

he had accomplished heretofore. But as he knew many of the people might be reluctant to assist him in so vast a design, he thought proper to call them together, and address them, upon the occasion, to the following purport:

"It would be time lost, my friends and countrymen, to give you the history of my transactions since I came to the crown: therefore let it suffice, that I have more attended to your benefit and security, than to my own particular interest. You know what care I have taken for you in your greatest extremities, and without any regard to my own profit. You know, likewise, that you yourselves have had the greatest share in the advantage of all the mighty works which, by God's blessing and assistance, I have brought to perfection; inasmuch, that Judæa is in a better state at this day than ever; wherefore, there will be no need of citing the particulars of the cities, castles, palaces, &c. that I have either built, fortified, or repaired, in Judæa, and the tributary provinces. But the sum of my present business is religion, and what concerns the reputation of your country. You will do well to observe that this temple, that was erected by our forefathers at their return from Babylon, wants sixty cubits of the height of Solomon's: though this was no fault of our ancestors; for it was not owing to them that it came not up to the proportion of the first, being raised according to the express model of Cyrus, and Darius, the son of Hystaspes, under whose dominion they then lived, as afterwards under the Macedonians; so that they had it not in their power to advance that monument of their piety and zeal up to the measures of the original. But since God hath now pleased, in his gracious providence, to put the government into my hands, and, at the same time, to furnish me with all necessary means for the accomplishing of my end, as peace, leisure, a large competency of revenue, and, which is more than all the rest, we are friends with the whole world, (that is to say, the Romans,) it shall be my care and business to supply those defects which it was not possible for our predecessors, under their circumstances, to prevent; and to do that right, in fine, to the glory of God, in which we have hitherto failed, with all due reverence to his holy name, and with a gratitude suitable to the mercies we have received."

This speech raised much anxiety, and many doubts, in the minds of the people, particularly with respect to the demolition of the old temple, till they were assured of another being erected in its place, which, in fact, they despaired of as an enterprise almost impracticable. In this state of perplexity the king encouraged them with the assurance, "that he would not pull down the old temple till all the materials were fully prepared for building the intended new one."

Pursuant to his word, he ordered a thousand carriages to be in readiness to bring stones, chose ten thousand of the most skilful artificers, purchased a thousand sacerdotal garments for that number of priests, and caused them to be instructed in the different branches of workmanship, in order to superintend the general concern.

Having made all necessary preparations, both as to artificers and materials, Herod caused the old foundations to be removed, and others to be laid, upon which basis they raised the superstructure of a temple an hundred cubits in length, and an hundred and twenty in height; but the twenty cubits sinking afterwards, it fell so much short of the original design, which our ancestors had in contemplation to raise again in the days of Nero. The whole fabric was composed of stones, white and durable, in length twenty-five cubits, in height eight, and in breadth twelve.

The front of this magnificent structure bore the resemblance of a palace, the middle being much higher than the sides, and exhibiting such a view over the fields, as was very agreeable to those who either resided directly opposite to it, or were travel-

ling towards it. This view extended several furlongs into the country. The porch, in elegance, was proportionate to the rest of the building; the upper part being adorned with variety of rich tapestry and delicate purple flowers, with pillars interwoven, and a golden vine creeping and twining about them, the branches of it laden with clusters of grapes pendant from the cornices.

Round about the temple were large cloisters, not inferior to the rest of the building in magnificence, but much exceeding all that went before them for symmetry and elegance. Two of these cloisters were supported by strong walls, a work as singularly curious as had ever been executed.

The hill was a rocky ascent, that declined by degrees towards the eastern parts of the city, till it came to an elevated level. This is the hill which Solomon a long time before, by Divine direction, encompassed with a wall, that was of excellent workmanship, upwards and round the top of it. He also built a wall below, beginning at the bottom, which was encompassed by a deep valley. This wall was compacted of large stones, cramped together with iron, including the whole, and reaching down to the bottom of the hill. The form of the work was square; and, considering the magnitude and depth, it was an incomparable performance. The immensity of the stones in the front was plainly visible on the outside, yet so that the inner parts were preserved by joints immovable.

When the foundation was finished in the manner described, Herod caused it all to be wrought into one outward surface, filled up the hollow places which were about the wall, and made it a level. There was also within the square another stone wall, carried round the top of the hill, with a double porch to the eastward, facing the portal of the temple that stands in the middle. This portal was magnificently adorned by the munificence of many princes in former times; and round about the temple itself, were spoils and trophies taken from barbarous nations, all of which had been dedicated by Herod, with the addition of others of later date he himself had taken from the Arabians.

On the north-side was built a citadel, the work of some of the Asmonean race, who, for a considerable time before Herod, had executed the authority of prince and high-priest. They called it Baris, or the Tower; and there were deposited the vestments of the high-priest, which were never taken out but at the time he was to offer sacrifice. Herod applied it to the same use; but, after his death, it came to be lodged in the hands of the Romans, till the time of Tiberius Cæsar, in whose reign Vitellius, being appointed governor of Syria, and going to take upon him the command, was so magnificently received at Jerusalem, that, in acknowledgment of the honour done him by the Jews, he prevailed with Cæsar, at their earnest request, that they might have those sacred vestments under their own immediate deposit. They continued in the custody of the Jews till the death of king Agrippa, when Cassius Longinus, governor of Syria, and Caspius Fadus, procurator of Judæa, enjoined to deposit those vestments in the town of Antonia, insisting that they ought still to be in the power of the Romans as they were formerly. Hereupon the Jews sent deputies to Claudius Cæsar, to intercede for their continuance with them. The young king Agrippa, happening to be at Rome upon the arrival of the deputies, obtained the grant of the request from the emperor, who accordingly sent orders to Vitellius to deliver them up. Before that time they were kept under the seal of the high-priest, and treasurer of the temple, who, upon the eve of a solemn festival, applied to the commanding officer of the Romans, shewed him their seal, and took out the vestments, which, when the festival was over, they brought to the same place, and there deposited in the presence of the officer. I have been thus minute in this particular point, because its various changes have essentially affected the concerns of our nation. As to the Tower itself, when Herod had fortified it more firmly, in order to secure the temple, he gave it

Makes the necessary preparations

Description of the temple as rebuilt by Herod.

The gallery

The cloisters

Temple walk

Baris, or the Tower