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  
in it.’”  
  
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 enjoined 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, 15.  
 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 peculiar character. It was “a reed *like a rod*.” Wherefore  
this? A rod is the instrument of *chastisement*. Ps.  
lxxxix. 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