

**THE TEMPLE
REBUILT; A POEM**

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The temple rebuilt; a poem by Frederick R. Abbe

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FREDERICK R. ABBE

**THE TEMPLE
REBUILT; A POEM**

THE
TEMPLE REBUILT

A POEM

BY
FREDERICK R. ABBE

A NEW EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED

BOSTON
D. LOTHROP AND COMPANY
1882

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

CONTENTS.

BOOK I.—THE EDIFICE.

THE DIGNITY AND DESTINY OF THE SOUL 7

BOOK II.—THE RUINS.

THE NATURE AND FEARFUL FRUITS OF SIN 20

BOOK III.—THE NEW FOUNDATION.

THE DIVINE PREPARATION FOR THE RENEWAL 46

BOOK IV.—THE HOLY BUILDERS.

THE AGENTS IN THE WORK OF RESTORATION 67

BOOK V.—THE SACRED IMPLEMENTS.

THE VARIOUS INSTRUMENTALITIES EMPLOYED IN THE
WORK 108

M191833

BOOK VI.—THE SANCTUARY.

THE NEARER CIRCLES OF LOVE AND HOLY EFFORT . . . 128

BOOK VII.—THE COURT OF THE NATION.

THE DUTIES OF A LARGE CHRISTIAN PATRIOTISM . . . 143

BOOK VIII.—THE COURT OF THE WORLD.

THE OBLIGATION OF INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF ALL
NATIONS 184

BOOK IX.—FINISHED.

THE CONSUMMATION AND ISSUE IN THE EVERLASTING
SCENES 201

BOOK X.—HALLELUJAH.

A CALL FOR UNIVERSAL PRAISE 331

PREFATORY NOTE.

The first edition of this work was prepared, for the most part, in the midst of the duties and cares of an active pastorate, and was issued in a form somewhat crude and incomplete.

It has now, with more leisure, been re-written, re-arranged and enlarged, and made, while retaining the same general course of thought, substantially a new work.

In this form it is re-issued with the hope and earnest desire that it may, in a greater measure, interest, instruct and quicken in human and heavenly things, and contribute to the great work of building up in the earth the Temple of the Lord.

THE TEMPLE REBUILT.

BOOK I.

THE EDIFICE.

The subject stated. Invocation. The dignity and worth of the soul. Of godlike faculty and rule. Greater than all material creation. Its measureless possibilities. Each, as kin with all, honored in all high achievements. Illustrious examples. Sovereign and subject. Not a part of a pantheistic Power. A ribald scepticism, in the guise of philosophy, rebuked. God not a law, nor a blind force, but an infinite Person. Man in his likeness, able for righteousness or sin. Immortal, and of endless growth in capacity and character.

The man renewed, the fallen soul restored
 In holy beauty through Messiah slain,
 Sung by the angels, and by human lips
 From age to age rehearsed in hymns of praise
 And grateful worship, I would celebrate,
 And with melodious wisdom fitly show
 The Living Temple from its ruins raised
 In richer splendor to its native form.

Eternal Spirit! from the throne of light,
 Whose inspiration is the ruin wrought
 In newness of the holy workmanship,
 And birth of glory in a life divine ;
 Who, by the sovereign influence of that Name,
 Building the soul, dost from disastrous fall
 Raise to the shapes of immortality,
 Directing, by thy presence and control,
 The heavenly structure from the corner-stone
 To the last pinnacle of completed grace ;
 Help me the theme to utter worthily,
 In noble measure and a nobler mood,
 With faith unfaltering, tender eloquence,
 Illumined reason, clear simplicity,
 Experience ripe, a witness true to all
 The facts of glory, that I may exalt
 The Heavenly Mercy, and some needy heart
 Bless with the cheer of this triumphant truth.
 Oh! touch my lips, my wayward thought inform,
 That not a word unworthily presume
 To tell the sacred story of the heavens.
 The high endeavor prosper to thy will ;
 Yea, in the solemn rapture of my song,
 Through dark and light, in lofty ecstasy,
 Bear, bear me on thy wing, that I may well
 The wonders of the gracious way declare,

The ruin, and the rich, immortal hope
In Christ the Blessed ; at whose feet I lay
This tribute in adoring gratitude.

 Wrapped in the womb of infinite design
From all the ages, in the thought of God,
I came, the moment of his sovereign will,
Forth in his living likeness ; spirit true,
Immortal essence, kin and royal sort
Of the bright seraphs, sceptered mightily
In a great realm of powers, which I may rule
To glory or dishonor. Though a child,
Before me may the hoary mountains bow,
And learn their littleness, when I may lift
My thought above the heavens, nor be abashed
Before the soulless splendors of the sky,
Greater in dignity of love and will
Than all the cold creation. Starry spheres !
That with your fires spangle the firmament
Like sparks of lustre from Jehovah's throne,
What is your light to mine ? O beautiful
Earth, my fair home ! so richly dight
In robes embroidered of the sun and air,
And gorgeous with the marks of Deity ;
Thy flowers, his beauty, and thy choirs, his song ;
Thy winds, his breath ; thy seasons, his survey ;