

(Continued from first page)
conducted the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt through the Red Sea and into the wilderness...

The dedication of Solomon's temple was a memorable event in the history of God's chosen people; the vast congregation of Israel, the earnest prayer of Solomon, the sacrifice of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep...

Sixty-nine years after the destruction of Solomon's temple the house of the Lord was rebuilt on the same site by Zerubabel. This temple stood about 500 years. The Jews say it liked five important things that belonged to the first: These were the ark, the Urim and Thummim, the fire from Heaven, the Shekinah, and the spirit of prophecy.

Herod the Great about fifteen years before the birth of Christ tore down the second temple and in its stead built a new one vastly more beautiful and magnificent which was still being added to and beautified during the life of our Saviour. The Jews said unto Him upon some occasion, forty and six years was this temple in building. After standing about sixty nine years Herod's temple was burnt to the ground by the Romans. But while only the first temple was honored with the cloud of Jehovah's glory, the glory of the latter house was greater than the former being honored with the Saviour's personal presence, who worshipped in its courts and in whom dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, who was God himself manifest in the flesh.

The Holy place and the Holy of Holies in the last temple (Herod's) and no wall across between them was separated as in the tabernacle simply by means of a veil, but easily and remarkably thick and strong. When our Saviour died the whole was rent to tunic from top to bottom. Herod's temple was destroyed, that in the death of Christ the ancient ceremonial system was brought to an end, that the darkness of the Jewish dispensation was to pass away in the clear revelation of the Gospel; and especially that the way into the Holiest of all was now made completely open by his blood for all believers to draw near to the mercy seat of God, with holy oblation and confidence.

The predictions of Christ in regard to the temple have been literally fulfilled not one stone left upon another above ground thrown down. There are however on and around the mountain traces left of the extent and grandeur of the buildings which once adorned its crest. Massive walls, grand bridges, beautiful gateways, and other remains of the temple and its courts, clearly indicating its outline. A traveler's eyes find vast reservoirs supplied by aqueducts leading off of mountain springs thirty miles distant. Spectacular passages wide enough for three men to walk abreast, cut through hard solid rock connecting the temple with the plateau on Mt. Zion half a mile distant, and other subterranean rock built galleries, leading down to the city well and beyond a hundred feet below the surface, together with large sewers to convey the blood and washings of the great altar into the Kedron valley. Even the pavement of the temple which went under the temple by which the priests and people could enter or retire, and which led to their baths may still be seen. There are also under the platform great vaults and cisterns, secret doors and mysterious passages, which were evidently connected with the holy sanctuary.

After the conquest of the country, by the Mohammedans one of the first acts of Calif Omar was to build a splendid Mosque known as the "Dome of the Rock" on the site of Jehovah's temple. This edifice still

er was the summit of Moriah and the place is regarded by the Moslems as only second to Mecca in point of interest as Mohammed is said to have ascended to heaven from here. The mosque is an octagonal building 536 feet in circumference, surmounted with a graceful dome, supported by twelve exquisite antique marble and porphyry columns. Enclosed in the walls of this beautiful building is the "Rock of Ages," so sacred in its associations to Jew, Christian and Mohammedan.

Time forbids, were it even proper, that I should say much in regard to the explanations of the Masonic system to this wonderful temple. Our ancient brethren, operative Masons at Jerusalem, from whom we date our origin, built King Solomon's temple—which has been adopted as the ground work on elementary form of all our symbols,—they were engaged in the construction of an earthly and material temple to be dedicated to the service and worship of God, a house in which the Mighty Jehovah was to dwell visibly by his Shekinah and whence he was to be worshipped and from whence he was to send forth his oracles for the government and direction of his chosen people.

While our ancient brethren wrought in operative Masonry we work only in the speculative art and are engaged in the construction of a temple more glorious than that of Solomon, a spiritual temple in the heart, pure and spotless, fit for the dwelling place of Him who is the author of purity; where God is to be worshipped in spirit and in truth, and whence every evil thought and unrighteous passion are to be banished as the sun and the Gentile were excluded from the Jewish temple. Hence Masons are called moral builders. And as the temple of Solomon was erected without the use of axe, hammer or other tool of metal, but arose silently, solemnly, grandly, through long years of patient toil until it finally stood forth a finished edifice in all its beauty and magnificence, so the speculative mason, if he rightly understand the scope and design of his profession, is occupied from his first admission into the order until the close of his labors and his life in the construction, the adornment and the completion of this spiritual temple of the body.

No human institution was ever raised on a better principle or more solid foundation. Nor were ever better rules or more useful maxims laid down than are incited on every person when he is initiated into our mysteries. "Free Masonry is a beautiful system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." The most ancient societies in the world; its principles are based on pure morality; its ethics are the ethics of pure religion; its doctrines the doctrines of brotherly love; and its sentiments the sentiments of exalted benevolence. It encourages all that is good, kind and charitable, and represses all that is vicious, cruel and oppressive.

The greatest and best of men, in all ages, have been encouragers and promoters of the art; and have never deemed it derogatory to their dignity to level themselves with the Fraternity, extend their privileges and patronize their assemblies. Fifty-two of the fifty-five immortal names that signed the declaration of Independence had worn the lambkin. The first president, as has been many since, was a Mason. Nine thousand men in North Carolina to-day gauge their lives by the symbol of Masonic Faith.

The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance and the devastating of war have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity on which the finest exertions of human genius have been employed; antiquities have disappeared; thrones have crumbled; white races have been annihilated; governments have succeeded one another with a frequency beyond the power of the historian to record; civilization itself has risen to the highest excellence and then sunk into darkness and oblivion. Even the temple of Solomon, so spacious and magnificent and constructed by so many celebrated artists escaped not the unscrupulous savages of barbarous times. Free Masonry, notwithstanding still survives and thrives with the same spirit of brotherhood and equal democracy as existed by legend among its tradition founders its virtues and powers enjoying an untiring youth and shines in all their ancient purity. Institutions do not survive through the ages by accident; they live only through

the possession and operation of ever-acting principals. Tools and instruments of architecture and symbolic emblems most expressive are selected by the Fraternity to impress on the mind wise and serious truths. The attentive ear receives the sound from the instructive tongue and the mysteries of freemasonry are safely lodge in the repository of faithful breasts. While a veil of mystery surrounds masonry I would have you believe it is the sublime principles and great moral teachings and not the secrets that have perpetuated our noble order. *Belief in God and love for one brethren are ideas founded in divinity and humanity absolutely indestructible.*

The Fall of the Tremont House in Fort Scott, Kansas.

By Southern Associated Press. St. Louis, June 26.—A special to the Post-Dispatch from Fort Scott, Kan., says at 9:30 this morning the entire east wall of Tremont Hotel fell. Over a hundred guests were in the hotel at the time. It is thought that many were killed and injured.

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