines himself mainly to the events connected with the Temple.
Nehemiah confines himself mainly to the events connected with the Wall and the City.
Ezra comes first in the Canonical Order, because the Temple is more important than the Wall, morally and spiritually.
Nehemiah follows, because the Wall is of secondary importance.

When the whole of the events are looked at in their Chronological and Historical order, a different Structure is necessarily observed: this Structure is determined by certain fixed points, common to both Orders. These fixed points determine the place of the remaining events recorded in the two parts respectively. See Table of Events and Chronological Structure on p. 518, and the Harmony of Events in Ap. 58.

† The letters of this font (in brackets) correspond with the same letters in the Chronological Structure on page 617.
CERTAIN FIXED POINTS IN THE TWO DIVISIONS OF THE JOINT BOOKS

May be exhibited as follows, in brief: a complete list of all the events will be found in Appendix 58.

**Ezra.**

1. 1-4. The People. Emancipation.

2. 70. The Return under Zerubbabel. (The Temple still desolate; and for sixteen years later. Hag. 1. 1-1.)

**Nehemiah.**


7. 1-4. The condition of the city. (People few. Houses not built.)

7. 5-73. The Return under Zerubbabel.

Feast of the Seventh Month (428 B.C.).

1. 7-73. Feast of the Seventh Month (428 B.C.).

8. 18.


4. 1-6. 15. The Temple: building.

6. 16-22. Dedication of the Temple.

7. 1-8. 36. The Return under Ezra.


9. 5. Separation of the People. Ezra’s Prayer.

10. 1-44. Strange wives put away, and the Covenant made.


12. 27-47. Dedication of the wall.


We are now in a position to complete the *Chronological* Structure of the joint books.

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THE STRUCTURE OF EZRA–NEHEMIAH AS A WHOLE, ACCORDING TO THE HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF EVENTS.*

(Introversions and Alternation.)

A ᾱ | Neh. 1. 1-6. 13 (E+). THE WALL. REBUILDING. EXTERNAL DISORDERS OVERCOME.

L | Neh. 7. 1-4 (H). JERUSALEM. CHARGE OVER IT.

O | Ezra 1. 1-4 (B). THE PEOPLE. EMANCIPATION.

M | Neh. 7. 5-73 (J). THE RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL.

P | Ezra 1. 5-2. 70 (C). FEAST OF THE SEVENTH MONTH (426 B.C.).

Q | Ezra 3. 1-7 (D). THE TEMPLE. FOUNDATION.

E | Ezra 3. 8-13 (D). THE TEMPLE. BUILDING AND DEDICATION.

R | Ezra 4. 1-6. 22 (D). THE RETURN UNDER EZRA.

M | Ezra 7. 1-8. 36 (C). THE PEOPLE. SEPARATION.

Q | Neh. 9. 1-3 (G). FEAST OF THE SEVENTH MONTH (404 B.C.).

L | Ezra 9. 1-4 (B).

O | Neh. 9. 4-10. 39 (O).

N | Neh. 11. 1-12. 26 (F). JERUSALEM. RESIDENTS IN IT.

K | Neh. 12. 27-13. 31 (E). THE WALL. DEDICATION. INTERNAL DISORDERS OVERCOME.

* See notes on p. 618.
† The Index letters (in brackets) correspond with the same letters which indicate the same members in the Canonical Structure, on page 616.
NOTES TO THE CHRONOLOGICAL STRUCTURE (p. 617).

The Chronological Order of Events, and the Structure based thereon, revolutionises the traditional view, which treats this one book as two books; places Ezra historically as preceding Nehemiah; and inserts the book of Esther between Ezra, chapters 6 and 7, instead of before Ezra-Nehemiah. (See date, Est. 1. 2.)

Those who thus dislocate the two divisions of this book proceed to speak of certain portions as being "misplaced", and "not original", and as having "false connections". These so-called "discrepancies", after having thus been first made by the commentators, are charged home on the inspired writers themselves.

That the "difficulties" exist only in the minds of the critics will be seen if we note the following facts:—

1. The fixed points, common to the two parts of the book, determine for us the true position of all the other parts, and result in giving us the Chronological Structure of the whole on page 617.

2. The traditional view places the building of the temple by Ezra as coming many years before Nehemiah 1. But this is inconceivable in view of the report brought by Hanani to Nehemiah concerning the desolations (Neh. 1. 2) and repeated to the king (Neh. 2. 3).

3. Nehemiah would surely have inquired about the welfare of the 42,360 exiles who are supposed to have returned to Jerusalem, and not about "the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity" (Neh. 1. 2).

4. When the wall was finished, "the houses were not yet built" (Neh. 7. 1-4).

5. When the Feast of the seventh month was kept (Neh. 8), "the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid" (Ezra 3. 1-6).

6. When the people dwelt in their "cistern houses", the house of the Lord still lay waste (Hag. 1. 1-4). These facts are more certain than all chronology, and are more important and conclusive than all reasoning.

7. The names of some of the kings mentioned have been hitherto regarded as proper names; whereas, according to Sir Henry Rawlinson, Professor Sayce, The Encyclopedia Britannica, and The Century Encyclopedia of Names, three at least are appellatives (like Pharaoh, Abimelech, Czar, Shah, Sultan); viz. Ahaseurus, which means "The venerable king", Artaxerxes, which means "The great king", and Darius, which means "The maintainer". See the Genealogy of the Persian kings (Ap. 57). If these appellatives denote separate and different individual kings, no place can be found for them all on the page of history.

8. See the longer notes on special passages at the end of Nehemiah, page 653.
1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2 "Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, 1 The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3 Who is there among you of all his people? let him go up to Jerusalem, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (whom is the God of Jacob,) which is in Jerusalem.

4 And whatsoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the free-will offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised,

6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;

8 Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

9 And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand silver chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives, thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand.

10 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar brought up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.

11 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, 1 The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

3 Who is there among you of all his people? let him go up to Jerusalem, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (whom is the God of Jacob,) which is in Jerusalem.

4 And whatsoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the free-will offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised,

6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

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3 Who is there among you of all his people? let him go up to Jerusalem, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (whom is the God of Jacob,) which is in Jerusalem.

4 And whatsoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the free-will offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."

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6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

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10 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar brought up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon unto Jerusalem.
2. 1.

EZRA.

Now these are the children of the province that went up out of the captivity, of those which had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away unto Babylon, and came again unto Jerusalem and Judah, every one unto his city:

2 Which came with Zerubbabel: Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mizpar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the People of Israel:

3 The children of Parosh, two thousand and an hundred seventy and two.

4 The children of Shephathiah, three hundred seventy and five.

5 The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy and five.

6 The children of Pahath-moab, of the children of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve.

7 The children of Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

8 The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty and five.

9 The children of Zaccai, seven hundred and threescore.

10 The children of Bani, six hundred forty and two.

11 The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty and three.

12 The children of Azgad, a thousand two hundred twenty and two.

13 The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six.

14 The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty and six.

15 The children of Adin, four hundred fifty and four.

16 The children of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety and eight.

17 The children of Bebai, three hundred twenty and three.

18 The children of Jorah, an hundred and twelve.

19 The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty and three.

20 The children of Gibeon, ninety and five.

21 The children of Beth-lehem, an hundred twenty and three.

22 The men of Netophah, fifty and six.

23 The men of Anathoth, an hundred twenty and eight.

24 The children of Azmaveth, forty and two.

25 The children of Kirjath-arim, Chephihah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty and three.

26 The children of Ramah and Gaba, six hundred twenty and one.

27 The men of Michmas, an hundred twenty and two.

28 The men of Beth-el and Ai, two hundred twenty and three.

29 The children of Nebo, fifty and two.

30 The children of Magbish, an hundred fifty and six.

31 The children of the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.

32 The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.

2. 2-67 (A, p. 619). THE SONS OF THE PROVINCE. (Introversion.)

A c 1. 2. In sum. The number.

d 3-44. Names found.

d 59-63. Names not found.

c 64-67. In sum.

1 these are. This chapter is parallel with Neh. 7. 69. See the Structure, M F, p. 617, and Ap. 68.

children = sons.

the Province: i.e. the Persian province of Judah.


and Judah. Some codices read "and unto Judah."

Cp. Neh. 7. 6.


2 came with Zerubbabel. But not till after Neh. 1. 1-7, 4. See note on Neh. 1. 7, 5. In Neh. 7. 4 no houses built, but in Hag. 1. 4, houses built and yet Temple lying waste.

Jeshua. The great helper of Zerubbabel.


Seraiah = Azariah (Neh. 7. 7). Not Seraiah the high priest, but to death with Zedekiah (2 Kings 25. 23-21).


the People of Israel. See note on 1. 5. So 2. 59, 70; 3. 1; 7. 12, 3, 10, 5. Cp. 1 Kings 12. 17.


26 Jediah. The head of the ninth course (1 Chron. 24. 11).

27 Immer. The head of the sixteenth course (1 Chron. 24. 14).


Cp. 1 Chron. 24. 9 with Neh. 11. 12.

29 Harim. The third course. These four were subdivided into six each, making the twenty-four.


33 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and five.

34 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.

35 The children of Senaah, three thousand and six hundred and thirty.

36 The priests: the children of Jediah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.

37 The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.

38 The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.

39 The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.

40 The Levites: the children of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy and four.

41 The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred twenty and eight.

42 The children of the porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobal, in all an hundred thirty and nine.

43 The Nethinims: the children of Ziba, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,

44 The children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon,
45 The children of Lebanon, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akub, the children of Shalmai, the children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Nahor, the children of Realah, the children of Asnah, the children of Mehumin, the children of Nephusim, the children of Bakub, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harsh, the children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha, the children of Baskets, the children of Sisera, the children of Tahash, the children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.

55 The children of Solomon’s servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Peruda, the children of Jalaah, the children of Dagon, the children of Giddel, the children of Sophereth, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Ami.

58 All the Nethinims, and the children of Solomon’s servants, were three hundred ninety and two.

59 And these were they which went up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsa, Cherub, Addan, and Immer: but they could not shew their father’s house, and their seed, whether they were of Israel:

60 The children of Deliah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty and two.

61 And of the children of the priests; the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name:

62 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but were not found: therefore were they as polluted, put from the priesthood.

63 And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Uriam and with Thummim.

64 The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore.

65 Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

66 Their horses were seven hundred thirty and six; their mules, two hundred forty and five;

67 Their camels, four hundred thirty and five; their asses, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

And some of the chief of the fathers, when they came to the house of the Lord which is at Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God to set it up in his place.

66 Shalmai. Some codices, with one early printed edition, Sept. and Syr., read "Selami".

69 of Israel. See note on 2:3, and on 1 Kings 12:17.


