

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH.

THE SECOND STATESMAN OF THAT NAME.

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

Nehemiah flourished about 446 B.C.

1 The History of Nehemiah-ben-Hakaliah

IT happened in the month of Nisan,¹ in the twentieth year (of Arthakshasta) when I was at the 2 Palace of Shushan, Hanani, one of my relatives, and another man came from Judah and Jerusalem from the Jews who had escaped, who were left behind from the Captivity and 3 were in Jerusalem, and they told me that the remnant who were left there out of the Captivity in that Province, were in great distress, and contempt, and the walls of Jerusalem were broken, and its gates had been burnt with fire

Nehemiah's Prayer for Israel.

4 When I heard their account of this, I sat and wept, and was depressed for some time, and then I fasted and prayed before the GOD 5 OF THE HEAVENS, and I exclaimed; "EVER-LIVING GOD of the Heavens—the GREAT GOD, and Terrible, Who remembers the Covenant, and shows kindness to those who love 6 Him, and obey His commands,—let Your ears now listen, and Your eyes open to receive the prayer of Your servant, which I pray before You, from day to day, and night to night, an account of the children of Israel Your servant, who have sinned against You;—and I and my father's family

have sinned. We have offended 7 against You, and not obeyed the commands, and Institutions, and Decrees, which You commanded to Your servant Moses. Remember 8 now the promise You communicated to Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you abandon them, I will scatter you amongst the Nations; but if you 9 return to Me, and guard My Commands, and practise them, although you may be scattered to the extent of the skies, I will collect you from thence, and bring you to the place where I have chosen that My Name should dwell.' And these are Your 10 servants, and Your People whom You redeemed by Your Great Power, and strong hand! ALMIGHTY! I now 11 entreat You let Your ears attend to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayers of Your servants who delight in and reverence Your NAME, and I pray You to give Your servant success to-day, and grant him favour before this man."

I was then butler to the king.

The King Talks with Nehemiah.

It was in the month of Nisan, in 2 the twentieth year of King Arthakshasta, when he was at wine, that I carried the wine, and gave it to the King, but my face was sad before him, so the King asked me, "Why is 2 your face sad, when you are not ill? That can be nothing except sorrow at heart!"

Then I was very much afraid, but 3 replied to the King; "May the King live for ever!—Why should not my face be sad, when the town of the tombs of my fathers is ashes, and its gates consumed by fire?"

When the King answered, "What 4 do you ask for?"

So I prayed to the GOD OF THE

1 NOTE.—Ch. I, v. I. The month should be Nisan, נִסָּן, not כִּסְלִי, Kislu, see Ch. 2, v. 1. In the Hebrew alphabet the slip of a pen in copying makes the difference. The opening of Nehemiah seems to intimate that a revolt of the pagan colonists had occurred between 457 and 446 B.C., in which Jerusalem was burnt and the Second Ezra was slain.—F. F.

5 HEAVENS and said to the king, "If it seems good to the king, and if your servant has favour before you, it is to send me to Judea to the burial town of my fathers,—and I will rebuild it."

6 The King then asked me—and the Queen sat beside him—"How long will you be gone? and when will you return?"

The King makes Him Governor of Jerusalem.

Thus it pleased the King, and he sent me, and I fixed a time with him, 7 and said to the king, "If it is pleasing to the king, let them give me letters to the Governors of the Over-river, so that they may allow me to proceed 8 until I arrive at Judea. And letters to Asaph, the Keeper of the King's Parades,¹ that he may give me timber to construct the Gates of the Burial-place belonging to the spot, and for the walls of the town, and for the house I am going to."

The King consequently gave me them by the good influence of GOD 9 upon me, and I proceeded to the Governors of the Over-river, and gave them the letters of the king. The King had also sent with me Officers of the Army and cavalry.

10 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah his slave, the Amonite, heard the affair, it grieved them very greatly, that a man should come to try to benefit the Children of Israel.

11 I, however, went to Jerusalem and 12 was there three days; but had risen in the night, and a few men with me, and had informed no man what GOD had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem,—and I had no animal with me, except the animal I rode upon,

13 and at night I went out by the Valley Gate, opposite the Snakes' Well, and on to the Dung Gate, and I saw the walls of Jerusalem that were shattered and broken and its Gates consumed by fire. From there I passed 14 to the Well Gate, and the King's Reservoir, but there was not a place

15 for my animal to pass through. I afterwards went and viewed by night along the brook, and surveyed the shattered wall,—thence I turned and entered by the Vale Gate, and came 16 back. But the Deputy Governors did not know that I had gone, or

what I had done; nor had I informed the Jews, or the Priests, or the Deputies, or the nobles, and the rest, what I had done. I said, however, to them, 17 "You see the misery that we are in.—How Jerusalem is ashes, and its gates burnt with fire. Let us go and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, when we shall no longer be an object of 18 contempt." I also explained to them the beneficent hand of the EVER-LIVING that was with me, as well as the promises of the King which he had promised me, when they replied, "We will arise and rebuild"; and they invigorated their hands for good. 19 —But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah his slave, the Amonite, and Geshem, the Arabian, heard it, they laughed at, and jeered about us, and asked "What is this business that you are doing? Are you going to rebel against the king?"

I, however, replied to them, and 20 said: "The GOD OF THE HEAVENS has given us prosperity, so we rise up and build;—but you have no share in it, nor right, nor traditions in Jerusalem."

The Walls of Jerusalem Rebuilt.

Aliashib the High Priest, and his 3 relatives the Priests accordingly arose and built the Sheep Gate, consecrated, and set up its doors, and consecrated from the Tower of Hamah to the Tower of Hananal. And the men of Jeriko built from the 2 side of it; and next to them Zikriben-Amri built. And the sons of 3 Hasenah built the Fish Gate and set up the doors, with its bolts and bars. And Merimoth-ben-Auriah- 4 ben-Akakoz repaired their side; and next to them Meshalum-ben-Berekiah-ben-Meshabzabel repaired; and 5 next to them, the Thakoites repaired, but their gentry did not bring their necks to the work of their Master. And Jorada-ben-Pask, 6 and Meshulam-ben-Basodiah, repaired the Old Gate; they built it and set up its doors, and bolts and bars. And next to them Melatiah, 7 the Gibanite, and Jadon the Merothonite, men of Gibaon and Mizpha, Presidents of the Over-river Court, repaired, and next to them Uziel- 8 ben-Harakhiah, and the Goldsmiths repaired; and next to them Hananiah, head of the Apothecaries, and set Jerusalem free to the breadth of

¹ NOTE.—Parks or Forests.

