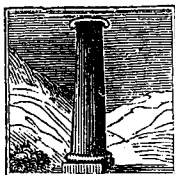


CHAPTER VII.

NOAH'S FOLLY:—BRILLIANT CONCEPTION—UNPARALLELED
PROCLAMATION—MAGNIFICENT PAGEANTRY—MEMORIALS
OF THESE WONDERFUL EVENTS—SUBLIME FINALE.

“Hey, diddle diddle,
The cat's in the fiddle,
The cow's jumped over the moon,
The little dog laughed,
To see such a craft,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.”

“Ride a cock horse to Banbury cross,
To see an old woman upon a white horse,
With rings on her fingers, and bells on her toes,
She will have music wherever she goes.”



IN THE year of Adam, 5586, a learned and worthy Hebrew, bearing the name of Mordecai Manuel Noah, conceived the luminous and brilliant idea, that he was the identical 'Manuel destined to gather together the dispersed and persecuted people of that once powerful and prosperous, but now wandering and wretched race, the Jews; and selected Grand Island for the Ark of safety, Arrarat, or New-Jerusalem, of which he was to be the Noah, Proprietor, Prince and Patriarch.

This remarkable personage, in whom were

combined the great names, and great qualities of some of the most remarkable personages in Jewish history, thereupon appointed himself "Governor and Judge of Israel," and—having put forth a proclamation, announcing this important fact, enumerating the many offices of trust, honour and profit, which he had then-before filled, as Consul to Tunis, Sheriff of New-York, etc, reviving the Jewish Nation, ordering a census, levying a capitation tax, abolishing polygamy, recognizing the fraternity of the American Indians as the lost tribes, directing many other general and particular matters of faith and practice, morals and government, naming a day of thanksgiving, and inviting all the scattered remnants of Judaism in all parts of the earth, to come forthwith to the United States, New-York, Grand Island, Arrarat, the City of Refuge, and submit to his spiritual and temporal, gubernatorial and judicial authority, not forgetting to bring their gold, silver, and precious stones,—proceeded to the west to lay the corner stone of the Synagogue, with solemn and appropriate ceremonies, and to found, consecrate, and eternize, the mighty, magnificent, and many-peopled City of Arrarat!

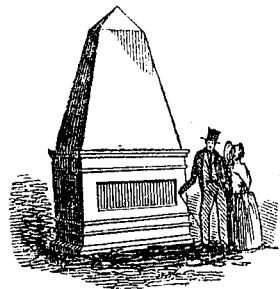
But, alas! the site of the city was an untouched wilderness: Buffalo was the nearest place of any

magnitude, and there, accordingly, the grand, imposing, and never-sufficiently-to-be-remembered ceremonial took place. The corner stone was borne in solemn state, to the Episcopal church of St. Paul; the self-appointed Ruler of the Hebrews, the self-constituted Governor of the Jews, and the self-created Judge of Israel, in the flowing robes and rich vestments* of his assumed functions—"pride in his port, exultance in his eye,"—himself headed the vast procession, composed of more than three hundred men, women, children, idlers, loafers, and ragamuffins. The inaugural address delivered, and the exercises over, the numerous assemblage, the Governor, Judge, and Corner Stone retired in the same order of procession, with the same pomp, decorum, and dignity.

The corner-stone was soon after planted on Grand Island, but never took root, and grew up to a Synagogue; and the only memorials of these great and wonderful events, and the great and wonderful city which was to be, but was not, are to be found in the Books of the Chronicles of the times, and the monument, erected on the Island by the Governor, Judge, and Ruler of the Jews, which is composed of brick, mortar, and wood,

* An old tragedy-dress, borrowed from the Park Theatre.

which is yet standing, and which bears on its eastern front, a stone tablet, on which are engraved the following words, figures, and characters.



שמע שראליי אלתיוני
ויראתך

ARRARAT,

A CITY OF REFUGE FOR THE JEWS :
Founded by Mordecai M. Noah; in
the month Tizri, 5586,
September, 1825, in the 50th year of
American Independence.

The foreign Priests, and Rabbis of the Jews, could not, and would not—at all events, did not, recognize or ratify the self-assumed powers of Mordecai Manuel Noah, Rabbi Ben Rabbi Ben Humbug, and the whole scheme, the city, the synagogue, and the offices of Governor and Judge vanished into thin air. Here endeth the history of Mordecai the Jew.