63 Tirshatha = governor (Persian title). Here refers to Nehemiah, as in Neh. 8:9; 10:1; 12:26. The Hebrew title is Pe’chah (Neh. 5:14, 18; 12:26). Whereas the Turkish Peşkâh. See note on 5:2.

not eat of the most holy things: i.e. the remains of the meal offering, sin offering, and right shoulder of the peace offerings. Cp. Lev. 2:3; 10:12-14, 16, 17. Num. 19:8-10.

64 congregation = assembly, or muster. forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore. This number (42,360) agrees with Neh. 7:66. The two lists of names are not alike; but there is no "discrepancy". The two lists, while they agree in the numbers, and vary in names, yet have the totals identical. This shows the independence of the two accounts.

Numbered in Ezra 2. 42,360

Named in Ezra 29,818

in Neh., not in Ezra ... 1,785

31,583

Difference between names and numbers

10,777

Numbered in Neh. 7. 42,360

Named in Nehemiah ... 31,080

in Neh., not in Ezra ... 494

31,583

Difference between names and numbers

10,777

65 maids = handmaids.

68 some = a portion. Ezra mentions what one portion gave. Nehemiah (7:70) mentions what he and two portions gave. Hence the numbers "perforce" cannot be the same, and there is no "discrepancy".

the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.


69 treasure = treasure; drama. See Ap. 51. L 1 (2).

pound. See Ap. 51. II. 4 (1).

70 all Israel. See note on 2:4, and 1 Kings 12:17.
2 Then stood up \(^2\)Jeshua the son of \(^2\)Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and \(^2\)Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and built the altar of the \(^2\)God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is \(^2\)written in the law of Moses \(^2\)the man of God.

3 And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the \(^2\)people of those countries: and they \(^2\)offered burnt offerings thereon unto \(^2\)the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening.

4 They \(^4\)kept also the feast of tabernacles, \(^4\)as it is written, and \(^4\)offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;

5 And afterward \(^5\)offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of \(^5\)the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto \(^5\)the LORD.

6 From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto \(^6\)the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of \(^6\)the LORD was not yet laid.

7 They gave money also unto the masons, \(^7\)and to \(^7\)the \(^7\)carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto thosethem of Sidon, and to thosethem of Tyre, to \(^7\)bring cedar trees from Lebanon unto the sea of \(^7\)Joppa, according to the \(^7\)grant that they had \(^7\)of Cyrus king of Persia.

8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of \(^8\)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 the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to \(^8\)set forward the work of the house of \(^8\)the LORD.

9 Then stood Jeshua with his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Jozadak, to \(^9\)set forward the workmen in the house of \(^9\)God: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brethren the Levites.

10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of \(^10\)the LORD, \(^10\)they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with \(^10\)cymbals, to praise \(^10\)the LORD after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto \(^11\)the LORD; because \(^11\)He is good, for His \(^11\)mercy endureth forever toward Israel. And all the \(^11\)people \(^11\)shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of \(^11\)the LORD was laid.

12 But many of the priests and Levites and \(^12\)chiefs of the fathers, \(^12\)who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes,

13 So that the People could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the People: for the People shouted with a loud shout; and the noise was heard afar off.

14 Now when the \(^4\)adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the \(^4\)children of the captivity built \(^4\)the temple unto \(^4\)the LORD \(^4\)God of Israel;
2 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 Esar-haddon king of Assyri, which brought us up hither."

But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, "Ye have nothing to do with us to build an 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 N° wrote unto them a sign, and sealed it up, and delivered it unto them by the hand of certain of the N°, 425-410, heads, which were the heads of the fathers of the N° heads, to frustrate their purpose; all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah. And in the days of Artaxerxes, wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of the companions, unto Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in the Syrian tongue, and interpreted in the Syrian tongue. Then wrote Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king: in this sort: Then wrote Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarhethites, the Apharsites, the Archites, the Babylonians, the Saschanites, the Delavites, and the Elamites. And the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Asnapper brought over, and set in the cities of Samaria, and the rest that are on this side the river, and at such a time. This is the copy of the letter that they sent unto him, even unto Artaxerxes the king; on this side the river, and at such a time. Be it known unto the king, that the Jews which came up from thee to us are come unto Jerusalem, building the rebellious and the bad.

like the French of to-day. Of. 9 Kings 18. 26. From 6. 19-7. 11 is Hebrew; and Syria again from 7. 12-27; then Hebrew. The chancellor was the master of judgments or decrees. The scribe: or secretary. In this sort after this manner. Dinaites. Probably from a Persian city. Apharsathchites. A Medo-Persian tribe. Tarhethites. Probably from east of Elam. Apharsites. Of Persian origin. Archites. From Babylonia. Gen. 10. 10. Saschanites. From the Persian province or city of Shushan, the capital of Elam. Delavites = the Dahae of Herodotus (l. 125). Delavites. From a province of Persia. Nations = peoples. Assanapers = Assur-bani-pal, or Sardana-pal, the only Assyrian king who got into Elam, or held Shushan (now Susa) its capital, or both, for a time, hence the 10th chapter, for instance. From the east side of the Euphrates. At such a time. This may refer to the date of the letter; or be rendered, as in R. V., "and so forth".

Rehum. From here to 6. 18 is in Syriac, which was then Hebrew. The chancellor was the master of judgments or decrees. The scribe: or secretary. In this sort after this manner. Dinaites. Probably from a Persian city. Apharsathchites. A Medo-Persian tribe. Tarhethites. Probably from east of Elam. Apharsites. Of Persian origin. Archites. From Babylonia. Gen. 10. 10. Saschanites. From the Persian province or city of Shushan, the capital of Elam. Delavites = the Dahae of Herodotus (l. 125). Delavites. From a province of Persia. 10 nations = peoples. Assanapers = Assur-bani-pal, or Sardana-pal, the only Assyrian king who got into Elam, or held Shushan (now Susa) its capital, or both, for a time, hence the 10th chapter, for instance. From the east side of the Euphrates. At such a time. This may refer to the date of the letter; or be rendered, as in R. V., "and so forth".

Jews. Nehemiah, Hanani, and friends. Occurs eight times in Ezra, viz. 4. 12, 23; 5. 1, 6; 6. 7, 13, 14. The name by which they were known to Gentiles, because the majority belonged to Judah.
425 city, and have set up the walls thereof, and joined the foundations.

13 Be it known now unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, and so thou shalt endanger the revenue of the kings.

Q 14 Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king;

Q 15 That search may be made in the book of the records of thy fathers: so shalt thou find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful unto kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time: for which cause this city was destroyed.

P i 16 So certify the king that,

k if this city be builded again, and the walls thereof set up, by this means thou shalt have no portion on this side the river."

K 17 Then sent the king an answer unto Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions that dwell in Samaria, and unto the rest beyond the river, "Peace, and at such a time."

m 18 The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me.

m 19 And I commanded, and search hath been made, and it is found that this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein.

20 There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, which have ruled over all countries beyond the river; and toll, tribute, and custom, was paid unto them.

i 21 Give ye now commandment to cause these men to cease, and that this city be not builded, until another commandment shall be given from me. 22 Take heed now that ye fail not to do this: why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?"

L 23 Now when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to Jerusalem unto the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power.

24 Then ceased the work of the house of which is at Jerusalem.

M So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

425-410 5 Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Jerusalem in the name of the of Israel, even unto them.

1st Elul 410 2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of helping them.

set up the walls. Quite true; for Nehemiah's work had long preceded this. See the Chronological Structure, p. 617, and notes on p. 618; also Ap. 58. And note that, when Nehemiah's work was done (7.4) and the houses built, the house of God was still lying waste (Hag. 1.1-4). The Temple not mentioned here.

4 We have maintained that the walls of the palace is our salt. See note on Num. 18. 19.

4. 17-22 (K, p. 623). KING'S ANSWER. SUCCESS OF PLOT. (Introversion.)


19 I commanded—made a decree.

18 made insurrection. Chald. lifted itself up.

20 mighty kings. Such as David and Solomon.

21 commandment—decree.


23 by force. Chald. by arm; "arm" being put by Fig. Metonymy (of Cause), Ap. 6, for the force put forth by it.

24 Chald. 'ōḥāḏ (ha, emphatic, sing.), same as Heb. Eloah. Ap. 4, V.

5. 1 Haggai. The prophet of that name. In the second year of Darius (Hag. 1, 1), "sixth month."

2 Zechariah. The prophet of that name. In the second year of Darius, "eighth month." (Zech. 1, 1).


24 Chald. 'ōḥāḏ, as in 4. 24. Heb. Eloah (emph.). Ap. 4, V.

5. 3-17 (J, p. 623). OPPOSITION. LETTER TO DARIUS. (Extended Alteration.)

J / R | 3, 4. Governor. "Who commanded?"
T | 5-6. Appeal to Darius.
R | 5-10. Governor. "Who commanded?"
T | 17. Appeal to Darius.

3 governor. Chal. pēqāḥ (modern "Pasha"). Tatnai was governor in Syria, Zerubbabel was governor in Judah. 

Cr. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13; 6, 36. Dan. 5, 2, 3, 7, 6; and Hag. 1, 1, 14; 2, 2, 31. companions = colleagues or associates.

commanded you are a decree to you; given a firm, 

make up—build. So the wall had already been built by Nehemiah. See the Chronological Structure, p. 617, and notes on p. 618; and Ap. 58.

4 said = told. Chal. 'ēmar, which must be followed by the words spoken (which are given in next clause).

we. Note this pronoun (first person sing. and pl.). Here, and 7, 7-9, 10, and Neh. 1, 1-7; 13; 12, 27-43; 13, 4-31. Sept., Syr., and Arab. read they they"

after this matter. Verse 4 should be rendered "we told them what the names were, accordingly the names of the men," etc. It is not a question.

men. As in 4. 21, make this building. Heb. "build this building". Fig. Polyptoton (Ap. 6), for emphasis.

3 At the same time came to him Tatnai, Chal. "governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and their companions, and said thus unto them, "Who hath commanded you to build this house, and to make up this wall?"

4 Then said we unto them after this manner, "What are the names of the men that make this building?"
5. 5.

S

5 But * the eye of their 1 מַעֵן was upon the 1 מַעֵן of the elders of the Jews, that they could not cause them to cease,

T

6 till the matter came to * Darius: and then

R

6 The copy of the letter that * Tatnai, 9 governor on this side the river, and Shetharboznai, and his 9 companions the 10 Ahassearschites, which were on this side the river, sent unto * Darius the king:

5 They sent a letter unto him, wherein was written thus: * Unto * Darius the king, all peace.

8 Be it known unto the king, that we went into the 1 province of Judea, to the house of the great 1 מַעֵן, which is built with 1 מַעֵן stones, and timber is laid in the walls, and this work goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands.