9 the wall! And beside them, Rephiah-
 10 ben-Hur the Governor of half the
 district of Jerusalem repaired; And
 next to them Jediah-ben-Harumaf
 repaired, and all before his house;
 11 and next to him Hatorh-ben-Has-
 habniah. Next from there Malkiah-
 ben-Harim repaired; and Hashub-
 12 ben-Pathakh-Moab repaired to the
 Foundry Tower; And next to them
 Shalem-ben-Halukash, Governor of
 half of the district of Jerusalem, re-
 13 paired, joined with his daughters;
 Hanan and the people of Zanoh
 repaired the Valley Gate; they built
 it, and set up its doors, and bolts and
 bars, besides building a thousand
 cubits of wall, as far as the Dung
 14 Gate; And Mikiah-ben-Rekab, the
 Governor of the District of Beth-
 Nakerim, repaired the Dung Gate.
 He built it, and set up the doors,
 15 bolts, and bars. And Shalum-ben-
 Kolhozah, Governor of the District
 of Mitzfa, repaired the Well Gate.
 He built it, roofed, and set up the
 doors, bolts, and bars, with the wall
 of the pool of Shilah, to the King's
 Garden, and as far as the Stairs
 going up to the City of David.
 16 After him, Nehemiah-ben-Azebuk,
 Governor of half the District of Beth
 Zoar, repaired to opposite the Tomb
 of David, and as far as the Reservoir
 he made, and to the Barracks of the
 17 Guards. After him, the Levites,
 Rehum-ben-Bami, repaired at that
 side, and Shebiah the Governor of
 the half-district of Qailah with its
 18 district. After him, his relatives the
 Beni Bani, and Benhadad, Governor
 19 of half the district of Qailah. Next
 to him Azer-ben-Jeshua, Governor
 of Mizfah, repaired another opposite
 the ascent to the Arsenal corner.
 20 After him, Baruk-ben-Zabi energeti-
 cally repaired another length from
 the Corner to the entry of the House
 21 of Alishah the High Priest. And
 after him, Merimoth-ben-Auriah-
 ben-Akutz, another length from the
 entry of the House of Alishib to the
 extent of the residence of Alishib.
 22 And after him, the Priests of the
 Circuit repaired. And after them,
 Benjamin and Hashub, opposite their
 23 houses. After them Azriah-ben-
 Mashiah-ben-Ananiah, at the side of
 24 his house. After them, Binni-Ben-
 hadad another length from the resi-
 dence of Aziriah, to the Corner and
 25 the turning. Palal-ben-Auzi oppo-

site the Corner and the tower that
 projects from the Higher Royal
 Palace where the Guards' Barracks
 are. After him, Pediah-ben-Parash,
 with the Attendants who were 26
 lodged on the Hill, opposite the
 Water Gate, towards the East, where
 the Tower projects. After them, the 27
 Thakoites repaired another length,
 from opposite the Great Projecting
 Tower to the wall of the Hill. From 28
 the Horse Gate, the Priests each
 repaired opposite his house. After 29
 them, Zadok-ben-Amer, repaired
 opposite his house. And after him,
 Shemaiah-ben-Shakniah the Keeper
 of the East Gate repaired. And then 30
 Hananiah-ben-Shalamiah repaired;
 and Kanun-ben-Zalaf, the Shishite,
 another portion; after him, Meshal-
 lam-ben-Barakaih repaired opposite
 his lodgings. After him Malkiah- 31
 ben-Azrofi repaider as far as the
 House of the Attendants, and of the
 Merchants opposite the Guards' Gate,
 and as far as the ascent of the Corner.
 And between the ascent of the Corner, 32
 and the Sheep Gate, the Goldsmiths
 and Merchants repaired.

Sanballat's Fury at the Restoration of the Wall.

(Ch. 4, A.V., v. 1.

But when Sanballat heard that we 33
 had rebuilt the wall, he was furious.
 He insulted and laughed at the Jews,
 and asked of his companions and the 34
 garrison at Shameron, enquiring;
 "What would these beggarly Jews
 do? Would they fortify themselves?
 Would they sacrifice? Can they in
 a day revive the stones from the
 heaps of dust into which they were
 burnt?"

And Tobiah the Amonite supported 35
 him and said; "Why if a fox assails
 what they build,—it could break the
 wall they have built?"

"Hear, our GOD, how they insult us! 36
 and return their contempt on their
 own heads, and deliver them to be
 plundered in a land of captivity, and 37
 do not cover up their villainy nor
 blot out their sins from before You,
 for they have jeered in the presence
 of the builders."

We, however, rebuilt the walls,— 38
 and the wall joined to its half, for
 the heart of the People was in the
 work.

Sanballat decides to Assail Nehemiah and Destroy the Wall.

- 4 But when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and Amonites, and Ashdodites heard that the extent of the walls was erected at Jerusalem—that the breaches began to be closed, they were very furious, and all of them agreed together to go to war with Jerusalem, and to cause trouble to it, but we prayed to our GOD, and appointed a guard against them by day and night to oppose them.
- 4 Then Judah said, "The strength of the labourers fails, at the heaps of burnt ashes, so we are not able to build at the walls."
- 5 And our opponents said, "They shall not know, nor perceive until we are come into the midst of them and kill, and stop their work."
- 6 And when the Jews who resided amongst them came they told us repeatedly "Wherever you turn round they will assail you!"
- 7 I therefore placed in the bottom of the moat behind the walls, in the dry parts, a Guard of troops for the People, with swords, spears and bows. Thus I revived them, and stood up, and said to the Captains and Subalterns, and the rest of the Force, "Fear not before them! Remember the ALMIGHTY, the GREAT and TERRIBLE,—and fight for your countrymen, your sons and daughters, your wives and homes."
- 9 Thus our Opponents heard that we knew,—and that GOD had broken their intention, and that we had all returned to our work on the wall.—
- 10 But from that day half of the youths worked at the wall, and half with the guards, with spears and shields, and bows, and coats of mail, with Officers over them. All the House of Judah built at the Wall, with the labourers. The men worked on the one side at the work, and on the other went on guard. The builders also had each a sword girt at his waist. Thus they built,—and the Trumpeter was at my side. I also said to the Officers and Subalterns, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are scattered upon the wall at a distance one from the other. In whatever place, therefore you hear the sound of the trumpet, collect there to us,—Our GOD will fight for us.

Thus we did at the work;—and half kept guard with spears from the rise of dawn until the stars came out. I also, at this time, said to each man and his assistant, "Lodge in Jerusalem and be with us at night as a guard, and work by day," and neither I, nor my brothers, and attendants,—or the men of my Guard, who followed me,—ever regarded our clothing. . . . Each went to the water, . . .¹

However, the People and their wives complained greatly against their Judean countrymen, and some said "We have many sons and daughters,—let us reap the corn, and eat and live."

Others said, "We are mortgaging our farms, and vineyards, and houses, and are buying corn for hunger."

And there were others who said, "We have had to borrow money to pay the King's taxes on our farms and vineyards!—And now our bodies are like the bodies of our slaves and our children like their children's bodies! For see! we are bringing the bodies of our sons and daughters into slavery! And some of our daughters have become slaves;—so GOD is not with us,—for foreigners possess our farms and vineyards!"

Nehemiah Calls a Public Meeting.

But I was very furious when I heard these complaints, and these statements, yet I reflected in my mind, and reproved the Officers and Subalterns, and said to them; "It seems you all exact usury from your countrymen." I consequently appointed a Great Meeting about them, when I said;

Nehemiah's Condemnation of Slavery.

"We have redeemed our Judean brothers who had been sold to the heathen, as far as we could,—but you even sell your own brothers, who should be sold to us!"

