

lay, a sardonix, a topaz, and an emerald; a carbuncle, a jasper, and a sapphire; an agate, amethyst, and a lynx; an onyx, a beryl, and a chrysolite, with the same names upon them respectively as before. He had upon his head a filken tiara, with a crown over it of a violet colour, and another crown over that of gold, with the sacred name of the Deity engraven upon it.

The high-priest's ordinary habit was not so rich and magnificent; the grand vestments were only put on for the annual solemnity, and when he entered into the holy of holies, which day was strictly observed as a religious fast.

The tower of Antonia.

The fort of Antonia was built in an angle betwixt the two galleries of the first temple, looking west and north. It was raised upon a rock of fifty cubits in height, inaccessibly steep on all hands, and, in fine, the greatest of Herod's works, both for magnificence and contrivance. The rock was faced with thin scales of marble from the bottom to the top, both for ornament and security, as it was so slippery there was no possibility of ascending or descending it. This tower was enclosed with a wall only of three cubits high; and within that compass stood the fort of Antonia, of forty cubits, with the state, splendor, and conveniences of a court, containing apartments and offices for all purposes, with spacious halls and places of parade for the use and service of a camp: so that, in point of accommodation, it might be deemed a city rather than a fort; and, in point of magnificence, it vied even with a palace. It bore, upon the whole, the resemblance of a tower; and was encompassed with four other towers at equal distances from each other, and one from every corner. Three of them were fifty cubits in height; but the fourth, that looked to the southward and eastward, was seventy, and from thence had a view of the whole temple. From the place where the galleries joined them were, upon the right and left, passages for the soldiers to go down to the temple. For when the Romans were masters of Jerusalem, there were guards posted still at that quarter to prevent seditions upon their public festivals and meetings. The temple commanded the city, as Fort Antonia commanded the temple. This place had a guard upon it; and Herod's palace was as good as a fort to the upper town. The hill Bethelda was cut off from Antonia, and joined to part of the new town, and was the only place that hindered the sight of the temple on the north side. Let this then suffice for a description of the city of Jerusalem and its appurtenances.

## CHAP. VII.

*Simon's party greatly increased. John is possessed of the temple. The factions are as violent as ever, though the Romans are at the very gates of the city. Titus takes a surcease, in order to make an assault. Nicanor being basely wounded, Titus meditates revenge. Orders three attacks. The factions fall heavy on the Roman engineers. Titus supports them. The Romans beaten back to their camp. A party of Alexandrians recover the honour of the day. Titus forces the Jews into the city.*

THE party of the seditious Jews, under Simon, amounted to ten thousand men, besides Idumæans, which were five thousand more, comprizing in the whole fifteen thousand. The ten thousand Jews had fifty commanders, of whom Simon was chief. The other five thousand, under twenty officers, were the most daring of the whole faction. The principals were James, the son of Sossias, and Simon, the son of Cathias.

John in possession of the temple.

John was now in possession of the temple, with six thousand men, under the command of twenty principal officers. There came into him also two thousand four hundred of the zealots, who enlisted themselves under Eleazar, whom they had formerly served, and Simon, the son of Arinus.

In this opposition of the two parties the people were common robbers, and those who were peaceably disposed were plundered by both factions. Simon was now master of the upper town, and the great wall as far as Cedron, and as much of the old wall as bent from Siloam to the east, and reached down to the palace of Monobazus, who was king of the Adiabeniensians, a people beyond the Euphrates. He was possessed also of the hill of Acra, the seat of the lower town, as far as the palace of queen Helena, the mother of Monobazus. But John, in the mean time, held the temple, and the places thereunto adjoining. As for Ophlas, the vale of Cedron, and what lay between him and Simon, it was all consumed to ashes, and could only serve as a spot for action.

Though the Romans were at this time drawn up at the very gates of Jerusalem, internal sedition did not cease. The enemy pressing upon them, brought them sometimes to a degree of reflection and moderation; but, upon the least suspension of assault, they relapsed into factions amongst themselves, and contended together upon former pretensions. They tended to the advantage of the Romans, as they treated each other with more malignity than they were treated by the common enemy, and were in so wretched a state that they had no new calamity to fear. They were reduced to harder extremities, indeed, before the city was totally destroyed: but the Romans achieved a much greater exploit than the taking of the city; for, if the sedition destroyed the city, the Romans destroyed that very sedition, which was a far greater work than the bare demolition of the walls: so that, in fact, the Jews themselves brought this ruin on their own heads; and the Romans were only the executioners of Divine justice upon them for their wickedness.

While affairs were in this posture in the city, Titus, with a select party of horse, took the whole tour of the walls, to find out upon what quarter it lay most exposed to an attack. It was totally inaccessible, he observed, by the way of the vallies; and on the other side, the first vale was so firm as to repel the force of battery. After some pause, he pitched upon that part of the line towards the sepulchre of John, the high-priest, as the most convenient place for an assault, the first wall being lower there, and likewise cut off from the second wall; for they had neglected the fortifying it, the new city being but thin of inhabitants. Here also was an easy passage to the third wall, and so to the upper town; and, with the help of fort Antonia, they might take the very temple itself.

While Titus was weighing these matters in his mind, one of his particular friends, by name Nicanor, was wounded in his left shoulder by an arrow from the wall, as he was endeavouring, together with Josephus, to persuade the Jews to pacific measures. Titus was so transported at this instance of ingratitude towards those that endeavoured to persuade them to what tended to their own preservation, that he immediately determined on a most vigorous prosecution of the siege. He also, at the same time, gave his soldiers leave to pillage, and let the suburbs on fire, ordering them to make use of the rubbish and ruins for works and platforms. He divided his army into three bodies, assigning to each division their employments and stations. He disposed of his archers and slingers in the midst of the banks that were then raising, with engines to cast javelins, darts, and stones before them. This served for two purposes, either to repel the enemies sallies, or to hold them in play upon the walls. The trees were all cut down, the suburbs laid naked in an instant, and the timber employed in raising the banks. The whole army, in fine, were busily engaged in their works, nor were the Jews idle at so important a crisis.

Those of the citizens of Jerusalem, who had been formerly exposed to robberies and murders, finding the faction so wholly taken up in their own defence, began to flatter themselves with some prospect of ease, in the very hope that the Romans themselves,