9 Then asked we those elders, and said unto them thus, * Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?*

10 We asked their names also, to certify thee, that we might write the names of the men that were the 10 chief of them.

S

11 And thus they returned us answer, saying,

12 and build the house that was builded 1 מַעֵן these many years ago, which a great king of Israel builded 1 מַעֵן and set up.

V

13 But after that our fathers had provoked the 1 מַעֵן of heaven unto wrath,

V

14 He 1 מַעֵן them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house, and carried the People away into Babylon.

U

15 But in the first year of 1 מַעֵן Cyrus the king of 1 מַעֵן Babylon the same king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of 1 מַעֵן.

16 And 1 מַעֵן vessels also of gold and silver of the house of 1 מַעֵן, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, 1 מַעֵן did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto one, whose name was 1 מַעֵן Sheshbazzar, whom he had made 1 מַעֵן governor;

17 And said unto him, * Take these vessels, go, 1 מַעֵן them into the temple that is in Jerusalem: and let the house of 1 מַעֵן be builded in his place.*

18 Then came the same 1 מַעֵן Sheshbazzar, and laid the foundation of the house of 1 מַעֵן which is in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now hath it been in building, and yet it is not finished.

19 Now therefore, if it seem good unto the king, let there be search made in the king's treasures house, which is there at 13 Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of 1 מַעֵן at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.”

6. 4.

8 the eye. Fig. Anthropotheia. Ap. 6.

elders. Chald. 187-1 grey, hoary. Used only of Ezra here and 6, 7, 8, 14.

Darius. See note on 4. 6.

answer. See note on 4. 17.

6 Tatnai. His name has been recently found in a contract. Ahassearschites. See note on 4. 8.


great—rolling; i.e. too heavy to be moved without rolling.

10 chief—head.

5. 11-16 (S, p. 624). CESSATION. REASON.

(Intercession and Alteration.)

3 | U | n | 11. Answer of builders.

| o | 11. The building.


| o | 16. The building.

11 the מַעֵן of heaven. See note on 2 Chron. 36. 23.

Chald. 180 הוהי. Same as Eloah. Ap. 4. V.

these many years ago. Nearly 500 years.


12 gave them. Cp. 2 Kings 24. 2; 25. 8-11.


14 the vessels. Cp. Ezra 1. 7, 8; 6. 6.

Sheshbazzar. See note on 1. 8. This was Nehemiah, who was present, though the stone was actually laid by Zerubbabel (Zech. 4. 9).

15 carry them into set them down, or deposit them in.

is 18 to be.

6. 1-12 (K, p. 623). KING’S ANSWER. DEFEAT

OF PLOT. (Alternation.)

K

p | 1 | Darius. Search made.

q | 2-3 | Decree found (Cyrus).

p | 5, 7 | Darius. Forbearance ordered.

q | 8-12 | Decree made (Darius).

1 Darius: i.e. Darius (Hyystaspis). See Chronological Structure and notes (pp. 617, 619), and Ap. 57, 58.

Babylon. See note on 5. 13.

2 Achmetha = Eschatana, the capital of ancient Media.


4 Sheshbazzar. Chald. 1036. Heb. Eloah (Ap. 4. V.); the final "ha" is for emphasis.


cubits. See Ap. 51. 1172.

4 rows—layers or stories, as in 1 Kings 6. 36.

5 new timber. Should be "timber, one": i.e. one row. In changing the ancient characters into the modern square characters the aleph (א) is hadda ("one"), in the ancient character, was mistaken for י, Tau, the "th" in hadda ("new"), and so was transalfered. The Sept. has preserved the original reading, and the R. V. notes it in the margin. The two lines should read: "layers of great stones, three; and a layer of timber, one".

house = treasury; "house" being put by Fig. Metonymy (of Adject.); Ap. 6, for the treasures in it.

6 Then * Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in "Babylon. 2 And there was found at * Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:

3 "In the 1st year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of 1 מַעֵן at Jerusalem. Let the house be builded, the place where they 'offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid: the height thereof three score cubits, and the breadth thereof three score cubits.

4 With three 1 מַעֵן rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's 1 מַעֵן house.”
And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of the temple which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of the temple.

6 "Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethar-boznai, and your companions the Aphasriches, which are beyond the river, be ye far from hence: Let the work of this house of the temple of God go forward with all diligence, and let the gold and silver be given unto the workmen, according to all things as it is written in the law of Moses, that they may build this house of God. And let all ye judges and rulers, which be beyond the river, support and help them. And the God which hath caused his name to dwell among us, shall make all go to stand, that his name may be known throughout all the earth for ever. And so ye also shall be a blessing. And when ye have read this book, utter ye a word in my ear, saying, It was so done."

Moreover I make a decree, that the house of God be built at Jerusalem, by the gold and silver given by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, by his scribes, and by Nebugada-nesar, his son, and by others that were his companions; And by building expenses I, even my own tribute, will give, over and above all the gold and silver found in all the king's treasure house. And whosoever shall not spend his portion toward this house, Shall be utterly destroyed; his children also shall be captured and captive without a father or mother in all the kingdoms of the earth. Who is left among you that should be able to pluck out any one of these bolts of wood out of the wall which is in Jerusalem? Yea, I am even now会使 understand the matter. Fear not; for the God of heaven will help you; and of his majesty will no man hold you in the least wise.

The presidents of the provinces and the princes of the people and the grooms, and the judges and their companions stirred up their spirits against Judah in building this house; And said to them again in the second year of the reign of Darius unto the thirty-second year of Nebuchadnezzar, the glory of the children of Jerusalem was great. Then the Jews prepared themselves, and armed themselves, and stood up against the Persians that came unto them; And they set themselves in array against their enemies, and against the neighbors that lived in the cities, and encamped against them, and set the watches of night and day.

Then Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethar-boznai, and his companions the Aphasriches, which were beyond the river, sent to Darius thus: And let all ye know for certain, that the kings of Persia have no power to make war with any of the provinces of Judah. Therefore let the Jews build according to their skill, and with all their might. And let the work continue in it, and let no man molest them; for the stone which is set to�

Then Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethar-boznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so did they speedily.

And the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of heaven, according to the word of Darius the king, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

And the children of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy.

And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of the house of God, which is at Jerusalem; and offered all the duty offered of the children of Israel, and of the Levites and priests, according to the commandment of Moses, which he commanded Israel.

And the children of the captivity kept the passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.

And they kept the passover in the eighth month; for they had no priest, and the Levites had not consecrated themselves unto the priests, and the Natives had not brought the holy things into the house of God; nevertheless the priests rose up and sanctified them unto the Lord, and the Levites also unto their help and to the Natives, and all they that were present.

And the priests and the Levites did eat in the service of the Lord, and praised the Lord; and they raised a great shout, with songs and with trumpets.

And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the Lord God of Israel, did eat together.

And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the Lord had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king.
of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of the God, the God of Israel.

7 C (P) W\textsuperscript{1} (p. 627)
X\textsuperscript{1} v\textsuperscript{1}
7 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia,
\textsuperscript{7} Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,
2 The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,
3 The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,
4 The son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,
5 The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest:
6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.
7 And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinims, unto Jerusalem,
8 In the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.
9 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.
10 For upon the first day of the fifth month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.
11 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

11 W\textsuperscript{3} Y
11 Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes unto Israel.
12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time.

13 X z
13 I make a decree, that all they of the People of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee.

14 y z
14 Forasmuch as thou senst the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;
15 And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, Whose habitation is in Jerusalem.
16 And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the People, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem:

17 That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer

7. 1–8. 36 (C. p. 616; P. p. 617). THE RETURN UNDER EZRA. (Repeated Alteration.)

C W\textsuperscript{1} \textsuperscript{7} 1–7. Artaxerxes. Time.
X\textsuperscript{1} v\textsuperscript{1} \textsuperscript{7} 1. Ezr. Journey. Hand of God.
\textsuperscript{7} 2. Ezr. His companions.
W\textsuperscript{2} \textsuperscript{7} 7.–7. Artaxerxes. Date.
X\textsuperscript{2} \textsuperscript{7} 7. 7, 9. Ezr. Journey. Hand of God.
W\textsuperscript{2} \textsuperscript{7} 1. Ezr. Journey. Hand of God.
W\textsuperscript{3} \textsuperscript{7} 7. 11–26. Artaxerxes. Decree.
X\textsuperscript{3} \textsuperscript{7} 7. 11, 26. Ezr. Blessing.
W\textsuperscript{3} \textsuperscript{7} 2. Ezr. His companions. "Chiefmen."
W\textsuperscript{4} \textsuperscript{8} 1. Ezr. Artaxerxes. Time.
X\textsuperscript{1} \textsuperscript{8} 1. Ezr. Companions of Ezra.

1 Artaxerxes = the great king; i.e. Darius (Hystaspis).

Ezra. By this genealogy (vv. 1–5), compared with 1 Chron. 6. 15, Ezra was brother to Jehohadak and uncle to the high priest Joshua. Ezra was deported with Zedeckiah, son = descendant.
Seraiah, Slain at Riblah (2 Kings 25. 21–22).
ready = skilful.
the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.
children = sons.
and. Note the Fig. Polygondoton (Ap. 6) in this verse.
Nethinims. See note on 2. 43.
the first day of the first month. See note on Gen. 8. 13.
teach in Israel. This was the chief duty of priests. See note on Deut. 33. 10.
Judah contained representatives of the whole Nation. See note on 1 Kings 12. 17.

7. 11–26 (W\textsuperscript{3}, above). ARTAXERXES. DECREE. (Introduction.)

W\textsuperscript{3} Y \textsuperscript{11} 11. Introduction.
X\textsuperscript{3} \textsuperscript{11} 12. The decree for Ezra.
Y \textsuperscript{11} 25. Conclusion.
11 the scribe . . . a scribe = a perfect scribe. Fig. Epizeuxis (Ap. 6).
12 Chal. Chaldee. Same as Heb. Eloah. Ap. 4. V.
13 decree. This decree (vv. 12–26) is in Chaldee, not in Hebrew. An inscription found at Susa commences with the same words. Cp. Dan. 2. 37.

13–25 (Z, above). THE DECREE FOR EZRA. (Alteration.)

Z \textsuperscript{x} \textsuperscript{13} 13. To companions.
X \textsuperscript{y} \textsuperscript{14}–20. To Ezra. Supplies.
Z \textsuperscript{y} \textsuperscript{21}–24. To treasurers.
X \textsuperscript{y} \textsuperscript{25}. To Ezra. Magistracy.
13 his = i.e. Israel’s priests.