And they were silent, and could not find a word.—So I continued;—

"The thing that you do is not right—should you not walk in the

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 4, v. 17. The text seems to be defective here, and some considerable portion to have been lost, where I place the hyphens.—F. F.

fear of our GOD, because of the contempt of the heathen, our enemies?
 10 And even if I, my brothers, and attendants have lent them money and corn on interest!—we will now
 11 abandon that interest.—I beg of you to return to them to-day their farms and vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, and also the one per cent.¹ on the money, and of the corn, and wine, and of the oil that you lend to them."

12 And they replied, "We will restore, and will no more demand it from them. Thus we shall do as you say."

Then I called the Priests, and swore them to do according to that declaration.

13 I afterwards shook out my lap and exclaimed, "May GOD shake out like that every person from His House and property who does not adhere to this declaration!—May he be shaken out like that and dissipated!"

And all the Meeting said "So be it," and thanked the LORD. And the People acted in accordance with the declaration.

Nehemiah Appointed Governor of Judea.

14 And further, from the day I was appointed to be Governor of the country of Judea—from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of King Arthakshasta,—twelve years,—neither I, nor my relatives, have taken the salary of the Governor,
 15 while the former Governors who were before me burdened the people, and exacted from them bread and wine, along with forty shekels of silver. Their Attendants also lorded over the people;—but I did not do so,—
 16 because of the fear of GOD. I also persisted in work upon the wall, and bought no estate, and all my attendants collected there at the work.
 17 And of the Judeans and officers there were a hundred and fifty persons at my table, beside the guests who visited us from the surrounding
 18 nations. What was prepared daily was an ox, six fat sheep, and fowls, for me; and every ten days a sufficient

quantity of various wines; and yet I never demanded the Governor's Provisions, for that slavery was heavy upon the people.—Remember me, 19 my GOD, for all the good that I have done to this People.

Sanballat Threatens Nehemiah.

When, however, it was reported 6 to Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Gheshem, the Arabian, and to the others of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and no breach was left in it, except that at the time the doors were not fixed in the Gates, San- 2 ballat, and Gheshem with him, sent to me and said, "Come and let us see each other in a village on the plain of Anno." But they intended to do me an injury. I consequently 3 sent a messenger to them to reply;—"I am doing a great work, and cannot come down. Why should the work cease by my absence, and going to you?"

They, however, sent me a similar 4 message four times, and I returned to them the same answer. Then 5 Sanballat sent his servant to me a fifth time, and an open letter in his hand in which was written;—

Sanballat's Letter.

"It is reported amongst the peo- 6 ples,—and Gheshem says it,—that you and the Judeans are preparing to rebel;—consequently you are building the wall, and that you hope to be their king, according to these reports. And that you have set 7 Preachers to proclaim about you in Jerusalem; to call you King of Judea. But now the King has heard these reports. So now come, and we will consult together."

Nehemiah's Answer.

But I sent to him to say; 8

"None of those things that you assert have been done, but you contrive them out of your own heart; for 9 all of them are to terrify us; but you have not succeeded; you only strengthen my hands."

I then went to the house of 10 Shemaiah-ben-Daliah-ben-Mahitabel who was ill,—and he said "Let us meet at the House of GOD,—at the inner Temple,—and close the doors of the Temple, for they will come by night to murder you!"

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 5, v. 11. "One per cent. on the money." This no doubt means one per cent. per month, which down to our day is the legal rate of interest in Syria and India for loans from the village bankers.—F. F.

- 11 But I replied, "Should a man like me fly? And, who in my position has gone to the Temple and lived?—I will not go!"

Nehemiah finds Preachers have been Hired against Him.

- 12 Then I investigated and saw that GOD had not sent him, but he preached this message to me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. They
13 hired him for the purpose that I might be terrified, and do so, and commit a blunder, which would provide an opportunity for them to accuse me, for they could have accused me upon that act.
- 14 My GOD, remember Tobiah and Sanballat on account of these actions, and also Nodiah the Preacheress, and the rest of the Preachers who tried to terrify me.

(445 B.C.) Completion of the Wall.

- 15 On the twenty-fifth day of Elul the
16 Wall was completed.—And when all our enemies heard it, and all the heathen who were around us saw, they fell greatly in their own opinions, and perceived that the work was done by our GOD.

The Nobles Plot Against Nehemiah.

- 17 However in those days many of the nobles of Judea sent letters to Tobiah, and in the same way letters
18 from Tobiah came to them. For many of the gentry in Judea were sworn to him, for he was son-in-law to Shekariah - ben - Arah, and Jhohanah his son had married the daughter
19 of Mishulam-ben-Berekiah, so his compliments were sent to me and my words were carried to him, and letters sent from Tobiah to terrify me.

Nehemiah Appoints his Brothers Governors of the Garrison.

- 7 When the Wall was built, and I had fixed the doors, and appointed the Door-keepers, and the Singers and
2 Levites, I then installed my brothers Hanani, and Hananiah Governors over the Castle of Jerusalem, for they were faithful men, and feared GOD more than many.
- 3 And I commanded them not to open the Gates of Jerusalem until the sun was hot. And, until the Guards were set to keep the Doors shut, and fastened. And appointed

Police for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, each to his district, and every man to his own house.

But the City was wide and large, 4 while the people few for the space of it, and there were no houses built. So my GOD put it into my mind, and 5 I collected the nobles, and gentry, and the People by the register, for I had discovered the Former Registry Records of Genealogy and found written in them.¹

(536 B.C.) Copy of the Muster Roll of the Restoration under Zerubabel.

"These are the descendants of the 6 nobles who went up from the captives of the Transportation that King Nebukadnezzar transported to Babel, and returned to Jerusalem and Judea each to his own village, returning 7 with Zerubabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Ramiah, Nehmani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvi, Nehum, Banah:—

"From the Record of Men of the People of Israel; Of the Beni Parosh; Two thousand one hundred and seventy-two.	2,172	8
Of the Beni Arah; Six hundred and fifty-two.	652	9
Of the Beni Pakhath-moab; —of the Beni Jeshua and Joab;—Two thousand and eight hundred and eighteen;	2,818	10
Of the Beni Ailam; One thousand two hundred and fifty-four;	1,254	11
Of the Beni Zatu; Eight hundred and forty-three.	843	12
Of the Beni Zaki; Seven hundred and sixty.	760	13
Of the Beni Bunui; Six hundred and forty-eight.	648	14
Of the Beni Babi; Six hundred and twenty-eight.	628	15
Of the Beni Azgad; Two thousand three hundred and twenty-two.	2,322	16
		17

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 7, v. 5. The Register referred to is that of the Transportation who returned with Zerubbabel about ninety-one years before Nehemiah, and only varies in the spelling of a few names. See Ezra, Ch. 2. That it had been preserved through the troubles of that century of anarchy, which had again destroyed the City Zerubbabel had restored, shows how carefully the Jews guarded public records, and is a strong voucher for the authenticity and accuracy of the Hebrew Histories in the Bible.—F. F.

