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CHAPTER XI  
  
1. “‘ And there was given me a reed like a rod, saying, ‘ Rise and  
measure the temple of God, and the altar, and the worshippers  
naaeit” \* :  
  
THE instrument offered to John is a measuring-reed -  
  
\,  
  
It is given on purpose to measure the temple of God.  
The measuring intends the setting apart a certain space  
for a special use. Thus God commands the children of  
Israel concerning the Levites. Num. xxxv. 2,5; Ezek.  
xlv. 1, 3.  
But still more closely resembling the action en-  
joined on the evangelist are the passages where the  
distinction between measuring and not measuring  
makes the difference between the holy and the profane.  
Ezek. xlii. 15, 20; Ezek. xlviii. 8, 12,515.  
The part measured, or the temple of God, is the  
place of safety ; as the contrary is seen in the insecurity  
and fearful danger of the part not measured.  
But the instrument of measurement here is of a pecu-  
liar character. It was “a reed like a rod.” Wherefore  
this? A rod is the instrument of chastisement. Ps.  
Ixxxix. 32; Prov. x. 13; 1 Cor. iv. 21.  
While, then, the reed is to measure off a part as holy,  
this is not the only thing intended. Mercy takes the  
first part, but justice the second. The rod affects  
the portion given up to the profane ; for Jerusalem’s  
day of scourging is come. The temple and city are