14–20 (y, above). TO EZRA. SUPPLIES. (Introduction.)

y \textsuperscript{x} \textsuperscript{14} 14–16. The king’s money.
z\textsuperscript{17}. For service. Offerings.
a\textsuperscript{17}. For service. Vessels.
a\textsuperscript{17}. Vessels.
z\textsuperscript{17}. Vessels.
15 Israel. See note on 1 Kings 12. 17.
19 The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow out of the king’s treasure house.

20 And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow out of the king’s treasure house.

21 And 1 even 3 Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the, shall require of you, it be done speedily,

22 Unto an hundred *talents of silver, and to an hundred *measures of wheat, and to an hundred *baths of *wine, and to an hundred *baths of oil, and salt *without prescribing how much.

23 Whosoever is commanded by the of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

24 Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, ’Ne-thinim, or ministers of this house of of heaven, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them.

25 And then, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the People that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy; and teach ye them that know them not.

26 And whosoever shall not do the law of thy, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment:

27 Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, Which hath put such a thing as this in the king’s heart, to beautify the house of the which is in Jerusalem:

28 And hath extended mercy unto me before the king, and his counsellors, and before all the king’s mighty princes.

And 3 was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

These are now the chief of their fathers, and this is the genealogy of them that went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king.

2 Of the sons of Phinehas; Gershom: of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel: of the sons of David; Hattush.

3 Of the sons of Shecaniah, of the sons of Pharosh; Zechariah: and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the men an hundred and fifty.

19 vessels. See note on 1.
20 bestow, bestow. Fig. Anadíplósis (Ap. 6), for emphasis.
21 I, even I. Fig. Epiceneasis (Ap. 6), for emphasis.
22 talents. See Ap. 51. II.
23 diligently = quickly, exactly. A Persian word, ‘advadzda’. Occurs only here.
26 to banishment: or exclusion from the assembly, Ciald. — to rooting out. Occurs only here.
27 Blessed, &c. These two verses (27, 28) resume the Hebrew language.

8. 1 chief = heads: i.e. heads of houses.

them that went up. Most of these names appear in ch. 2 and Neh. 10. The number is 1,496. If there were no women with them, this might be the case of the “strange” marriages in ch. 10 and Neh. 10.

Artaxerxes: i.e. Darius (Hystaspis). See Ap. 57 and 58.

2 by genealogy = a lineage.

4 Pahath-moab. Cp. 2. s.

5 sons of Shecaniah. Sept. reads “sons of Zattu, Shecaniah”.

6 Of. Some codices, with one early printed edition and Sept., read “And of”, “sons of”.

10 sons of Shelomith. Sept. reads “sons of Bani, Shelomith”.

12 ten. Some codices, with Syr., read “twenty”.

13 last. In contrast with others, these. The only case where there were three heads. In all other cases (except v. 14, where there are two) only one head is mentioned.

14 them. Heb. text reads “him”; but some codices, with one early printed edition, read “them”, as in A.V.

4 Of the sons of Pahath-moab; Elioenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred males.

5 Of the sons of Shecaniah; the son of Jahaziel, and with him three hundred males.

6 Of the sons also of Adin; Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males.

7 And of the sons of Elam; Jeshaiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males.

8 And of the sons of Shephatiah; Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him fourscore males.

9 Of the sons of Joab; Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males.

10 And of the sons of Shelomith; the son of Josiphiah, and with him an hundred and threescore males.

11 And of the sons of Bebai; Zechariah the son of Bebai, and with him twenty and eight males.

12 And of the sons of Azgad; Johanan the son of Hakatan, and with him an hundred and ten males.

13 And of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names are these, Eliehelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah, and with them threescore males.

14 Of the sons also of Bigvai; Uthai, and Zabbud, and with them seven males.
15 And I gathered them together to the river that runneth to Ahava; and there we abode we in tents three days: and I viewed the People, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi.

16 Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zaccuriah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib, and for Bochim, men of understanding.

17 And I sent them with commandment unto Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say unto Iddo, and to his brethren the Nethinims, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring unto us ministers for the house of our God.

18 And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brethren, eighteen;

19 And Hashubah, and with him Jeshuaiah of the sons of Merari, his brethren and their sons, twenty;

20 Also of the Nethinims, whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinims: all of them were expressed by name.

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of Him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him; but His power and His wrath is against all them that forsake Him.

23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and He was intreated of us.

24 Then I separated twelve of the chief of the priests, Sherebiah, Hashubah, and ten of their brethren with them,

25 And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, the offering of the house of God, which the king and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered:

26 I even weighed unto their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels an hundred talents, and of gold an hundred talents;

27 Also twenty basins of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

28 And I said unto them, "G ether are holy unto the LORD; the vessels are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering unto the LORD God of your fathers.

29 Watch ye, and keep them, until ye weigh them, before the chief of the priests and the Levites, and chief of the fathers of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD.

30 So took the priests and the Levites the weight of the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem unto the house of our God.

31 Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us; and He delivered us from the hand of our enemies, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

32 And we came to Jerusalem, and abode there three days.

33 Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them was Josabah the son of Shemiah, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, Levites;

34 By number and by weight of every one: all the weight was written at that time.

35 Also the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve he goats for a sin offering: all this was a burnt offering unto the LORD.

36 And they delivered the king's commissions unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors on this side the river: and they furthered the People, and the house of God.
9. 1.

Ezra.

9. 1-10. 44 (B, p. 617). The People. Dedication. Reformation. (Division.)

B C6 D4 (p. 630) 404

9 Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, ‘The People of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the land, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.’

E 1 d1 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonied.

1 Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away;

E 2 d2 And sat astonied until the evening sacrifice.

5 And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread abroad my hands unto the Lord my God,

G f1 6 And said, ‘O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to Thee, my God: for our iniquities have exceeded our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.

7 Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to a confusion of face, as it is this day.

G f2 And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in His holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little leeway in our bondage.

G f3 We were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

F 10 And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken Thy commandments,

11 Which Thou hast commanded by Thy servants the prophets, saying, ‘The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.

12 Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.’

9. 1-10. 17 (C, above). The Evil-doing. (Introduction and Alternation.)

C6 D4 9, 1-17. The evil reported to Ezra.

E 1 d1 9, 3. Ezra. Grief.

E 2 d2 9, 4-10. 1. Ezra. Prayer.


9 1-10. 17 The evil-doers. Reformad.

D 1 10, 12-17. The evil removed by Ezra.

The princes. Not all of them. Cp. v. 2.

People of Israel. See note on 2 1 and Kings 12, 17. people = peoples, or nations.


3 rent my garment, &c. These were signs of inward mourning. See v. 5. Josh. 7, 6-1 Sam. 4, 4-2 Sam. 1, 7-31, 31. Kings 15, 37. Job 1, 20. Matt. 26, 55. astonied: i.e. causing astonishment in such as saw me.


9. 4-10. 1 (d2, above). Ezra. Prayer. (Introduction and Alternation.)

D 1 d2 9, 4-5. Prostration and astonishment (Acts).

G f1 9, 6, 7. Confession.

G f2 9, 8, 9. Divine mercy.

G f3 9, 10-12. Confession.

G f4 9, 13, 14. Divine wrath.

(G) Words.

F 10, 1. Prostration and weeping (Acts).

F 10, 5. Confession.

F 10, 11. Confession.


5 having rent = having already rent.


7 been delivered. For these see Ism, Acts, v. 2, confusion of face. Cp. Dan. 9, 5-7.

8 a little space = a little while. Heb. kin’mat. See note on “almost” (Prov. 5, 14). Referring to the respite which had been begun by the kings of Assyria (8, 22. Neh. 9, 32) and continued by the kings of Persia.

remnant to escape. The same which Nehemiah had already inquired about (Neh. 1, 3). A nail = a peg surely driven in. Put by Fig. Motea (of Adjunct), Ap. 8, for the dwelling secured by it. holy place = Jerusalem, or sanctuary. Cp. Ps. 24, 3. Isa. 66, 7; 57, 13.

9 we were. Or, supply the Ellipsis “we are”.

bondmen. The subjects of the Persians (Neh. 9, 36). mercy = loving-kindness, or grace, kings of Persia. See Ap. 57.

to repair the desolations. Cp. Neh. 1, 2, 3. give us a wall. This helps to prove that the task of Nehemiah had already been effectual. See the Structure on p. 617, notes on p. 618, and Ap. 56.

10 what shall we say...? Fig. Erot. Ap. 6.

11 by = by the hand of.


12 nor seek their peace. Ref. to Pent.: the very words of Deut. 23, 6. children = sons.
13 And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this; 14 Should we then break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldst not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping? 15 O Lord, God of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.

10 Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people were very sore.

2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, "We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing.

3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my Lord, and of that which is trebled at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

4 Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it."

5 Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sworn.

6 Then arose Ezra from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jehanan the son of Eliashib: and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away.

7 And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem;

8 And that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away.

9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. 31 was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month: and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, trembling because of this matter, and for the great rain.

10 And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, "Ye have trespassed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. 11 Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do His pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives."

12 Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, "As thou hast said, so must we do. 13 But the People are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without, neither is this a work of one day or two: for we are many that have trespassed in this thing."
14 Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let them all which have taken strange wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and the judges thereof, until the fierce wrath of our God be turned from us.”

15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Zikri were employed about this matter: and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them.

16 And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, with certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by their names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the month to examine the matter.

17 And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of Nisan of the first month.

18 And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: namely, of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jeshaiah, and Malchiah.

19 And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.

20 And of the sons of Immer; Hanani, and Zebadiah.

21 And of the sons of Harim; Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uzziah.

22 And of the sons of Pashur; Elieoenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethaneel, Jozabad, and Elasah.

23 Also of the Levites; Jozabad, and Shimri, and Kelaha, (the same is Kelita), Pedaiah, and Zechariah, and Elder.

24 Of the singers also; Eliashib: and of the porters; Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.

25 Moreover of Israel; of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Jeiel, and Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.

26 And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, and Zechariah, and Abdi, and Jernemoth, and Elija.

27 And of the sons of Zattu; Elieoenai, Elia, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza.

28 Of the sons also of Bebai; Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai.

29 And of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, and Jeshua, and Sheal, and Ramoth.

30 And of the sons of Pahath-moab; Adna,

14 rulers—princes.
for, Heb. ad—“until”, as in the previous clause. Translate and supply Fig. Ellipsis (Ap. 6) thus: “until the fierce wrath of our God be turned from us, until this matter [be carried out].”
15 Only—But, or, Nevertheless.
Tikkun, Cp. 2 Kings 25. 26 and 2 Chron. 34. 22. were employed, &c.—superintended [the business].
17 the first day of the first month. See note on Gen. 8. 12. Ezra’s last date. The commission, therefore, set for eighty-eight days.