18	Of the Beni Adonikam; Six hundred and sixty-seven.	667
19	Of the Beni Bigvi; Two thousand and sixty-seven.	2,067
20	Of the Beni Adin; Six hundred and fifty-five.	655
21	Of the Beni Atar of Hezekiah; Ninety-eight.	98
22	Of the Beni Hashani; Three hundred and twenty-eight.	328
23	Of the Beni Bezi; Three hundred and twenty-four.	324
24	Of the Beni Harif; One hundred and twelve.	112
25	Of the Beni Gibeon; Ninety-five.	95
26	Of the men of Bethlehem and Netofah; One hundred and eighty-eight.	188
27	Of the men of Anathoth; One hundred and twenty-eight.	128
28	Of the Men of Beth-armaveth; Forty-two.	42
29	Of the men Kiriath-yarim, Kefirah, and Beeroth; Seven hundred and forty-three.	743
30	Of the Men of Ramah and Gaba; Six hundred and twenty-one.	621
31	Of the Men of Mikmas; One hundred and twenty-two.	122
32	Of the Men of Bethel and Ai; One hundred and twenty-three.	123
33	Of the Men of Lower Nebo; fifty-two.	52
34	Of the Beni Akud-Elam; One thousand two hundred and fifty-four.	1,254
35	Of the Beni Harim; Three hundred and twenty.	320
36	Of the Beni Jeriko; Three hundred and forty-five.	345
37	Of the Beni Lodhadid, and Ono; Seven hundred and twenty-one.	721
38	Of the Beni Senab; Three thousand nine hundred and thirty.	3,930
39	Of the Priests.	
	"Of the Beni Jediah, of the House of Jeshua; Nine hundred and seventy-three.	973
40	Of the Beni Amer; One thousand and fifty-two.	1,052
41	Of the Beni Pashur; One thousand two hundred and forty-seven.	1,247
42	Of the Beni Harim; One thousand and seventeen.	1,017

Of the Levites. 43

"Of the Beni Jeshua of Kadmiel, of the Beni Hodeiah; Seventy-four. 74

Of the Singers. 44

"Of the Beni Asaph; One hundred and forty-eight. 148

Of the Doorkeepers. 45

"Of the Beni Shalum; of the Beni Atai; of the Beni Talmon; of the Beni Akub; of the Beni Hatita; of the Beni Shobi; One hundred and thirty-eight. 138

Of the Attendants. 46

"Of the Beni Zika; of the Beni Hasufa; of the Beni Tabaoth; of the Beni Kiros; of the Beni Sia; of the Beni Padon; of the Beni Lebana; of the Beni Hagaba; of the Beni Salmi; of the Beni Hanan; of the Beni Gidel; of the Beni Gahar; of the Beni Raiha; of the Beni Rezin; of the Beni Nekoda; of the Beni Gazam; of the Beni Auza; of the Beni Pasah; of the Beni Besi; of the Beni Maunim; of the Beni Nefishesim; of the Beni Bakbuk; of the Beni Hakufa; of the Beni Harkur; of the Beni Bazlith; of the Beni Mekida; of the Beni Harsha; of the Beni Barkos; of the Beni Siser; of the Beni Temah; of the Beni Nezia; of the Beni Hatifa. . . . 1

Of the Descendants of Solomon's Servants. 57

"Of the Beni Soti; of the Beni Shefeteth; of the Beni Perida; of the Beni Jala; of the Beni Darken; of the Beni Gidel; of the Beni Shefatiah; of the Beni Hatil; of the Beni Pokereth-Nazambaim; of the Beni Amon; all the Attendants, and the descendants of Solomon's Servants were, Three hundred and ninety-two. 392

"And the following were those 61 who went up from Tel-melab, and Tel-harsha; Kerub, Adon, and Amer; but they could not show their Ancestral Houses, nor their Race, whether they were of Israel.

1 NOTE.—Ch. 7, v. 56. There would appear to be a break in the MSS. here, as no number is added to the list.—F. F.

- 62 "Of the Beni Delaiah; of the Beni Tobiah; of the Beni Nekoda; Six hundred and forty-two. 642
- 63 **And of the Priests.**
- "Of the Beni Hobiah; of the Beni Hakoz; of the Beni Barzilai; who took a wife from the daughters of Barzilai the Giladite, so were called
- 64 by his name; these sought for their Register with those who had a genealogy, but could not find it, so were
- 65 excluded from the Priesthood, and the Governor ordered them not to eat of the most sacred things until a Priest was appointed with Urim and Thumim.
- 66 "The whole Collection was altogether,—Forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty, besides their men and women servants, of whom there were Seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and two hundred and forty-five men and women singers. 42,360 7,337 245

Total 49,942

- 68 "They had seven hundred and thirty-six horses; two hundred and
- 69 forty-five mules, six thousand seven hundred and twenty asses.
- 70 "And the whole of the Heads of Houses subscribed to the work;—
- "The Governor gave to the Treasury, a thousand Darics in gold; fifty basons; five hundred and thirty Priests' robes.
- 71 "And the Heads of Houses gave to the Treasury of the work;—Twenty thousand Darics of gold; and two thousand two hundred pounds weight
- 72 of silver; and what the rest of the People gave was twenty thousand Darics of gold; and two thousand pounds of silver; and sixty-seven Priests' robes.
- 73 "Thus the Priests and Levites, and Singers, and some of the Attendants, and of all the People, settled in their villages, by the arrival of the seventh month, along with the Children of Israel in those villages.

How Ezra Read the Law and Restored it.

- 8 "All the People afterwards collected as one man, to the Square opposite the Water Gate, and requested Ezra the Scholar to produce the Book of the Laws of Moses, which the LORD communicated to Israel.

"Ezra the Priest consequently 2 brought the Law to the Meeting both of the men and the women, for all intelligently to hear it, on the first day of the seventh month, and read it 3 in the Square which is opposite the Water Gate from dawn until mid-day, before the men and women, and the intelligent, and the whole of the people listened to the Book of the Law. Ezra, however, stood to read 4 the book, on a platform of wood that had been made for him and Mathiah for the purpose, and Shema, and Aniah, and Auriah, and Hilfiah, and Masiiah stood beside him, on his right, and on his left Pediah, and Mishal, and Malkiah, and Hasham, and Hashbadanah, Zekeriah, and Meshalum. Then Ezra opened the Book 5 in the sight of all the People,—for he was above all the people,—and when he opened it, all the People stood up. Ezra first blessed the GREAT EVER- 6 LIVING GOD:—

"And all the People responded 'Amen! Amen!' with a lifting up of their right hands, and bowed and did reverence to the EVER-LIVING with their face earthwards. Then 7 Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherabiah, Jamin, Akub, Shabthi, Hodiah, Masiiah, Kalita, Azriah, Jozabad, Hanan, Piliah, and the Levites, translated the Law to the People, while the people stood up.

"And they read from the Book of 8 the LAW of GOD with an Interpreter, who translated the meaning, so that they might understand what was read.

"Thus Nehemiah,¹ who was the 9 Governor, and Ezra the Priest, read, and the Levites who translated to the People, said to all the People,

"This day is holy to your EVER-LIVING GOD!—Do not be depressed, and do not weep,—for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the Law,—'but,' he said to 10 them, 'go, eat the best and drink the sweetest, and send some thing to those who have nothing ready, for the day is sacred to our MASTER;

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 8, v. 9. This Nehemiah mentioned here was not the writer of the history so called, but another former Governor of the same name (see the Book of Ezra, Ch. 2, v. 2), accompanying Zerubbabel 97 years before —F. F.

