

the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves. And the tale of the bricks, which ~~they~~ they did make heretofore, ye shall lay upon them; ye shall not diminish ought thereof: for they be idle; therefore they cry, saying Let us go and sacrifice to our God. ⁴ Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labour therein; and let them not regard vain words." And why did it make it hard if they were not given straw? I am sure that most of us have not thought about that. It is a common expression to make bricks without straw. But if you find somebody making bricks in your neighborhood, you see them put straw in them? &- Do you see them putting ~~straw~~ straw in them? Did you see straw being put into the bricks for this auditorium? Did you see them putting straw in them? Straw is sometimes put into bricks, but I think there are more cases where they do not put ~~sa~~-- straw in the bricks. Now, let us see what the result ~~of~~ was. The taskmasters of the people, verse 10, went out, and their officers, and they spake to the people, saying, Thus saith Pharaoh, I will not give you ~~sta~~-- straw. Go ye, get you straw where ye can find it: yet not ought of your work shall be finished. So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw." Now what is stubble? Is that fine straw, ~~a~~ little short pieces of straw? ^b ~~./.~~ straw was all gone and used for other purposes ~~and~~- or all the straw ~~a~~ was shut up in Pharaoh's barns where they could not get into to get it. Now, most people would think that straw is something that binds the ^b ~~stricks~~ together, and hold them together. They had to use tiny pieces of stubble instead of ~~be~~- getting long pieces of straw. How do you think that they will hold the bricks together? How would that be of much value from that viewpoint? But we go on and ~~a~~ we read in verse 13 that ⁴ ~~And~~ And the taskmasters hastened them, ~~sy~~ saying, Fulfil your works, your daily tasks, as when there was straw. And ~~the~~ ^{the} officers of the children of Israel,