18 the sons of Joshua. Who had come up with Zerubbabel (2. 2). There were 973 priests of that house (33). There were found guilty seventeen priests, ten Levites singing with orators, and eighty-six lay people, making 118 in all.

19 gave their hands. Heb. idiom for giving their word. Cp. 2 Kings 10. 18, being guilty. Cp. Lev. 5. 1, a ram. See Lev. 5. 14-19.

22 Nethaneel. Some codices, with five early printed editions, read “and Nethaneel”.

29 and Ramoth. Heb. text reads “Jeremoth”. Marg. reads “Ramoth”.

31 of. Some codices, with one early printed edition, Sept., Syr., and Vulg., have this word “of” in the text.

44 strange—foreign.

Thus ends the first part of this book “Ezra—Nehemiah”; not abruptly: as it is followed by the second part, which is concerned mainly with the rebuilding of the city and the walls, instead of with the Temple. The incidents recorded in Neh. 1. 1–7. shah taken place before the first return under Zerubbabel. See the Structures and notes on p. 617, 618, and Ap. 58. Cp. also Neh. 7. 4 with Hag. 1. 1-4.

and Chelal, Benaijah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezael, and Binnui, and Manasseh.

31 And of the sons of Harim; Eliezer, Ishiah, Malchiah, Shemariah, Shimeon.

32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah.

32 Of the sons of Hashum; Mattaniah, Mattaniah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei.

34 Of the sons of Bani; Maadai, Amram, and Uel.

34 Of the sons of Bani; Maadai, Amram, and Uel.

35 Benaniah, Bedeiah, Chelluh,

36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliasib, Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jassau,

37 And Bani, and Binnui, Shimei,

35 Of the sons of Hashum; Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jassau,

36 And Bani, and Binnui, Shimei,

36 And Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah,

40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Shariel,

41 Azarel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah,

42 Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph.

42 Of the sons of Bani; Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Shubael, and Joel, Benaliah.

44 All these had taken strange wives: and some of them had bad wives by whom they had children.

[N.B. This division of the book Ezra—Nehemiah, in the later printed Hebrew Bibles, is quite modern. It breaks up the fourth of the ten Sederim (or cycles for public reading) which begins at Ezra 8. 35 and ends with Neh. 2. 10. See note on p. 617, and cp. note on p. 866.]
THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH.

1 THE words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chislev, in the twenty tenth year, as 3 was in Shushan the palace, 2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, 4 and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said unto me, 4 The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 And said, 6 I beseech thee, O Lord, God of heaven, the great and terrible 6 God, that 7 keepest covenant and mercy for them that love Him and observe His commandments: 6 Let Thine ear now be attentive, and Thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer which I pray before Thee now, day and night, for the 8 children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against Thee: both 9 and my father’s house have sinned. 7 We have dealt very corruptly against Thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

8 Remember, I beseech Thee, the word that Thou commandest: Thine servant Moses, saying, 6 If transgress, 3 will scatter you abroad among the nations:

was removed thither from Babylon. Excavations in three cities. Among them, four black stone pillars, with the Code of Khazmurubi (see Ap. 15). Bricks of his palace or temple were also found. Occupied by Babylonians in 2800 B.C. 2 Hanani. Shortened form of Hanan. Ap. 7. 2. See note above, and op. Dan. 1. 3. 6. men. Heb. 'emah. See Ap. 14. III. Ishak. Not about Ezra, and the 42,300 who are supposed to have been already in the Province of Judah: this Nehemiah would surely have done if the fact really been there. The Jews. Mentioned eleven times escaped: i.e., took away the lands of their captivity. See Jer. 43. 14. Why escape if already set free (Ezra 1. 3)? 3 they said: that which would not have been said if Ezra and his thousands had been already there. The remnant. For the history of this "remnant" see Jer. 40—44. Only a few poor sorts there (Jer. 52. 12, 16). left. Not carried away or returned (Jer. 52. 15, 16). Province = Judah. See Ezra 5. 8. broken down. Just as left by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 25. 10). Jer. 52. 12—14. For the subsequent history see Jer. 40 to 44.

4—11—(b, above) PRAYER. (Introspection.)

9 But if ye turn unto Me, and keep My commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto My name there. I have chosen to set My name there. 10 Now these are Thy servants and Thy People, whom Thou hast redeemed by Thy great power, and by Thy strong hand.

11 O Lord, I beseech Thee, let now Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servant, and to the prayer of Thy servants, who desire to seek Thy name: and prosper, I pray Thee, Thy servant this day, and grant him "mercy in the sight of this man." 12 For I was not before time sad in his presence. 13 Wherefore the king said unto me, "Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but a sorrow of heart." Then I was very sore afraid. 14 And said unto the king, "Let the king live forever; why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?" 15 Then the king said unto me, "For what dost thou make request?" 16 So I prayed to the God of heaven.

9 turn unto Me. National repentance was ever one great condition of Israel's national blessing (Deut. 50, 2, &c.); and is still the condition. Cp. Acts 3, 19-21, which, with Acts 28, 17, 23-29, was the last national call. 10 redeemed. Heb. pādagā. See note on Ex. 6, 15; 13. 11 Lord. Heb. Adonai. See Ap. 4, VIII. 2. But it is one of the 134 alterations of the Greek λόγος. See Ap. 34, desire to fear = delight in revering mercy = tender mercies. man. Heb. 'ish. Ap. 14, II.


6 the queen. Heb. ba-ēshēlīp = wife. Occurs only here and in Ps. 45, 9; Dan. 5, 2, 3, 23. Not a Heb. word, but borrowed from the Akkadian ša = a bride, and gal = great. Used of a foreign queen. Here it would exactly suit "the great bride" or "foreign (Jewish) queen," Esther. (See notes on the Chronological Structure of Ezra-Nehemiah, p. 618.) Esther is introduced here parenthetically because of her sympathy and interest, which Nehemiah so greatly needed at this juncture, as Mordecai had needed it before (Est. 4, 14). 7 forest = park. Heb. pārēdē. A Persian word which occurs only here, Ecc. 2, 5, and Song 4, 5, where it is rendered "orchards." Sept. renders it "paradise," which occurs twenty-eight times: (nima times = Eden, nineteen times = garden, Heb. gan.) 8 governors = peshas. A Persian word which occurs only here, Ecc. 2, 5, and Song 4, 5, where it is rendered "orchards." Sept. renders it "paradise," which occurs twenty-eight times: (nima times = Eden, nineteen times = garden, Heb. gan.) 9 captains = army. main subject of Nehemiah's section of the jobt book. come. hand. Fig. Anthropopatia. Ap. 6. (Acts 4, 28, 30); power (1 Chron. 29, 16); sovereignty (Ps. 31, 16); providence (1 Chron. 29, 16); supply (Ps. 104, 28); prosperity (Neh. 2, 8); security (John 10, 24, 26), power. 10 Sanballat. An Arabic name, originally (1869) discovered at Elephantine, in Egypt, written by two Jews (Delaunay and Shelley) to the sons of this Sanballat, who is called the "governor of Samarina." It is dated the seventeenth year of Darius Nothos (son of Darius Hystaspis). See Ap. 57 (Nothos = Greek "bastard") Here ends the fourth of the ten Seferim (or, Cycles for public reading) which commenced with Ezra 8, 25; thus showing that the two books were and are to be regarded as one. See Ap. 40, p. 685; and cp. notes on p. 682. 11 Horonite. Not of Beth-horon (Josh. 10, 10), but an alien (ch. 13, 37, 39, 78) of Horonaim, a Moabite. Cp. Isa. 15, 5. Jer. 43, 5, 54. See also the Moabite Stone. Ap. 54.
NEHEMIAH.

3. 4.

Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, "heard of it," it grieved them exceedingly that there were come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

12 And I arose in the night; three men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that rode upon me.

13 And I went out by night by the gate of the valley, even before the dragon wall, and to the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire.

14 Then I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass.

15 Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned.

16 And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

17 Then said I unto them, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

18 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?"

19 Then answered I them, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem."

3 Then Eliaishib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even the doors of the house of Meah, they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.

2 And next unto him builded the men of Jericho. And next to them builded Zaccur the son of Imri.

3 But the fish gate did the sons of Hasenaah build, who also laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.

4 And next unto them repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz. And next

Jer. 31. 56, which stretches on to what is still future. Side of the sheep gate. 2 next unto him, at his hand. 3 fish gate. See note on 2. 13, and Ap. 59.
unto them repaired Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel. And next unto them repaired Zadok the son of Baana.
5 And next unto them the Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of the LORD.

6 Moreover the old gate repaired Jeholada the son of Paseah, and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah; they laid the beams thereof, and set up the doors thereof, and the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.
7 And next unto them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, unto the throne of the governor on this side the river.

8 Next unto him repaired Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths. Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son of one of the aposhecaries, and they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall.
9 And next unto them repaired Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem.

10 And next unto them repaired Jedaiah the son of Harumaph, even over against his house. And next unto him repaired Hattush the son of Hashabniah.
11 Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hashub the son of Pahath-moab, repaired the other piece, and the tower of the furnaces.
12 And next unto him repaired Shallum the son of Halohesh, the ruler of the half part of Jerusalem, he and his daughters.

13 The valley gate repaired Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and a thousand cubits on the wall unto the dung gate.

14 But the dung gate repaired Malchiah the son of Rechab, the ruler of part of Mizzpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.

15 But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, the ruler of part of Beth-haccerem; he built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king’s garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.

16 After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Beth-zur, unto the place over against the sepulchres of David. And to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty.
17 After him repaired the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani. Next unto him repaired Hashabiah, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part.

18 After him repaired their brethren, Bavel the son of Henadad, the ruler of the half part of Keilah, in his part.
19 And next to him repaired Ezer the son of Jeshua, the ruler of part of Mizpah, another piece over against the going up to the armoury at the turning of the wall.

20 After him Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired the other piece, from the turning of the wall unto the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.
21 After him repaired Meremoth the son of Urijah the son of Koze another piece, from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.
22 And after him repaired the priests, the men of the plain.
23 After him repaired Benjamin and Hashubah over against their house. After him repaired Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah by his house.
24 After him repaired Binnui the son of Henadad another piece, from the house of Azariah unto the turning of the wall, even unto the corner.
25 Palal the son of Uzai, over against the turning of the wall, and the tower which lieth out from the king's 5 high house, that was by the 5 court of the prison. After him Pedaiadh the son of Parosh.

(Formerly Jebus, afterward Zion. See Ap. 46, 47.)