- so do not grieve, for to rejoice in the EVER-LIVING will strengthen you.'
- 11 "The Levites also comforted all the people by saying 'Go! for to-day is sacred to the EVER-LIVING, so do not be in grief.'
- 12 "So all the People went to eat and drink, and to send presents, and to make plenty of pleasure, because they understood what had been said to them.
- 13 "But, the day after the Heads of Houses of all the People with the Priests and the Levites collected to Ezra the Scholar, to examine the records of the Law, and found written in the Law which the EVER-LIVING communicated by means of Moses, that the Children of Israel should reside in tents in the seventh month.
- 14 They consequently proclaimed, and passed the proclamation to all the villages, and to Jerusalem to order:
- 15 "Go out to the hills and bring branches of Olive, and branches of good trees, and branches of Myrtle, and branches of Palms, and branches of brushwood, to make tents as it is written.'
- 16 "The people consequently went out, and made themselves tents, each for his family, in their courts, and in the courts of the House of GOD, and in the Square of the Water Gate, and in the Square of the Ephraim

Gate. All the company of those who 17 had returned from the Captivity also made tents and resided in the tents, although the Children of Israel had not done so since the times of Joshua the son of Nun, till that day, and they enjoyed themselves very greatly.

"They also read in the Book of the 18 Law of GOD day by day, from the first day, to the last day, for they kept the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day they closed it, according to the decree.

"Afterwards, on the twenty-fourth 9 day of that month, the Children of Israel met to fast with sackcloth and earth upon them, when all of the race 2 of Israel separated themselves from all the sons of foreigners, and they stood up and confessed about their sins, and the faults of their forefathers. They also stood up at the Place and 3 read in the Book of the Laws of their EVER-LIVING GOD a quarter of the day, and they confessed in sackcloth to their EVER-LIVING GOD for a quarter.

"Then the Levites Jeshua and 4 Bani, Kadmial, Shebaniah, Buni, Sharbiah, Bani, Kanani arose and cried to their EVER-LIVING GOD with a loud voice, and the Levites Jeshua, 5 and Kadmial, Bani and Hashabiah, Shanbnah, Hodiah, Pethakaiah rose on the platform and said; 'Stand up!' 6

Antiem.

STANZA 1.

"Thank your EVER-LIVING GOD
For ever and ever;
And bless His Glorious name!—
And exalt beyond all blessing and praise!

STANZA 2.

"You are alone the LIFE,
Who made the skies, and Heaven of Heavens,
And all their host!
The Earth, and all upon it,
The Seas, and all they contain,
And You gave life to them all,
And the host of Heavens all bow
To YOU!

- 7 "You are the LORD GOD who chose Abram, and brought him from Aur¹ of the Kasdim, and made his

name Father-of-Nations,² and found his heart faithful before You, and made a Covenant with him, to give

1 NOTE.—Ch. 9, v. 7, Heb. AUR signified "Fire," and is so interpreted by the Rabbis, but by us usually taken for the name of an unknown City or Town. I confess to a leaning towards thinking the Hebrew tradition that it means "A Fire" into which the Kasdim threw

Abram for refusing their idolatry, is the true reading.—F. F.

2 NOTE.—Ch. 9, v. 7. Abr-ah-am "Father of Nations," in Heb. Except by a translation the force of the words is lost —F. F.

8 the country of the Cananite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizite, and the Ghergashite, to his race and You fulfilled Your promise,—for You are just.

9 “ You also saw the sufferings of our forefathers amongst the Mitzeraim, and heard their shrieks at the Red
10 Sea, and produced portents and terrors against Pharaoh and all his Ministers, and all the people of his country, because they had been cruel against them;—so made Yourself a
11 NAME on that day, when the sea divided before them, and they passed through the midst of the sea, on the dry, and You flung their pursuers into the deeps, like a stone in the mighty waters!

12 “ Then You led them by a Pillar of Cloud by day, and by a Pillar of Fire by night, to light them on the
13 way they had to march, and descended upon Mount Sinai, and spoke with them from the skies; and gave them Just Decrees, and True Laws, Institutions, and Beneficial Com-
14 mandments. You also made known to them Your Holy Sabbath, and Commandments, and Institutions, and Laws, instructing them by means of Moses Your servant.

15 “ Then You gave them bread from the skies, when hungry, and brought water from the rock for them when they thirsted, and commanded them to advance to seize the country which You had raised Your hand to give to them.

16 “ But they, and our fathers, were haughty, and stiffened their neck, and would not listen to Your instruc-
17 tions; but refused to obey, and would not remember the wonders You had done for them, but stiffened their neck, and in rebellion appointed a Leader to restore them to their slavery.—

“ But You are a GOD of forgive-
18 nesses,—kindness and pity,—slow to anger, and plentiful in mercy,—so did not forsake them.—Although they made for themselves a cast metal Calf, and said ‘ This is your GOD who brought you up from Mitzeraim,’ and
19 offered many insults. Yet You in Your many mercies did not abandon them in the Desert; You did not take away the Pillar of Cloud from them by day, but led them in the way they
20 ought to march. You also gave Your beneficent spirit to instruct them,

and did not withhold Your Mana from their mouth, and gave them water when thirsty, and provided for them
21 forty years in the Desert! They were not destitute. Their clothing was not in rags, and their feet were not swollen. You afterwards gave
22 them Kingdoms and Peoples, and distributed portions to them, so they seized the country of Sihon and the country of the King of Heshton, and the country of Og, King of Bashan, while You increased their children
23 like the stars of the skies, and they arrived at the land which You had promised to their forefathers to bring them to possess; and their children
24 advanced and seized the country, for You subdued the Cananite inhabitants of the land before them, and gave them to their power, and they did whatever they desired with the kings and peoples of the country.

“ They also captured the fortified
25 towns, and the fertile lands, and seized houses full of furniture, wells dug out, vineyards, oliveyards, and fruit trees, in plenty, and they ate, and were full, and fat, and luxuriated on Your benefactions. Then they
26 revolted from You, and flung Your Laws away,—following the Heathen,—and slew your Preachers who instructed them to return to You, and committed great outrages. You con-
27 sequently gave them to the hand of their oppressors, who oppressed them, but in the period of oppression they cried to You, and You heard them from the heavens, and from Your great mercies gave them Deliverers who delivered them from the power of their oppressors.

“ But when they had rest, they
28 did wrong before You, so You abandoned them to the hand of their enemies who persecuted them—and again they returned and cried, and You heard them from the heavens,—saved, and rescued them frequently, in accordance with Your many
29 mercies, and instructed them to conduct themselves according to Your laws, but they were haughty and would not listen to your Commands and Decrees, sinning against what a man ought to practise, and live in. But they set a perverse shoulder and a stiff neck and would not obey! Yet for many years You held out
30 Your hand to them, and taught them Your spirit by means of Your

Preachers, but they would not listen; —so You delivered them to the power of the people of the countries.