26 Moreover, Note the Parenthesis of v. 26. Nethinims. Their work was to carry wood and water for the Temple. Hence their dwelling. See note on Ezra 2. 42.

28 * (Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto the place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out.) 27 After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel.

28 From above the horse gate repaired the priests, every one over against his 10 house. 29 After them repaired Zadok the son of Immer over against his 10 house.

29 After him repaired also Shemaiyah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the east gate.

30 After him repaired Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanani the sixth son of Zalaph, andMeshullam, the son of Berechiah over against his chamber.

31 After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son unto the place of the 56 Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner.

32 And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

3 But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

2 And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they 1 fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?"

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was with him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

4 * But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

5 And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.
11 And our adversaries said, "They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease."

12 And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt 10 by them, said unto us ten times, 'From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you,'

13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the People, 'Be not ye afraid of them: remember the LORD, Which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.'

15 And it came to pass when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

16 And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.

17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

18 'For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded.'

19 And he that sounded the trumpet was by me, and I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, 'The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

20 In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.'

21 So we laboured in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

22 Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, 'Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.'

23 So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, put off our clothes, saying that every one put them off for washing.

5 And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews.

2 For there were that said, 'We, our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we take up our corn for them, that we may eat, and live.'

3 Some also there were that said, 'We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.'

4 There were also that said, 'We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards.

5 Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought into bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them;

6 And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.
Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, "If you exact usury, every one of your brother," and I set a great assembly against them.

And I said unto them, "If after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us?"

Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer.

9 Also I said, "It is not good that ye ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?

10 Likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury.

11 Restored, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exacted of them."

Then said they, "We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do, as thou sayest."

Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.

13 Also I shook my lap, and said, "So God shake out every man from his house, and from his lord, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied." And all the congregation said, "Amen," and praised the Lord. And the people did according to this promise.

14 Moreover from the time that I appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, and three months, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.

15 But the former governors, that had been before me, were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people; but so did not I, because of the fear of God.

16 Yea, also I continued in the work of this wall, neither bought we any land: and all my servants were gathered thither unto the work.

17 Moreover there were at my table an hundred and fifty of the Jews and rulers, beside those that came unto us from among the heathen that are about us.

18 Now that which was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep: also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this required not I the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this People.

18 Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

7 Then - And, rulers. See note on 2:14, exact usury. It was twelve per cent. See 6:11, one man. Heb. 'ish. Ap. 14. II.

7 set = appointed. assembly = body [of witnesses.] Heb. k'halah (fem.). Occurs only here and Deut. 25. 4. against = over.

8 redeemed = re-purchased. Heb. k'nakh, to acquire purchase; not y'dal, to redeem by purchase; or 'padah, to deliver by power. See notes on Ex. 6. 6; 13. 12.

11 the hundredth part. Paid at one per cent. per month, as was the custom; it was twelve per cent. per annum.

14 Moreover. See special note on tv. 14-19, on p. 653, and longer notes on p. 653, time = day. governor = Pashah.


the bread of the governor. The supplies due to him from the people.


18 prepared. At Nehemiah's own cost.

6 1-14 (S, p. 637). OPPOSITION. FIFTH AND SIXTH. (COMPROMISE. (Extended Alternation.)

6 2-8 (Y, above). FIRST STRATEGEM. (V) COMPROMISE. (Repeate Alternation.) Y a1. 2. Application. Made. b1. 3. Nehemiah. Refusal. a2. 4. Application. Repeated. Four times. b2. 4. Nehemiah. Refusal repeated. Four times. a3. 5-7. Accusation. b3. 6. Nehemiah. Denial. buided the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates.)

2 That 1 Sanballat and 1 Geshem sent unto me, saying, "Come, let us meet together in
6. 2. NEHEMIAH.

"some one of the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me mischief.

3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, 3a or doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: "why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?"

4 Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort;

5 and I answered them after the same manner.

5 Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand:

6 Wherein was written, "It is reported among the heathen, and among the Jews, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause their buildest the wall, that their mayest be their king, according to these words, 7 And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, 'There is a king in Judah;' and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together."

7 Then I sent unto him, saying, "There are no such things done as they sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart."

9 For they all made me afraid, saying, "Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done." 10 Now therefore, O Lord, strengthen my hands.

10 Afterward came unto the house of Shemariah the son of Delathiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up;

and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple:

d for they will come to slay thee; yes, in the night they will come to slay thee."

11 And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."

12 And, lo, I perceived that the Lord had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for the Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 Therefore was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

14 My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear.

15 So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul. In fifty and two days.

16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

17 Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters unto Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came unto them.

2 some one of the villages in Cophenim (7, 22, Ezra 2, 22); now Kefr 'Anea, twenty-five miles from Jerusalem; eight miles east of Jaffa; six miles north of Lydda; plain = valley, or combe.

Ono. Now Kefr 'Anea, five miles north of Lydda (Ezra 2, 22; Cp. oh. 11, 31), mischief = to kill or capture Nehemiah. Cp. Prov. 26, 32.

why ... ? Fig. Erotesia. Ap. 6.

four times. The enemy takes no denial, after the same manner. The only sure and safe procedure. Cp. 1 Sam. 17, 20.

5 servant = young man.

open letter. That others might read it.

heathen = nations.

There is a king: or, he hath become king. Come now, &c. The object still compromise.

feign, as. Only here and 1 Kings 19, 33 (devise).

made us afraid. Sought to make them afraid, but Nehemiah had no fear. See v. 11.

Now. Some codices, with three (and one in margin) early printed editions, read "Thou".

hands. Some codices, with six early printed editions, read "hand."

10 Shemariah. A professed friend, but a false prophet. See v. 12.

shut up = confined, in prison. Heb. 'iyar. See Jer. 33, 3; 38, 2; 39, 13.

6. -10-12 (Y, p. 639) SECOND STRATAGEM. (VI) (AFFRIGHTING). (Alternation.)

Y [c -10-, Stratagem. Made.

d -10, Pretence. Feign, Pretence. Discovered.

c -11, Stratagem. Failure.

d -12, Pretence. Discovered.

the house of God. This must have been a temporary structure. Nehemiah would not be without some place wherein to worship. The altar not yet erected. The Temple not yet built. See notes on 7, 4, and p. 618; also Ap. 58.


10 lo. Fig. Asterismos. Ap. 6.


15 fifty and two days. If finished on twenty-fifth Elul, and work took fifty-two days, it must have been commenced on third of Ab (fifth month). Work rapid, because all materials there: and God’s good hand was there upon them.

17 the nobles = certain nobles. Not necessarily all.


7. 2 Hanani. He must have returned to Jerusalem with Nehemiah. Cp. 1, 2.

18 For there were many in Judah sworn unto him, because he was the son in law of Shechaniam the son of Araiah; and his son Johanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

19 Also they reported his good deeds before me, and uttered my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to put me in fear.

7 Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed, 2 That I gave my brother Hanani, and Han-
NEHEMIAH.

palace = stronghold. Cp. 2. 4. North of Temple area. was a faithful man. man. Heb. *ish. Ap. 14. II. Here, with kaph veritatis (k*ish 'emeth), for emphasis. feared = revered. God. Heb. 'eth-ha'lohim = the [true, or triune] God. See Ap. 4. I. 3 stand by : as on guard. shut. Heb. giph, to close, as a gate. one. Heb. *ish. Ap. 14. II. house = dwelling. See note on 7. 4. 4. large and great = wide, or open, and large. few therein. This could not have been said if Zerubbabel had already returned with nearly 60,000 people (Ezra 2. 64-67). houses were not builid. See longer notes on 6. 68.

7. 5-73 (J). p. 616; P. 617. THE RETURN UNDER ZERUBBABEL. (Introversion.)

J B (p. 617).

C (above). REGISTER. CONTENTS. (PARTICULAR.) (Repeated Alteration.)


33 the other. Some codices, with two early printed editions, read "echad = a certain", instead of "echer = another", or the other (rival). 34 the other. Some codices, with one early printed edition, read "one", or "a certain", as above.

28 The 7 men of Beth-azmaveth, forty and two. 29 The 7 men of Kirjath-jearim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty and three. 30 The 7 men of Ramah and Gaba, six hundred twenty and one. 31 The 7 men of Michmas, an hundred and twenty and two. 32 The 7 men of Beth-el and Ai, an hundred twenty and three. 33 The 7 men of *the other Nebo, fifty and two. 34 The 7 children of *the other Elam, a thousand two hundred fifty and four.
The children of Harim, three hundred and twenty.
The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.
The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty and one.
The children of Sennaah, three thousand nine hundred and thirty.
The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred seventy and three.
The children of Immer, a thousand fifty and two.
The children of Pashur, a thousand two hundred forty and seven.
The children of Harim, a thousand and seventeen.
The Levites: the children of Jeshua, of Kadmiel, and of the children of Hodavah, seventy and four.
The singers: the children of Asaph, an hundred forty and eight.
The porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, an hundred thirty and eight.
The children of Zerahiah, the children of Hashubh, the children of Tabbetha.
The children of Keros, the children of Sin, the children of Padon,
The children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Shalmai,
The children of Hanan, the children of Giddel, the children of Gaal, the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda.
The children of Gazzam, the children of Uzza, the children of Phaseah,
The children of Besai, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephishim.
The children of Bakub, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,
The children of Bazlith, the children of Meha, the children of Harsha,
The children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Tahath,
The children of Neziah, the children of Hatipa.
The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of Sophereth, the children of Perida.
The children of Jaala, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
The children of Shephatiah, the children of Haroll, the children of Pochereth of Zebaim, the children of Amon.
All the Nethinims, the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety and two.
And these were they which went up also from Tel-melah, Tel-haresah, Cherub, Addon, and Immer; but they could not shew their father's house, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel.
The children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred forty and two.
And of the priests: the children of Hab-
7. 71.

NEHEMIAH.

73 the Nethinims. See note on Ex. 32. 43.

(Introduction.)
V | 8. -1-12. The first day.
U | 8. 13-12. - The second and following days.
| 8. -1-12. - The solemn assembly.
| the seventh month. This was in 428 n.c., not in 404 n.c., which is referred to in 9. 1-3 and Ezra 9. 1-4. See Ap. 58.

8. -1-12 (V, above). THE FIRST DAY.

(Division.)

8. -1-8 (W, above). THE BOOK. OPENED AND READ. (Afternoon and Intercourse.)
W | g | i. 1. The book brought forth.
| j | 1-5. The book opened.
| k | 5-7. Station of Ezra and others.
| 6. The reading.

1 And -Then. man. Heb. 'im. Ap. 14. II. street = broad or open space. See v. 3, 16; 8, 3; 12, 36, 37, 46.

the water gate. See notes on 3. 26 and 5. 2.

the book = scroll. The well-known book (Dent. 31. 10, 11).

See Ap. 47.

the LORD. Heb. Jehovah (with 'eth). Ap. 4. II.

Ezra the priest. It was the priest's duty at this
and at all times to teach the people the Word of God. See note on Deut. 17. 11; 33. 10; and cp. Mal. 2. 7.

congregation = assembly or muster.

upon the first day, &c. This was according to the requirement of Deut. 31. 9-12, every seventh year.


4 pulpit = high platform. Eng. "pulpit" from Lat. pulpitum, a stage of a theatre.

beside him. Thirteen priests with him: fourteen in all.

Ap. 10. And some codices, with five early printed editions, omit this "and ".

5 opened the book = unrolled the scroll.

in the sight = before the eyes.


Amen. Amen. Fig. Epizeuxis (Ap. 6), emphasising the great solemnity.


8 read in the book: i.e. the Heb. text of the Pentateuch. See Ap. 47.

distinctly = a distinct [reading], i.e. (according to the Talmud) translating and interpreting it in the Chaldee paraphrase.

and. Note the Fig. Polysyllabis (Ap. 6), to emphasise each clause.

gave the sense: i.e. divided the sentences, &c., according to sense.

causèd them to understand the reading: i.e. gave the traditional pronunciation of the words (which were then without the vowel points).

8. -9-12 (W, above). THE BOOK. EFFECT OF READING. (Extended Alteration.)
W | j | 5. Prohibition. No weeping.
| k | 10. - Dismissal.
| 10. - Joy.
| k | 12. Departure.
| l | 12. - Joy.

9 Nehemiah. He now uses the third person. This is not necessarily a sign of change of authorship.

holy. See note on Ex. 8. 5.
for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry;
for the joy of the Lord is your strength."
11 So the Levites stilled all the People, saying,
"Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.
12 And all the people went their way
to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and
to make great mirth, because they had understood
the words that were declared unto them.
13 And on the second day were gathered
together the chief of the fathers of all the People, the priests, and the Levites, unto Ezra
the scribe, even to understand the words of the law.
14 And they found written in the law which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month:
15 And that they should publish and proclaim
in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying,
"Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and pine branches, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written."
16 So the People went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the streets of the city, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.
17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.
18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God.
And they kept the feast seven days;
and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.
(Repeated Alternations.)
G
Y 1 | 9, 1 - 3. The People. Separation and worship.
Z 1 | q 1 | 9, 4 - 5. The Levites. Cry to Jehovah.
| r 1 | 9, 6 - 7. Prayer.
| q 2 | 9, 8 - 10. The Levites. Blessing Jehovah.
| r 2 | 9, 11 - 12. Praise.
Z 2 | q 2 | 10, 28 - 29. The Levites. Themselves.
| r 3 | 10, 30 - 32. Separation from foreigners.
| q 4 | 10, 33 - 36. The Levites. Their families.
| r 4 | 10, 37 - 39. Cleaving to their brethren.
Y 3 | 10, 40 - 42. The People. Ordinances.
Neh. 9. 1 - 10. 39 is parallel with Ezra 9. 1 - 10. 44. Ezra 4. 1 - 8. 26 comes between Neh. 8. 18 and 9. 1. See the Table and Structure on p. 617, notes on p. 618, and Ap. 58.
1 this month. In 404 n.c., not in 426 n.c. (7. 73).
2 Same as Ezra 9. 1 - 4. See Ap. 58.

2 strangers = sons of the foreigner.
5 Levites. For these names, cp. 3. 17; 7. 43; 10, 10; 12, 7, 24. Ezra 2. 40; 8. 9.
6 Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said,
9. 5. NEHEMIAH.

r A 1
(p. 645)
Tisri
401
B's

7 ¶Heu, art 3 the LORD the 3 God, Who didst choose Abram, and broughtest forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham; 8 And founded his heart 3 faith in thee, and madest a 4 covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give it, I say, to his seed, and hast performed Thy words; for ¶Heu art righteous: 9 ¶And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red Sea; 10 ¶And shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day. 11 ¶And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters. 12 Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go. 13 ¶Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: 14 ¶And madest known unto them Thy holy sabbath, and commandest them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses Thy servant: 15 ¶And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hast sworn to give them.

18 But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, 17 ¶And refused to obey, neither were minded of Thy wonders that Thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage:

but ¶Heu art 3 a ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

18 Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, This is thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations;

9. - 5-38 (r², p. 644). PRAISE. CONFESSION. PRAYER. (Repeated Alternation.)

r² A 1 - 5, 6. Praise of Jehovah.
B¹ 7-31. Confession.
A² 32. Prayer to Jehovah.
B² 33-37. Confession.
A³ 38. Covenant with Jehovah.

5 Stand up, &c. One of the most glorious of all Doxologies. blessed be = let them bless.
6 Thou ... Thou ... Thou. Fig. Epizeuxis (Ap. 6), for emphasis.
art LORD = [art] §c, Jehovah. heaven = the heavens.
7 ¶Heu art righteous: heaven of heavens. Fig. Polyptoton (Ap. 6), for emphasis.
and. Note the Fig. Polyptoton (Ap. 6), throughout this confession.

7-31 (B¹, above). CONFESSION. (Repeated Alternation.)


7 choose Abram, Cp.Gen.11.31; 12.1; 17.5. Josh.24.1-3. Abraham. See note on Gen. 17. 5, and Ap. 50. III. The letter ת (He) = five. This is the number of grace (Ap. 40), put into the middle of the names (Abram and Sarai), as a symbol of the grace that called him. See Ap. 40. III for the repetition of five in its multiples all through his life.

10 shewedst signs, &c. See Ex. 7. 7, 8-10; 12 and 14.
11 persecutors - pursuers.
12 mighty waters. Cp. Ex. 15. 5.
15 good statutes. See note on Gen. 26. 5. Deut. 4. 7.
16 most known ... Thy, &c. Jehovah's Sabbath was in Gen. 2. 1-3. Made known to Israel (Ex. 20. 8-11).
17 established as a sign (Ex. 21. 13-17).
18 holy. See note on Ex. 3. 5.
19 sabbath = cessation (from work), rest. This rest was made for man (Mark 2. 27).
15 water. Ex. 17. 6. Num. 20. 7-11.
16 dealt pridefully - fostered pride.
17 among ... with, appointed a captain. See Num. 14. 4.
18 to their bondage. Some codices, with one early printed edition, read מָימָרָת = to Egypt, instead of מָימָרָת = in their rebellion.
a. The A.V. of 1611 had 'the'.
of great kindness = abounding in lovingkindness. 18 a molten calf. Ex. 32. 4.
This. Singular number: i.e., "This [ calf]." Egypt. Some codices, with six early printed editions and Syr., read "the land of Egypt". Cp. Ex. 32. 4.
9. 19.

NEHEMIAH.

9. 35.

19 Yet didst Thou in Thy manifold mercies forsook them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.

20 Thou gavest also Thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not Thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

21 Yea, forty years didst Thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.

22 Moreover Thou gavest them kingdoms and nations, and didst divide them into corners: so they possessed the land of Sihon, and the land of the king of Heshbon, and the land of Og king of Bashan.

23 Their children also multipliedst Thou as the stars of heaven, and broughtest them into the land, concerning which Thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess it.

24 So the children went in and possessed the land, and Thou subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would.

25 And they took strong cities, and fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in Thy great goodness.

26 Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against Thee, and cast Thy law behind their backs, and slew Thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to Thee, and they wrought great provocations.

27 Therefore Thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, which vexed them:

and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto Thee,

28 But after they had rested, they did evil again before Thee:

therefore leftest Thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them:

yet when they returned, and cried unto Thee, didst hear them from heaven;

and many times didst Thou deliver them according to Thy mercies;

29 And testifiedst against them, that Thou mightest bring them again unto Thy law:

yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto Thy commandments, but sinned against Thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear.

30 Yet many years didst Thou forbear them,
9. 36. NEHEMIAH. 10. 32.

36 Behold, we are servants this day, and the land that Thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof, behold, we are servants in it.

37 And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom Thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.

38 And because of all this we make a sure covenant, and write it: and our princes, Levites, and priests, seal unto it:"


Y' u | 1-7. | The chief, Nehemiah the Governor.
| v | 8-18. | The priests.
| w | 19-27. | The Levites.

This chapter is parallel with the last chapter of Ezra (10. 1-44). Consequently all beyond it is supplementary (chronologically). See note on Ezra 9. 1, the Structure on p. 617, notes on p. 618, and Ap. 58.

1 those that sealed. These are stated by the Talmudic writings, and the unanimous voice of tradition, to have formed "The Great Synagogue". It consisted at first of 120 members, but was afterward reduced to seventy. It represented the five divisions of the nation: (1) the chief of the priests; (2) the chief Levites; (3) the chiefs of the people; (4) the representatives of the cities; (5) the doctors of the law. Its work was by solemn oath: (1) not to intermarry with the heathen; (2) to keep the sabbath; (3) to keep the sabbatical year; (4) to pay annually a shekel to the temple; (5) to supply wood for the altar; (6) to pay the priestly dues; (7) to collect and preserve the canonical Scriptures. The Great Synagogue lasted 110 years: from Nehemiah to Simon the Just, when, having completed its work, it became known as the Soledadin of the N.T., the supreme council of the Jewish nation: which rejected the kingdom, and crucified the King (Messiah).

Nehemiah. See note on Ezra 2. 1, 2.

4 chief = heads.

28 Nehemias. See note on Ezra 2. 45.

people = peoples.

the law of God. See Ex. 17. 14 and Ap. 47.


| x | 31. | The sabbath.
| z | 32-37. | The Temple.

29 given. See Ap. 47.


31 ware = wares. Heb. pl. only here.

on the sabbath. Cp. 9. 14; 18. 15, 16, 18, 19, 21. This observation of the sabbath ensured the reading of God's Word, and the multiplication of copies.

holy. See note on Ex. 3. 5.

leave, &c. i.e. forego the produce of the seventh year.

the seventh year. See Ex. 23. 10, 11. Lev. 25. 2, 7.

32 Also we made ordinances for us, to charge
11. And the rulers of the People dwell at Jerusalem:

the rest of the People also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in Jerusalem and other cities.

2 And the People blessed all the men, that willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

3 Now these are the chief of the province that dwelt in Jerusalem:

4 And at Jerusalem dwelt certain of the children of Judah,

and of the children of Benjamin.

Of the children of Judah; Athaia the son of Uzziel, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalaleel, of the children of Perez;

5 And Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-hohez, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Jolarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni,

6 All the sons of Perez that dwelt at Jerusalem were four hundred threescore and eight valiant men.

7 And these are the sons of Benjamin; Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joel, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Koliah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ishiel, the son of Jesiah.