31 Yet, owing to Your great mercies, You did not entirely destroy them, nor desert them;—for You are a kind and merciful GOD. Therefore now, our GOD,—the GREAT, MIGHTY, and TERRIBLE GOD, who keeps his Beneficent Covenant,—let not all the trouble that we and our kings, and princes, and priests, and our preachers, and fathers, and all Your People, have met, be little before You, from the days of the kings of

33 Ashur to this day, although You are right in all You have brought upon us, for You have practised TRUTH, but we FALSEHOOD. And our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not practised Your laws, and have not attended to Your Commandments, and the instructions which You taught to them. For they did not serve You in their reigns, and the plentiful prosperity You gave them, and in the rich and fertile country that You gave to their faces; nor did they turn from their wickedness.—Therefore we are slaves to-day, and the land that was given to our forefathers, that they might eat its fruits and its products,—we are slaves upon it! Yet it produced much for the kings You have set over us for our sins, and they control our bodies, and our cattle, at their pleasure, while we are in great distress.

(536 B.C.) **The People Return to the Law of God by a Solemn National Act.**

1) "Consequently on account of this, we have made an Agreement, and our 2 Nobles, Levites, and Priests have sealed it, and the signatories are:—

NEHEMIAH, the GOVERNOR, the son of Halkiah; and

3	Zedekiah;	Shebaniah;	Barukh;	
	Seriah;	Maluk;	Meshalum;	7
	Azeriah;	5 Harim;	Abiah;	
	Jeremiah;	Meremoth;	Miyamin;	
	Pashur;	Abadiah;	Maziah;	8
	Amariah;	6 Daniel;	Bilgal;	
	Malkiah;	Ginethon;	Shemiah.	
4	Hatush;			

9 The following were for the Priests, and for the Levites.

	Jeshua - ben - Azariah;	Hodiah;	Sakur;	12
	Binni; of the Beni Hadad;	Kelita;	Sherebiah;	
	Kadmiel;—and their relatives.	Piliah;	Shebaniah;	
10	Shebaniah;	11 Hanan;	Hodiah;	13
		Mika;	Bani;	
		Rehob;	Bennin;	
		Hashabiah;		

14 For the Chiefs of the People;

	Parosh;	Hasheim;	Hananiah;	
	Pahath-moab;	Bezai;	Hashub;	
	Alam;	19 Harif;	Alohesh;	24
	Zatu;	Anathoth;	Pilha;	
	Bani;	Nobi;	Shobek;	
15	Buni;	20 Magpiash;	Rehum;	25
	Azgad;	Meshulam;	Hashabnah;	
	Bebai;	Hezer;	Masiah;	26
16	Adoniah;	21 Meshezabel;	and Ahiah;	
	Bigvai;	Zadok;	Hanan;	27
	Adni;	Jadua;	Anan;	
17	Ater;	22 Pelatiah;	Maluk;	
	Hezekiah;	Hanan;	Harim;	28
	Azur;	Amaiah;	Banah;	
18	Hodiah;	23 Hoshea;		

- 29 "And for the rest of the People, the Priests, the Levites, the Temple wardens, the Singers, the Timbrel-players; and all the remainder of the Native population under the Laws of GOD, their wives, sons and daughters, who were come to an age able to understand, declared for themselves by their representatives and gentry, to come to GOD, and swore to walk in the Laws of GOD, which He had given by means of Moses the Servant of GOD, and to guard and practise all the Commands of our ALMIGHTY LORD, with His
- 30 Decrees, and Institutions. Also that we would not give our daughters to the People of the Country, and not take their daughters for our sons.
- 31 And that if the population of the Country brought merchandize or any wares to sell on the Sabbath day, not to buy of them on the Sabbath, or upon a Holy Day; and to release on the Seventh year, and the interest on all loans.

A Temple Rate Adopted.

- 33 We also imposed upon ourselves as a law, to give the thir of a Shekel a year to the service of the House of our GOD, for the Show-bread; and for the Perpetual Offering, and the Perpetual Burnt-offering of the Sabbaths; of the Months; and of the Public Meetings; and for the Sanctifications and the Sin-offering to expiate about Israel, and all the services of the House of our GOD.

"We also cast lots about the Gift of Wood for the Priests and Levites, which the people were to bring to the House of our GOD, from the Heads of Ancestral Families at fixed times, year by year, to be burnt on the Altar of our EVER-LIVING GOD, as written in the Law.

"Also to bring the first-fruits of our ground, and the first product of all fruit-trees, year by year to the House of our GOD;

"Also the firstborn of our children, and cattle as written in the Law; and to bring the firstborn of our herds and our flocks to the House of our GOD, to the Priests who serve in the House of our GOD.

"And that the first part of our harvest and fruit of all trees; and of wine, and oil, should be brought to the Priests who reside at the House of our GOD; with the tythe of our grounds to the Levites;—and that those Levites should tythe all the profit of our labours. But that a priest a Descendant of Aaron should be with the Levites, when the Levites tythed, and that the Levites should take up a tythe of their Tythe to the House of our EVER-LIVING GOD, to the Treasury Chamber. But that the Children of Israel, and the Children of Levi should bring the presentations of the Corn, the Wine, and the Oil, to where the Sacred Vessels are, and the Priests, the Ministers, the Singers, and Guardians;—and that we would not forsake the House of our GOD."

END OF THE FIRST EXTRACT FROM THE ROLL OF EZRA.

(440 B.C.) RESUMPTION OF THE SECOND NEHEMIAH'S NARRATIVE.

A Conscription Ordered to Secure a Population for Jerusalem.

- 11 The gentry of the people stayed in Jerusalem, and the rest of the people threw lots to send one from ten to reside in Jerusalem, the Holy City, and nine to go out to the villages, and the People thanked all the men who were willing to stay in Jerusalem.

The Garrison of Jerusalem.

Now these are the Chiefs of the Garrison who stayed in Jerusalem,—(while in the villages of Judea each man of Israel resided on his own estate, in their towns;)—with the Priests, and Levites, and attendants, and the descendants of the servants of Solomon. But some of the

children of Judah and the children of Benjamin stayed in Jerusalem.

Of the Children of Judah;—Athiah-ben-Haziah; - ben-Zakeriah, - ben-Amariah, - Shefatiah, - ben-Malaliah, - ben-Faretz. And Masiah-ben-Baruk-ben-Kalkaziah - ben-Haziah, - ben-Adiah - ben-Jozarib - ben-Zakeriah, - ben-Hashibari. All descendants of Faretz. They stayed in Jerusalem. Four hundred and sixty soldiers.

7 And these were of the Beni-Benjamin;—

Sala-ben-Shulam, - ben-Joad, - ben-Padiah, - ben-Koliah, - ben-Masiah, - ben-Aithial, - ben-Jeshiah,—and along with him, as defenders of the towers, nine hundred and twenty-eight, over whom Joal-ben-Zikri was Commander, and Judah-ben-Haseniah as Lieutenant over the City.