648
11. 8.  NEHEMIAH.  12. 1.

8 And after him Gabbai, Sallai, nine hundred twenty and eight.
9 And Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer, and Judah the son of Senuah was second over the city.

H2 J1 (p. 649)
10 Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Jolarib, Jachin,
11 Sarai the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshelem, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraroth, the son of Ahitub, was the ruler of the house of {G} God.
12 And their brethren, that did the work of the house were eight hundred twenty and two: and Adelath the son of Jeremah, the son of Pelaieth, the son of Amzi, the son of Zachariath, the son of Paschur, the son of Malchiah,
13 And his brethren, chief of the fathers, two hundred forty and two: and Amashai the son of Azareel, the son of Ahasai, the son of Meshelemoth, the son of Ammer,
14 And their brethren, mighty men of valour, an hundred twenty and eight: and their overseer was Zabdiel, the son of one of the great men.

J1 15 Also of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hashub, the son of Azirim, the son of Shashaiah, the son of Bunni,
16 And Shabothai and Jozabad, of the chief of the Levites, had the oversight of the outward business of the house of {G} God.
17 And Mattaniah the son of Michah, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, was the principal to begin the thanksgiving in prayer: and Bakkukiah the second among his brethren, and{G} Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun,
18 All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred fourscore and four.

J1 19 Moreover the porters, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren that kept the gates, were an hundred seventy and two.

G2 (p. 648)
20 And the residue of Israel, of the priests, and the Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, every one in his inheritance.

F1 21 But the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel: and Ziza and Gispa were over the Nethinim.
22 The overseer also of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzai the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michah. Of the sons of Asaph, the singers were over the business of the house of {G} God.
23 For it was the king's commandment concerning them, that a certain portion should be for the singers, and for every day.
24 And Pethahiah the son of Meshezabeel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

G1 K1 (p. 649)
25 And for the villages, with their fields, some of the children of Judah dwelt at Kirjatharba, and in the villages thereof, and at Dibon, and in the villages thereof, and at Jekabzeel, and in the villages thereof,
26 And at Jeshua, and at Moladah, and at Bethpher.
27 And at Hazar-shual, and at Beer-sheba, and in the villages thereof.
28 And at Ziklag, and at Mekonah, and in the villages thereof,
2 Amariah, Malluch, Mattush, 3 Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, 4 Iddo, Ginnetho, Abijah, 5 Miamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, 6 Sherebiah, and Joraiob, Jedaiah. These were the heads of the priests and of their brethren in the days of Jehu.

Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, whose name was over against the thanksgiving, i.e. and his brethren.

Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, were over against them in the watches.

And Jeshua begat Johakim, Johakim also begat Eliphas, and Eliphas begat Jozada, 11 And Johada begat Jonathan, and Jonathan begat Jaddua.

And in the days of Johakim were priests, the sons of the fathers of: of Seraiah, Meraiah, of Jeremiah, Hananiah;

Of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;

Of Melicu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;

Of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;

Of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

Of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai;

Of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;

And of Joharib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;

Of Sallai, Kalai; of Amok, Eber;

Of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanael.

The Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, were recorded the heads of the fathers: also the priests, to the reign of Darius the Persian.

The sons of Levi, the heads of the fathers, were written in the book of the chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

And the heads of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward over against ward.

Matteniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, were porters keeping the ward at the thresholds of the gates.

These are the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

And at the dedication of the wall Jerusalem they sought out the Levites among all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together, both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi;
trumpets; namely, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph:

38 And his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azariah, Milalai, Gilalai, Maal, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them.

37 And at the fountain gate, which was over against them, they went up by the stairs of the house of David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the water gate eastward.

38 And the other company of them that gave thanks went over against them: and 3 after them, and the half of the people upon the wall, from beyond the tower of the furnaces even unto the broad wall;

39 And from above the gate of Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananel, and the tower of the great gate, even unto the sheep gate: and they stood still in the prison gate.

40 So stood the two companies of them that gave thanks in the house of God, and 3, and the half of the rulers with me:

41 And the priests: Eliakim, Masceiah, Miniamin, Michielah, Eliaunmi, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

42 And Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Elnaz, and Azariah, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud, with Zechariah their overseer.

43 Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for 10 God had made them rejoice with great joy: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

44 And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited.

45 And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son.

46 For in the days of David and Asaph of old were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God.

47 And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron.

13 On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the People; and therein was found written, that the Amorites and the Moabites should not come into the congregation of God for ever;

2 Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse 38 of David: i.e. dating from, or invented by him. 37 the strea. See 3. 12.


41 into them = by them; i.e. these officers; not into the chambers, for "chambers" is fem., and "them" is masc., of the law. So in God. Hillel; but some codices, with one early printed edition, read "portions for thank-giving".

42 ward = charge.


children = sons.


OVERCOME. (Introversion.)


1-9 (S, above). STRANGERS.

(Alteration.)

S | x | 1. 2. Lawful exclusion.
| y | 3. Separation.
| z | 4-7. Unlawful inclusion.
| y | 8, 9. Separation.

1 On that day: i.e. of which he is about to write.


2 was found written = they came to the place of passage (viz. Deut. 23. 3-6). Not a discovery, but in the course of the public reading (as in Luke 4. 17). Cp. 8. 14,

3 Moabite (masc.). This did not therefore exclude Ruth, a female, though married to Mahlon before Boaz.

4 congregation = assembly, or muster.

5 God. 1st. Hebrew (with Art.) = the (true) God. Ap. 4. I.

6 Because they (pl.). Num. 22. 56. Deut. 23. 3, 4.

children = sons.

bought Balaam. Num. 22. 6, 8. Josh. 24. 9, 10.

them (sing.) i.e. Israel.

curse. Heb. kādāl = reproach, imprecate.


4 And before this. See longer note on 13. 4-9, p. 653.


7 offerings = heave offerings. Ap. 43. II. viii.

8 the two and thirtieth year. See longer note p. 653.

them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing.

3 Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

4 "And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah:

5 And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.

6 But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of
13. 6

Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king: 7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.

8 And it grieveth me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.

9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

Tz

10 And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field.

11 Then contended I with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

12 Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries.

13 And I made treasurers over the treasuries. Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiyah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren.

14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

Tz

15 In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals.

16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, "What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? 18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city; yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath?"

19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.

21 Then I said, and spake against them, and said unto them, "Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands upon you." From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath.

22 And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day.

Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

23 In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab:

24 And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.

25 And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair.

and made them swear by God, saying, "Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.

26 "Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and it God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.

27 "Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?"

28 And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite:

therefore I chased him from me.

29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

30 Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business;
31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits.

28 Did not Solomon . . . ? Fig. Erotës. Ap. 6.
many = the many.
outlandish = the foreign. Heb. nakhâ.
27 Shall we . . . ? Fig. Erotës. Ap. 6.
strange = the foreign. Heb. nakhâ, as in v. 20.
28 one of the sons, &c. Joiada the son of Eliashib was led astray by the degeneracy of his father (e. g.), and married the daughter of Sanballat (2. 10). Joiada's son was Manasseh, who, according to Josephus (Ant. xi. 8. 9), fled to Samaria, where Sanballat built the Samaritan temple at Gerizim, and made Manasseh the high priest of it.
30 wards of = charges for. N. B. no Art. here.
31 the wood offering. See note on 10. 34, 35.

Longer Notes on Special Passages in Nehemiah.

2. 1 the twentieth year. The "seventy sevens" of Dan. 9. 24-27 begin here (454 a. c.).
The "seven sevens" (Dan. 9. 25), or forty-nine years begin here, and end in 405 a. c.; marked by the completion and dedication of the Second Temple.
The "threescore and two sevens" (Dan. 9. 26), or 434 years begin (or rather, follow on) in 405 a. c., and end in a. D. 29, the year of the Cross.
The last "seven" is therefore, still future.
The first four of the "seven sevens" ended in 428 a. c., marked by the Decree of Cyrus, which ended the Babylonian Servitude of seventy years. See Ap. 50, 57, and 58.
5. 14-19 Moreover from the time that I was appointed, &c. Verses 14-19 are put within brackets for the following reasons:
As Nehemiah's record must have been written many years later, after the dedication both of the Temple (405 a. c.) and the Wall (403 a. c.), the reference to his policy during the twelve years of his governorship, from the twentieth to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes (Darius Hystaspis, 419-407 a. c.), is introduced here, in order to emphasize the contrast between the capacity of "the nobles and rulers" (5. 7), and his own conduct. For he says that, not only at that time (454 a. c.) did he not exploit the people for his own advantage, but that during his governorship (which ended in 407 a. c., some four or five years at least before the time of his writing the final record, more than forty years later than 454), when, according to Eastern views, he would have been justified in getting as much as he could out of his office, he not only lived entirely at his own charges but supported others also. See note below on 13. 4-9.
7. 4 the houses were not builded = no sign of houses being built. This statement refers to the permanent stable habitations of the city proper which Haggai speaks of as being in existence forty-four years later (Hag. 1. 4, 9). The word nê'âf, house, means a dwelling, and in 2. 3 and 3. 31 is rendered "place", which clearly indicates its meaning in these passages. Among the ruined houses left by Nebuchadnezzar many might easily have been made habitable sufficiently to fulfill the conditions of 8. 16.
7. 5 I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first. It must be borne in mind that Nehemiah wrote long after this date (428 a. c.); probably between 405 and 400 a. c. It is quite natural therefore that he should write of finding such a book as this. When he says, "I found a book", &c., it does not mean that Nehemiah found or discovered the register at that time; but, writing long after, he says, "I find that the list of names was, so and so", &c.
13. 4-9 And before this . . . the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon (13. 6). The Artaxerxes (great king) here is Darius Hystaspis. The record here must have been written after the dedication of both Temple (405 a. c.) and Wall (403 a. c.). The thirty-second year is that of the king's age, not of his reign, for he only succeeded Cambyses in 411 a. c. His twentieth year (5. 14) was 419 a. c., when, on the death of Cyrus, Nehemiah was "appointed" to be governor in the land of Judah.
Consequently Nehemiah's twelve years of governorship end in 407 a. c., two years before the completion and dedication of the Temple, and when Darius Hystaspis had been reigning three years.
In that year (407) Nehemiah evidently receives a report from his deputy (probably Harâni still) as to the Temple progress, and doubtless of the Eliashib-Tobiah scandal. He determines to go himself, obtains leave of absence (with difficulty, apparently, 13. 6), and comes to Jerusalem. Arriving there, he "understands" the evil concerning Eliashib, casts forth Tobiah and his "stuff", and hurries on the Temple work towards completion.