10 From the Priests;—

Jadiah - ben - Joiarib, - ben - Jakin, 11 Seriah, - ben - Hilfia, - ben - Meshalum, - ben - Zadok, - ben - Merioth, - ben - Akhitub, was Governor of the House of GOD, and the associates who did the work at the House of GOD were eight hundred and twenty-two, and Odiah - ben - Jeroham, - ben - Pelaliah, - ben - Anatzi, - ben - Zakeriah, - ben - Pashkur, - ben - Malekiah, and his brother, were 13 Chiefs of the fatherhoods, with two hundred and forty-two, and one hundred and twenty-eight of their relatives, as soldiers. Over whom Zabdiel was Commander.

15 And from the Levites;—

Shemiah - ben - Khashub, - ben - Azrikam, - ben - Hashabiah - ben - Bani, 16 —with Shabthi and Jozabad, of the Levitical Chiefs, over the outer business of the House of the LORD.

17 And Mathniah - ben - Mika, - ben - Zabdi, - ben - Asaf, who was Chief leader of praise and prayer, with Bakbakiah as his Assistant, with their company. And Abda - ben - Shamna, - ben - Galal - ben - Jadithem.

18 All the Levites in the Holy City

were two hundred and eighty-four.

And the Doorkeepers were Akub, 19 Talmon, and their company in the Guards of the Gates,—one hundred and seventy-two.

And the rest of Israel, with their 20 Priests, and Levites were in all the towns of Judea, each on his own estate. And the Assistants resided 21 in Afel; and Ziha, and Ghishfa, were over the attendants.

But the Commander of the Levites 22 in Jerusalem was Azi-ben-Bani-ben-Hashbiah - ben - Mathaniah, - ben - Mika, from the Beni Asaf, of the Singers, for the performances in the House of GOD; for the king had com- 23 manded about them and arranged the Daily Course for the Singers; and Pathakiah-ben-Meshazabal, of 24 the Beni Zarakh, - ben - Judah,—was appointed on the part of the King, to superintend affairs for the People.

Re-populating Other Cities.

Now about the walled towns in 25 the country;—

Some of the Children of Judah settled in Krith-arba; and its villages; and in Dibon, and its villages; and Ikbezal, and its towns; and in Jeshua, and Moliah, and Beth- 26 flat; and in Khatzer-Shoal, and 27 Barsheba, and its villages; and in 28 Ziklag, and Makona, and its villages; and in Ani-rimon, and 29 Zarah, and Jermoth; Zanokh, 30 Aulam, and their towns; Lakish, and its fields; Azekah, and its villages;—Thus they settled from Barsheba to the Valley of Hinom. And the Beni Benjamin from Gaba 31 Mikmash, Aia, and Bethel, and its villages; Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah; 32 Hazar, Rama, Githim; Hadid, 33 Zeboim, Niblat; Lod, and Auno;— 34 Ghikrashim; with a portion of the 35 Levites for the districts of Judah and Benjamin. 36

THE SECOND EXTRACT FROM THE ROLL OF ZERUBBABEL GIVEN IN THE BOOK OF EZRA.

(536 B.C.) Copy of the List of Priests and Levites.

12 "The following are the Priests and Levites who went up with

Zerubabel - ben - Shalthial, and Jeshua, Seriah, Jeremiah, and EZRA; "Ameriah, Maluk, Hatush; She- 2 kaniah, Rehum, Memoth; Adua, 3 Ghenthoi, Abiah; Mamin, Madiah, 4

5 Biluah; Shemiah and Joyarib,
 6 Jediah; Salu, Amok, Hilkiah, Jadiah;
 7 —These were from the Chiefs of the
 Priests, and their associates from the
 days of Joshua.
 8 "Then the Levites:—
 "Jeshua, Benni, Kadmial, Sherbiah,
 Judah, Mathaniah, who was leader
 of thanksgiving, and his associates.
 9 Beside Bakbakiah, and Ano, with
 their associates in command of the
 Guards.
 10 "Joiada had begot Jonothan, and
 11 Jonothan begot Jadua, and Jadua
 12 begot Joiakim, and from the days of
 Joiakim there were Priests, Chiefs of
 Fatherhoods, up to Sheriah, Meriah,
 13 and Jeremiah, Hananiah, and EZRA,
 Meshulam, and Amariah, Jonothan;
 14 and with Malaki, Jonothan, and
 15 Shebaniah, Joseph, and Haram,
 16 Adna, and Merioth, Haliki, and Adia,
 Zekeriah, and Ginothan, Meshulam,
 17 and Abiah, Zikri, and Minimin, and
 18 Moadiah, Plati, and Bilga, Shemnah,
 19 and Shemiah—Jonothan; and with
 Joyarib, Mathin, and Jadiah, Azi,

and Sali, Kali, and Amok-abd, and 20
 Kilkiah, Hashabiah, and Jedaiah, 21
 Nethanal, Levites from the days of 22
 Alishab.—Joyada and Jokanan, and
 Jadua, were inscribed as Chiefs of
 Fatherhoods; and Priests in the
 reign of Dariush, the Persian.

"The Chiefs of the Fatherhoods 23
 of the Beni Levi, inscribed in the 24
 record of the Events of the Times,
 up to the days of Johanan-ben-
 Aliashib, as Chiefs of the Levites:—

Chief Choristers.

"Hashabiah, Sherabiah, and
 Jeshua-ben-Kadmial, and their con-
 nected associates, were to lead the
 Choir, (as by command of David the
 MAN of GOD), in response after
 response.

The Chief Doorkeepers.

"Mathaniah, and Bakbukiah, 25
 Abdiah, Meshulam, Talmon, Akub,
 were doorkeepers who kept guard
 at the Gates of the Treasury."

(440 B.C.) THE SECOND NEHEMIAH'S NARRATIVE RESUMED.¹

26 The following relates to the times
 of Joyakim-ben-Jeshua, -ben-Jozadak,
 and the times of NEHEMIAH the
 Governor and EZRA the Priest and
 Scholar.
 27 When the Walls of Jerusalem were
 dedicated they sought the Levites
 from all their homes, and brought
 them to Jerusalem to make the
 dedication, with rejoicing and thanks
 and singing, with cymbals, lutes, and
 28 harps. They consequently collected
 the descendants of the Singers from
 the district surrounding Jerusalem,
 29 and from the towns in Nitof, and
 from Beth-Gilgal, and from the plains
 of Geba, and Hazmavoth,—for those
 towns had been built for the Singers
 around Jerusalem.
 30 The Priests were also purified, with
 the Levites. They also purified the
 People, and the Gates, and the Walls.

Then I led the Nobles of Judah on 31
 to the Walls, and arranged them in
 two great divisions, and marched to
 the right upon the Wall to the Dung
 Gate. And Hoshiah, and half the 32
 Nobles of Judah marched after them,
 with Azariah, Ezra, and Meshulam, 33
 Judah, and Benjamin, and Meshiah, 34
 and Jeremiah.

Next, some of the Sons of the 35
 Priests with trumpets and Zekeriah-
 ben-Jonathan, -ben-Meshiah, -ben-
 Mathaniah, -ben-Mikiah, -ben-Zahur,
 -ben-Asaf, with his companions 36
 Shemiah, and Azral, Milali, Galali,
 Mai, Nethanal and Judah, Hanani,
 with at their head all the musical
 instruments of DAVID the Man of
 GOD, and EZRA the Scholar. They 37
 ascended by the Well Gate and after-
 wards up the stairs of the City of
 David, by the stairs of the wall, up

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 12, v. 26. The reader must
 not confuse the NEHEMIAH and EZRA men-
 tioned here with the NEHEMIAH of Zerub-
 babel's Restoration, recorded in the "Book

of Ezra," ch. 2, v. 2. NEHEMIAH the GOVER-
 NOR, and his associate here recorded as
 "EZRA the PRIEST," lived about 100 years
 after the time of Zerubbabel.—F. F.

to the Palace of David, as far as the
38 Water Gate on the east. While the
second procession marched to meet
them;—and I after it with half of the
People upon the wall, up to the
Foundry Tower, the whole extent of
39 the wall. Thence above the Ephraim
Gate, and to the Old Gate, and to the
Fish Gate, and the Tower of Hananal,
and the Tower of Hamah, and on to
the Sheep Gate, and halted at the
Guards' Gate.

40 There both the Bands halted at
the House of GOD, and I, and half
41 of the Representatives with me, and
the Priests Aliakim, Masiah, Mini-
mam, Mikiah, Aliazer, Zekeriah,
42 Hanani, with trumpets; and Masiah,
and Shemiah, and Aliazer, and Azi,
and Johanan, and Malkiah, and
Ailim, and Azer, and the Choristers
singing loud under their leader
Izrahiah.

43 On the second day they sacrificed
great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for GOD
made them glad with great delight.
The women also and the children
rejoiced, and the delight of Jerusalem
was reported afar.

Treasuries Appointed for the Temple.

44 At the same period men were
appointed over the Treasures, the
Presentations, the First-fruits and
the Tythes, to collect them from the
fields and villages the legal portions
for the Priests and Levites, for Judea
was glad of the Appointment of the
45 Priests and Levites, who guarded the
Ordinances of GOD, and the Ordina-
nces of purity, with the Singers,
and Doorkeepers, as David, and
46 Solomon his son ordered. For
formerly, from the days of David
there were Chief Choristers, who sang
47 praises to GOD. Consequently all
Israel in the times of Zerubabel, and
in the times of NEHEMIAH paid the
Singers and the Doorkeepers a daily
salary, and consecrated the Levites,
and the Levites consecrated the
Descendants of Aaron.

The Reading of the Law Restored and Results.

13 At the same period the Law of
Moses was read in the hearing of the
People, and there was found written
in it "that an Amonite or Moabite
should not be included in the con-

gregation of GOD for ever! Because 2
they did not meet the Children of
Israel with bread and water, and had
hired Balam to curse them, but GOD
turned the Curse into a Blessing."
Consequently when they heard that 3
Law, they separated all the half-
breeds from Israel. But before that 4
Aliashib, the Priest, the Chamber-
lain of the House of our GOD, being
related to Tobiah, had made him a 5
great residence where formerly were
stored the meal-offerings, and frank-
incense, and the vessels, and tythes,
of corn, and wine, and oil, ordered
for the Levites, and Choristers, and
Doorkeepers, as well as the presents
for the Priests. But during all this 6
I was not at Jerusalem; for in the
thirty-second year of Arthakshasta,
King of Babel, I went to the King—
but at the expiration of a period, I
requested from the King, and pro- 7
ceeded to Jerusalem, and understood
the wrong that Aliashib had done for
the sake of Tobiah, by making him a
residence in the Courts of the House
of GOD, which provoked me greatly. 8
I consequently removed all the furni-
ture from the residence of Tobiah,
from his lodging to the street.

(434 B.C.) Reforms Made in the Administration of the Government.

Then I commanded, and they 9
purified the Chambers, and I placed
there the vessels of the House of
GOD, with the meal and incense. I 10
also ascertained that the allowance
of the Levites had not been given to
them, so that the Levites and the
Choristers who should have done
the work had fled each to his village.
I therefore summoned my Deputies, 11
and demanded; "Why have you
neglected the House of GOD?"—
Then I collected them and fixed
them in their places, when all Judea 12
brought the tythe of corn, and wine,
and oil, to the stores. I also ap- 13
pointed Store-keepers over the
Stores;—Shelmiah, the Priest, and
Zadok the Secretary, and Padiah,
for the Levites, and as assistants,
Hanan, ben-Zakur, ben-Mathaniah,
—for they were trustworthy,—and
their duty was to pay out to their
associates.

Remember me, my GOD, about 14
this, and blot not out the affection I
have shown to the House of GOD and
its ordinances.

Sabbath Observation Enforced.

- 15 At this time I saw in Judea treading of winepresses on the Sabbath, and some who carried sheaves and loads upon asses; as well as wine, grapes, and figs and various loads which they brought to Jerusalem.
- 16 The Tzurites also who resided there brought fish, and various merchandize, and sold it on the Sabbath to the Children of Judah, and
- 17 in Jerusalem. I consequently reproved the gentry of Judea, and demanded of them, "What vile thing is this that you are doing? and defiling the Day of Rest? Was not
- 18 this what your fathers did, in consequence of which GOD brought all this suffering upon us, and upon this City? And would you renew the anger upon Israel, by profaning the Sabbath?"
- 19 So when the Gates of Jerusalem were closed before the approach of the Sabbath, I commanded that they should fasten the doors, and ordered them not to be opened until after the Sabbath, and I placed my soldiers at the Gate so that no loads might be
- 20 brought in upon the Sabbath. Consequently the hawkers and merchants had to stay outside Jerusalem a few
- 21 times. I also spoke to and asked them, "Why are you staying near the walls? If you do so again, I shall arrest you after this time. —You must not come on the Sabbath."
- 22 I also commanded the Levites, who were of the ordained, and they became keepers of the Gates, so as to sanctify the Sabbath.
- Remember me, my GOD, and have mercy on me in Your great kindness.

(434 B.C.) Mixed Marriages Forbidden.

In this period, also, I observed the 23
Jews who lived with Ashdodite, 24
Amonite, and Moabite women, the
speech of whose children was half
Ashdodish, and they were not able
to talk Judith,—but like a dialect of
the two people. I therefore found 25
fault with them, and blamed and
flogged those men, and pulled out
their hair, and swore to them by GOD,
"You should not give your daughters
to their sons, nor take any of their
daughters for your own sons, or for
yourselves. Was it not in this way 26
that Solomon king of Israel sinned?
Yet in many Nations there has not
been a king like him who loved his
GOD, so that GOD made him king
over all Israel, but these foreign
women made him sin. So should 27
we listen to you to commit this
great wrong against our GOD, of living
with foreign wives?"

And although one of the sons of 28
Joiada,—Aliashib, the High Priest,
was son-in-law to Sanballat, the
Haronite, yet I drove him from me.

Remember them, my GOD, for their 29
pollutions of the Priesthood, and the
Priestly and Levitical Covenants.

Thus I purified them from all 30
strangers, and I established rules for
the Priests and Levites, each in his
own work, and for the supply of wood 31
at stated times, and the first-fruits.

Remember me, my GOD, with
beneficence.¹ . . .

¹ NOTE.—Ch. 13, v. 31. As with Ezra, this autobiography would appear to be only a part of a longer history, for the final result of his re-organization of the Jewish State is not given, or even when his Governorship ended.—F. F

END OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH.