THE BOOK PSALMS: a new translation, with explanatory notes for English readers (vol. 2: Ps. 73-150)

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BOOK III.

PSALMS LXXIII.-LXXXIX.

London: G. Bell, 1888

Digitized by Ted Hildebrandt at Gordon College, Wenham, MA; 2007
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PSALM LXXIII.

THERE are some questions which never lose their interest, some problems of which it may be said, that they are ever old and yet ever new. Not the least anxious of such questions are those which deal with God's moral government of the world. They lie close to man's heart, and are ever asking and pressing for solution. They may differ in different times, they may assume various forms; but perhaps no man ever looked thoughtfully on the world as it is without seeing much that was hard to reconcile with a belief in the love and wisdom of God.

One form of this moral difficulty pressed heavily upon the pious Jew under the Old Dispensation. It was this: Why should good men suffer, and bad men prosper? This difficulty was aggravated, we must remember, by what seemed to be the manifest contradiction between the express teaching of his Law, and the observed facts of human experience. The Law told him that God was a righteous Judge, meting out to men in this world the due recompense of their deeds. The course of the world, where those who had cast off the fear of God were rich and powerful, made him ready to question this truth, and was a serious stumbling-block to his faith. And further, "the Hebrew mind had never risen to the conception of universal law, but was accustomed to regard all visible phenomena as the immediate result of a free Sovereign Will. Direct interposition, even arbitrary interference, was no difficulty to the Jew, to whom Jehovah was the absolute Sovereign of the world, not acting, so far as he could see, according to any established order."* Hence it seemed to him inexplicable that the world of life should not reflect perfectly, as in a mirror, the righteousness of God.

This is the perplexity which appears in this Psalm, as it does in the 37th, and also in the Book of Job. Substantially it is the same problem: but it is met differently. In the 37th Psalm the advice given is to wait, to trust in Jehovah, and to rest assured that in the end the seeming disorder will be set right even in this world. The wicked will perish, the enemies of Jehovah be cut off, and the

* For some valuable suggestions on this Psalm I am indebted to a friend, the Rev. J. G. Mould.
righteous will be preserved from evil, and inherit the land. Thus God suffers wickedness for a time, only the more signally to manifest His righteousness in overthrowing it. That is the first, the simplest, the most obvious solution of the difficulty. In the Book of Job, where the sorrow and the perplexity are the darkest, where the question lies upon the heart, "heavy as lead, and deep almost as life," the sufferer finds no such consolation. As a Gentile, he has no need to reconcile his experience with the sanctions of the Pentateuch. But he has to do that which is not less hard, he has to reconcile it with a life's knowledge of God, and a life's love of God. He searches his heart, he lays bare his life, he is conscious of no transgression, and he cannot understand why chastisement should be laid upon him, whilst the most daring offenders against the Majesty of God escape with impunity. Sometimes with a bitterness that cannot be repressed, sometimes with a sorrow hushing itself into resignation, he still turns to God, he would fain stand before His judgement-seat, plead with Him his cause, and receive a righteous sentence. But Job does not find the solution of the Psalmist. He is driven to feel that all this is a mystery. God will not give an account of any of His matters. "I go forward, but He is not there and backward, but I cannot perceive Him " (Job xxiii.). And when Jehovah appears at the end of the Book, it is to show the folly of man, who would presume to think that, short-sighted and ignorant as he is, he can fathom the counsels of the Most High. He appears, not to lift the veil of mystery, but to teach the need of humiliation and the blessedness of faith.*

In this Psalm, again, a different conclusion is arrived at. In part it is the same as that which has already met us in Psalm xxxvii., in part it is far higher. The Psalmist here is not content merely with visible retribution in this world. He sees it indeed in the case of the ungodly. When he was tempted to envy their lot, when he had all but yielded to the sophistry of those who would have persuaded him to be even as they, the temptation was subdued by the reflection that such prosperity came to an end as sudden as it was terrible. But he does not place over against this, on the other side, an earthly portion of honour and happiness for the just. Their portion is in

* There is a difficulty, no doubt, in reconciling this solution, or rather non-solution of the problem, with that which is given subsequently in the historical conclusion of the Book. There we find Job recompensed in this life for all his sufferings. If the historical parts of the Book are by the same author as the dialogue (as Ewald maintains), then we must suppose that when Job is brought to confess his own vileness, and his own ignorance and presumption, then, and not till then, does God reward him with temporal prosperity.
God. He is the stay and the satisfaction of their hearts now. He will take them to Himself and to glory hereafter. This conviction it is which finally chases away the shadows of doubt, and brings light and peace into his soul. And this conviction is the more remarkable, because it is reached in spite of the distinct promise made of temporal recompense to piety, and in the absence of a full and definite Revelation with regard to the life to come. In the clear light of another world and its certain recompenses, such perplexities either vanish or lose much of their sharpness. When we confess that God's righteousness has a larger theatre for its display than this world and the years of man, we need not draw hasty conclusions from "the slight whisper" of His ways which reaches us here.

It is an interesting question suggested by this Psalm, but one which can only be touched on here, how far there is anything in common between doubts, such as those which perplexed the ancient Hebrews, and those by which modern thinkers are harassed.* There are some persons, who now, as of old, are troubled by the moral aspect of the world. To some, this perplexity is even aggravated by the disclosures of Revelation. And men of pious minds have been shaken to their inmost centre by the appalling prospect of the everlasting punishment of the wicked. But the difficulties which are, properly speaking, modern difficulties, are of another kind. They are, at least in their source, speculative rather than moral. The observed uniformity of nature, the indissoluble chain of cause and effect, the absolute certainty of the laws by which all visible phenomena are governed, these are now the stumbling-blocks even to devout minds. How, it is asked, can we reconcile these things with the belief in a Personal God, or at least with an ever-active Personal Will? Had the world ever a Maker? or, if it had, does He still control and guide it? Knowing as we do that the order of cause and effect is ever the same, how can we accept miracles or Divine interpositions of any kind? What avails prayer, when every event

* This point has been touched on by Dr. A. S. Farrar in his "Bampton Lectures," a work which, for breadth and depth of learning, has few parallels in modern English literature, and which combines in no common degree the spirit of a sound faith and a true philosophy. Dr. Farrar says: "It is deeply interesting to observe, not merely that the difficulties concerning Providence felt by Job refer to the very subjects which painfully perplex the modern mind, but also that the friends of Job exhibit the instinctive tendency which is observed in modern times to denounce his doubt as sin, not less than to attribute his trials to evil as the direct cause. These two books of Scripture [Job and Ecclesiastes], together with the seventy-third Psalm, have an increasing religious importance as the world grows older. The things written aforetime were written for our learning."—Lecture I. p. 7, note.
that happens has been ordained from eternity? How can any words of man interrupt the march of the Universe? Ships are wrecked and harvests are blighted, and famine and pestilence walk the earth, not because men have forgotten to pray, but in accordance with the unerring laws which storm, and blight, and disease obey. Such are some of the thoughts—the birth, it may be said, of modern science—which haunt and vex men now.

Difficulties like these are not touched upon in Scripture. But the spirit in which all difficulties, all doubts should be met, is the same. If the answer lies in a region above and beyond us, our true wisdom is to wait in humble dependence upon God, in active fulfilment of what we can see to be our duty, till the day dawn and the shadows flee away. And it is this which Scripture teaches us in this Psalm, in Job, and in that other Book, which is such a wonderful record of a doubting self-tormenting spirit, the Book of Ecclesiastes. It has been said that the Book of Job and the 73rd Psalm "crush free thought."* It would have been truer to say that they teach us that there are heights which we cannot reach, depths which the intellect of man cannot fathom; that God's ways are past finding out; that difficulties, perplexities, sorrows, are best healed and forgotten in the Light which streams from His throne, in the Love which by His Spirit is shed abroad in the heart.

But the Psalm teaches us also a lesson of forbearance towards the doubter. It is a lesson perhaps just now peculiarly needed. Christian sympathy is felt, Christian charity is extended toward every form of misery, whether mental or bodily, except toward that which is often the acutest of all, the anguish of doubt. Here it seems as if coldness, suspicion, even denunciation, were justifiable. And yet doubt, even to the verge of scepticism, as is plain from this Psalm, may be no proof of a bad and corrupt heart; it may rather be the evidence of an honest one. Doubt may spring from the very depth and earnestness of a man's faith. In the case of the Psalmist, as in the case of Job, that which lay at the bottom of the doubt, that which made it a thing so full of anguish, was the deep-rooted conviction of the righteousness of God. Unbelief does not doubt, faith doubts.† And God permits the doubt in His truest and noblest

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* Quinet, *OEuvres*, tome i. c. 5, § 4.
† The expression has been criticised as paradoxical, but the following admirable passages, which I have met with since the first edition of this work was published, may justify my language. They are quoted by Archbishop Whately in his *Annotations on Bacon's Essays*, pp. 358, 359. The first is from a writer in the *Edinburgh Review* for January, 1847, on "The Genius of Pascal": "So little inconsistent with a habit of intelligent faith are such transient invasions of doubt, or such diminished
servants, as our Lord did in the case of Thomas, that He may thereby plant their feet the more firmly on the rock of His own everlasting truth. There is, perhaps, no Psalm in which Faith asserts itself so triumphantly, cleaves to God with such words of lofty hope and affection, and that precisely because in no other instance has the fire been so searching, the test of faith so severe. It may be well to remember this when we see a noble soul compassed about with darkness, yet struggling to the light, lest we "vex one whom God has smitten, and tell of the pain of His wounded ones" (Ps. lxix. 26).

The Psalm consists of two parts:--
I. The Psalmist tells the story of the doubts which had assailed him, the temptation to which he had nearly succumbed. Ver. 1-14.

II. He confesses the sinfulness of these doubts, and explains how he had been enabled to overcome them. Ver. 15-28.

These principal portions have their further subdivisions (which are in the main those given by Hupfeld):
I. a. First we have, by way of introduction, the conviction to which his struggle with doubt brought him, ver. 1; then the general statement of his offence, ver. 2, 3.

b. The reason of which is more fully explained to be the prosperity of the wicked, ver. 4, 5; and their insolence and pride in consequence, ver. 6-11.

c. The comfortless conclusion which he had thence drawn, ver. 12-14.

perceptions of the evidence of truth, that it may even be said that it is only those who have in some measure experienced them, who can be said in the highest sense to believe at all. He who has never had a doubt, who believes what he believes for reasons which he thinks as irrefragable (if that be possible) as those of a mathematical demonstration, ought not to be said so much to believe as to know; his belief is to him knowledge, and his mind stands in the same relation to it, however erroneous and absurd that belief may be. It is rather he who believes — not indeed without the exercise of his reason, but without the full satisfaction of his reason—with a knowledge and appreciation of formidable objections—it is this man who may most truly be said intelligently to believe."

The other is from a short poem by Bishop Hinds:
"Yet so it is; belief springs still
In souls that nurture doubt;
And we must go to Him, who will
The baneful weed cast out.

"Did never thorns thy path beset?
Beware—be not deceived;
He who has never doubted yet
Has never yet believed."
II. a. By way of transition, he tells how he had been led to acknowledge the impiety of this conclusion, and how, seeking for a deeper, truer view, he had come to the sanctuary of God, ver. 15—17, where he had learned the sudden and fearful end of the wicked, ver. 18-20, and consequently the folly of his own speculation.

b. Thus recovering from the almost fatal shock which his faith had received, he returns to a sense of his true position. God holds him by his right hand, God guides him for the present, and will bring him to a glorious end, ver. 23, 24; hence he rejoices in the thought that God is his great and only possession, ver. 25, 26.

c. The general conclusion, that departure from God is death and destruction; that in His presence and in nearness to Him are to be found joy and safety, ver. 27, 28.

[A PSALM OF ASAPH.]

I SURELY God is good to Israel,
(Even) to such as are of a pure heart.
2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone,

I. SURELY. This particle, which occurs twice again in this Psalm, is rendered differently in each case by the E. V.; here truly, in ver. 13 verily, in ver. 18 surely: but one rendering should be kept throughout. The Welsh more correctly has, yn ddiaw (ver. 1), diau (ver. 13, 18). The word has been already discussed in the note on lxii. 1, where we have seen it is capable of two meanings. Here it is used affirmatively, and expresses the satisfaction with which the conclusion has been arrived at, after all the anxious questionings and debating through which the Psalmist has passed: "Yes, it is so; after all, God is good, notwithstanding all my doubts."—Essential Coherence of the Old and New Testament, by my brother, the Rev. T. T. Perowne, p. 85, to which I may, perhaps, be permitted to refer for a clear and satisfactory view of the whole Psalm.

It is of importance to remark that the result of the conflict is stated before the conflict itself is described. There is no parade of doubt merely as doubt. He states first, and in the most natural way, the final conviction of his heart.

ISRAEL. The next clause limits this, and reminds us that "they are not all Israel, which are of Israel." To the true Israel God is Love; to them "all things work together for good."


2. BUT AS FOR ME. The pronoun is emphatic. He places himself, with shame and sorrow, almost in opposition to that Israel of God
My steps had well-nigh slipt.
3 For I was envious at the arrogant,
    When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
4 For they have no bands in their death,
    And their strength continueth firm.
5 They are not in trouble as (other) men,
Neither are they plagued like (other) folk.
6 Therefore pride is as a chain\(^f\) about their neck;
   Violence covereth\(^h\) them as a garment.
7 Their eye\(^h\) goeth forth from fatness;
   The imaginations of (their) heart overflow.
8 They scoff\(^h\) and speak wickedly,
   Of oppression loftily do they speak.
9 They have set their mouth in the heavens,
   And their tongue walketh\(^k\) through the earth.
10 Therefore his people are turned\(^l\) after them,
And at the full stream would slake their thirst:

11 And they say: "How doth God know?
And is there knowledge in the Most High?"

12 Lo, these are the wicked,
And (these men), ever prosperous, have increased wealth,

sense, are the crowd who attach themselves to one and another of these prosperous sinners, that they may share his prosperity, and then 
"his people " is equivalent to "their people," the crowd which follows them. (2) The pronoun may refer to God. So the Chald. "they (the wicked) turn upon His (God's) people to punish them; "and the LXX. ο λαος μου, Vulg. populus meas. But with this reference of the pronoun we may explain: Even His people, forsaking Him, are led away by the evil example, just as the Psalmist confesses he himself was.

AFTER THEM, lit. "thither," i.e. to the persons before described, and, as is implied, away from God. The next clause of the verse is more difficult of explanation. The E. V. by its rendering, "And waters of a full (cup) are wrung out to them," probably means us to understand that the people of God, when they turn hither, i.e. to the consideration of the prosperity of the wicked, are filled with sorrow, drink as it were the cup of tears; the image being the same as in lxx. 5 [6]. The P. B. V. comes nearer to the mark:--

"Therefore fall the people unto them,
And thereout suck they no small advantage,"--
only that apparently in the second clause the pronoun they refers, not to the people, but to the wicked mentioned before. Whereas it is the people, the crowd of hangers-on, who gather like sheep to the watering-trough, who suck this advantage, such as it is, as the reward of their apostasy.

AND AT THE FULL STREAM, &c., lit. "and fulness of water is drained by them;" i.e. broad and deep are the waters of sinful pleasures, which they, in their infatuation, drink.

11. AND THEY SAY. The reference of the pronoun has again been disputed. Mostly it is referred to those just spoken of, who have been led astray by the prosperity of the wicked to follow them. Hupfeld thinks it is the wicked themselves (of ver. 3) who thus speak, and certainly the boldness of the language employed, which questions the very being of a God, is more natural in the mouth of those whose long prosperity and long security have made them unmindful of His providence.

But much depends on the view we take of the next three verses. Do these continue the speech, or are they the reflection of the Poet himself? The former is the view of Ewald, Stier, Delitzsch, and others. In this case the words must be throughout the words of those who have been tempted and led astray by the untroubled happiness of the wicked. They adopt their practically atheistical principles; they ask, "How doth God know," &c.; they point, with a triumph not unmingled with bitterness, at their success: Lo, these are the ungodly, whose sudden and utter overthrow we have been taught to expect; they come to the conclusion that the fear of God is in vain, for it does not save a man from suffering and disappointment, and thus they justify their choice. It is certainly in favour of this view that ver. 15 seems naturally to introduce the reflections of the Psalmist himself, who had almost been carried away by the same sophistry. On the other hand
13 Surely in vain have I cleansed my heart,  
And washed my hands in innocency,  
14 And have been plagued all the day long,  
And chastened every morning.  
15 If I had said,"I will utter (words) like these,"  
Lo, I should have been faithless to the generation of  
Thy children.  
16 And when I pondered it that I might know this,  
It was a trouble in mine eyes;  
17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God.

Hengstenberg and Hupfeld suppose the reflections of the Psalmist to begin at ver. 12. Verses 13, 14 will then describe the temptation which pressed upon him, the thoughts which forced themselves into his mind, and which, as verses 15, 16 show, he only with difficulty repressed. He did utter his disappointment, he was gliding on to something worse, to the atheistic language of ver. 11, when he checks himself as in ver. 15. In favour of this interpretation it may be urged, that the LXX. have introduced a καὶ ἐπὶ at the beginning of ver. 13.

I confess that, while inclining to the former, I feel it difficult to decide between these two views; and the decision must after all rest upon a certain feeling and instinct, rather than upon critical grounds.

15. If I had said, i.e. to myself (as the verb is constantly used); if I had given way to the temptation to utter thoughts and misgivings like these. "The Hebrew Psalmist," it has been well said, "instead of telling his painful misgivings, harboured them in God's presence till he found the solution. The delicacy exhibited in forbearing unnecessarily to shake the faith of others, is a measure of the disinterestedness of the doubter."—FARRAR, Bampton Lectures, p. 27.

I will utter (words) like these, or, "I will recount the matter thus."—THE GENERATION OF THY CHILDREN. As in xiv. 5, "the generation of the righteous." So the people at large are called, Deut. xiv. 1; Hos. ii. 1. Here, however, the true Israel, "the clean of heart," are meant. But the individual is not called a son of God under the Old Testament, except officially, as in ii. 7.

16. I pondered. See the same use of the verb in lxxvii. 5 [6], "the days of old;" Prov. xvi. 9, "one's way." THAT I MIGHT KNOW, i.e. reconcile all that I saw with the great fact of God's moral government.

A TROUBLE, or a weariness, as of a great burden laid upon me (comp. Eccles. viii. 17). Thought could not solve the problem. The brain grew wearier, and the heart heavier. Light and peace come to us, not by thinking, but by faith. "In Thy Light we shall see Light." God Himself was the Teacher.

17. THE SANCTUARY is the place of His teaching; not heaven, "the world of angels and spirits," as Qimchi and others, but the Temple, as the place of His special manifestation, not only by Urim and Thummim, but in direct answer to prayer. There, in some hour of fervent, secret prayer, like that of Hannah (1 Sam. i. 13, comp. Luke xviii. to), or perhaps in some solemn service—it may have been (who can tell?) through the words of some inspired Psalm—a conviction of the truth broke upon him. The word
(Until) I considered their latter end.
18 Surely in slippery places dost Thou set them, 
Thou hast cast them down to ruin.⁹
19 How are they brought to desolation as in a moment!

| SANCTUARY is in the plural, which is used here, as in xliii. 3, lxviii. 35 [36], for the singular. 18. The conclusion is remarkable. That which dispels the Psalmist's doubts, and restores his faith, is the end of the ungodly in this world,—their sudden reverses, their terrible overthrow in the very bosom of their prosperity. Hitherto he has not taken notice of this fact as he ought: he has been so dazzled with the prosperity of the wicked, that he has forgotten by what appalling judgements God vindicates His righteousness. He does not follow them into the next world. His eye cannot see beyond the grave. Even the great horror of an evil conscience is scarcely, in his view, a part of their punishment, unless the expression "because of terrors," in ver. 19, may be supposed to point that way, which, however, is very doubtful. But this Theodicee was the only one then known, and is in fact based upon the Law, which, resting upon temporal sanctions, justified the expectation of visible retribution in this world. The judges of Israel were appointed as the vice-gerents of God, to execute this retribution (Deut. i. 17). Hence the deep-rooted conviction on this point, even in the minds of the godly. It was not till a later period, and especially till after the Exile, that the judgement after death was clearly recognised. Comp. Mal. iii. 13, &c.
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| to admit their inference from the facts of Divine Providence. Otherwise this passage of Job supports the obvious rendering of ver. 4, "They do not die by lingering diseases, but easily," this being the mistaken view afterwards corrected. "We come to the conclusion," it has been well said, "that in the case of the wicked this Psalm does not plainly and undeniably teach that punishment awaits them after death; but only that in estimating their condition it is necessary, in order to vindicate the justice of God, to take in their whole career, and set over against their great prosperity the sudden and fearful reverses and destruction which they not unfrequently encounter. But in turning to the other side of the comparison, the case of the righteous, we are not met by the thought, that as the prosperity of the wicked is but the preparation for their ruin, so the adversity of the godly is but an introduction to worldly wealth and honour. That thought is not foreign to the Old Testament writers (see Psalm xxxvii. 9-11). But it is not so much as hinted at here. The daily chastening may continue, flesh and heart may fail, but God is good to Israel notwithstanding. He is their portion, their guide, their help, while they live, and He will take them to His glorious presence when they die. 'Nevertheless I am continually with Thee,' &c. The New Testament has nothing higher or more spiritual than this."—Essential Coherence, &c., pp. 86, 87.
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| 19. This verse, taken in connection with ver. 27, seems almost to point, as Ewald has remarked, to some particular instance of the Divine judgement which had recently been witnessed.
They are come to an end, they are cut off because of terrors.  

20 As a dream when one awaketh,  
(So), 0 Lord, when Thou arousest Thyself,  
(dost Thou despise their image.  

21 For my heart grew bitter,  
And I was pricked in my reins;  
22 So brutish was I myself and ignorant,  
I became a very beast t before Thee.  
23 And yet as for me,—I am always with Thee,

20. AS A DREAM, the unreality of which is only seen when a man awakes. Comp. xc. 5; Job xx. 8.  
The first member of this verse is apparently connected by the LXX., and perhaps by Symm., with what goes before, "they are cut off as a dream, "&c.  
WHEN THOU AROUSEST THYSELF. The verb in Hebrew is a different one from that in the previous clause, although in the E.V. both are in this passage rendered by the, same word. In xxxv. 23, where the two verbs also occur together, our translators have employed two different words to express them, and I have thought it best to do so here. The figure is carried on. When God thus awakes to judgement, the image, the shadow, of the wicked passes from Him as a dream from the mind of a sleeper. He "despises" it, as a man in his waking moments thinks lightly of some horrible dream.  
21. FOR. There is no reason to depart from this, the common meaning of the particle. (See Critical Note.) It explains the whole of the previous struggle. I was tempted to think thus, for I brooded over these difficulties till I became no better than the dumb cattle. So it ever is. Man does not show wisdom when he wearies himself to no purpose with the moral and speculative problems which beset him. His highest wisdom is to stay himself upon God.  
22. So BRUTISH, lit. "And I myself (the pronoun is emphatic) was brutish." Comp. Prov. xxx. 2, 3.  
A VERY BEAST. The noun is in the plural, which is here used in a superlative or emphatic sense (see note on lxviii. 35), so that we need not render "like the beasts," still less "like Behemoth" as though some particular beast were meant.  
23. The words that follow, in their exquisite beauty, need not comment or interpretation, but a heart in unison with them. They lift us up above the world, above doubts, and fears, and perplexities into a higher and holier atmosphere: we breathe the air of heaven. The man who can truly use these words is not one who has "crushed free thought," but one who has seen all his doubts swallowed up in the full light of God's Love. "Though all else in heaven and earth should fail, the one true everlasting Friend abides."—Ewald.
Thou hast holden my right hand;
24 Thou wilt guide me in Thy counsel,
And afterward Thou wilt take me to glory. u
25 Whom have I in heaven (but Thee) ?
    And there is none upon earth in whom I delight beside
    Thee.
26 (Though) my flesh and my heart fail,
    (Yet) God is the rock of my heart and my portion for ever.
27 For behold they that are far from Thee must perish;
    Thou hast destroyed every orfe that goeth a-whoring
    from Thee.
28 But as for me, it is good for me to draw near unto God;
    I have made in the Lord Jehovah my refuge,
    That I may tell of all Thy works.

| as that employed in xlix. 15 (where see note), and Gen. v. 24, to which last passage there is doubtless an allusion in both places in the Psalms. But this Psalm is an advance on Ps. xlix. 15 (where see note), and Gen. v. 24, to which last passage there is doubtless an allusion in both places in the Psalms. But this Psalm is an advance on Ps. xlix. 15 (where see note), and Gen. v. 24, to which last passage there is doubtless an allusion in both places in the Psalms. But this Psalm is an | that guidance."—Delitzsch. It is because he has forgotten to look to that counsel, and to trust in that counsel, that his faith has received so startling a shack. TAKE ME TO GLORY. Others, "receive me with glory." (See Critical Note.) 25. BUT THEE, or "beside Thee," lit. "with Thee." These words are to be supplied from the next clause, a word or a phrase belonging to two clauses being commonly in Hebrew expressed only in one. THERE IS NONE, &C., lit. "I have no delight (in any) upon the earth." 26. FAIL, lit. "have failed," i.e. "may have failed," the preterite being here used hypothetically. 27. The figure is very common. Israel is the spouse of God, and idolatry is the breaking of the marriage vow. But here it seems to be used, not merely of idolatry, but of departure from God such as that described in ver. 10. 28. At the end of this verse the LXX. add, "in the gates of the daughter of Zion," whence it has passed through the Vulgate, into our Prayer-Book Version. |
| The great difference, though with essential points of contact, between the hope of the life to come, as pourtrayed even in such a passage as this, and what we read in the New Testament, will best be understood by comparing the language here with St. Paul's language in the 4th and 5th chapters of the Second Epistle to the Corinthians, and the 1st chapter of the Epistle to the Philippians, ver. 21-23. THOU HAST HOLDEN; either implying that thus he had been saved from falling altogether, when his feet were almost gone (ver. 2), or perhaps rather as stating more broadly the ground of his abiding communion with God, at all times and under all circumstances. Comp. lxiii. 8 [9]. 24. THOU WILT GUIDE ME. "With confidence he commits himself to the Divine guidance, though he does not see clearly the mystery of the Divine purpose (counsel) in |
PSALM LXXIII.


b surely, or as it may be rendered, with Mendels. and others, even more pointedly, nevertheless. The exact force of the particle here has been best explained by Calvin: "Quod autem abruptum facit exordium, notare operae pretium est, antequam in hanc vocem erumperet David, inter dubias et pugnantes sententias aectiusse. Nam ut strenuus athleta seipsum exercuerat in pugnis difficillimis: postquam vero diu multumque sudavit, discussis impiis imaginationibus, constituit Deum "amen servis suis esse propitium, et salutis eorum fidum esse custodem. Ita subest antithesis inter pravas imaginationes quas suggesterat Satan, et hoc verae pietatis testimonium quo nunc se confirmat: ac si malediceret carnis suae sensui qui dubitationem admiserat de providentia Dei. Nunc tenemus quam emphatica sit exclamatio . . . quasi ex inferis emergeret, pleno spiritu jactare quam adepts erat victoriam." This has been seen also by some of the older interpreters (Symmachus, παρην; Jerome, attamen), as well as by the Rabbinical and other expositors. In like manner we have in Latin writers passages beginning with a nam or at, where something is implied as already existing in the mind of the writer, though not expressed.

c The K'tibh is part. pass. sing., either absol. with the accus. following, or in the stat. constr. with the gen., either construction of the part. pass. being admissible. Comp. 2 Sam. xv. 32 with 2 Sam. xiii. 31; Ezek. ix. 2 with 11 (Ges. § 132). For this the Q'ri very unnecessarily substitutes 3 pl. perf. but in the full form, which would only be suitable in pause. In the same way the following הָעַבָּדָה, which is no doubt הָעַבָּדָה, 3 fem. sing., with the plur. noun הָעַבָּדָה (a not uncommon construction, as in xxxvii. 31, see Ges. § 143, 3), has been just as unnecessarily corrected in the K'ri to הָעַבָּדָה. It is, however, possible that the punctuation, הָעַבָּדָה and הָעַבָּדָה, as plur. depends on the Q'ri of the verbs, and that these words in the K'tibh are meant to be singular (as xlv. 19, Job xxxi, 7). So Cler., Hasse, and others."—Hupfeld.

d This, as it stands, must mean "for, or at, or belonging to, their death," i.e. when they die. So the E.V. "in their death," and so the Welsh: "yn eu marwolaeth." But this, it has been said, does not fall in with the general scope of the passage, where not the death but the life of the wicked is described as one that seems enviable. Hence Hupfeld would render; "till their death," and refers to the use of the prep. in Is. vii. 15 to justify this interpretation; but there הָעַבָּדָה means not "till he knows," but "when he knows," as both Ewald and Knobel take it; and Drechsler, on the passage, has clearly shown, in opposition to Gesenius, that the prep. הָעַבָּדָה is in no instance used to mark duration of time up to a certain point, and therefore never means until. Bates, quoted by Horsley, proposed to make of הָעַבָּדָה two words, הָעַבָּדָה, joining הָעַבָּדָה with the first clause, "they have no bonds," and הָעַבָּדָה, as an adjective, with what follows, "soula and fat is their body." This has been adopted by Strut, Fry, &c., and by Ewald, who defends this sense of הָעַבָּדָה (which is
nowhere used of physical, but always of moral, soundness), by the use of the noun רָעָה in Job xxii. 23 [Delitzsch refers to the similar use of מָזִיק, xviii. 33, Prov. i. 12, but the first of these seems doubtful]. Mendelssohn supposes מָזִיק to be for מָזִיק, and renders: "Kein Knotten hemmt ihrer Tage Lauf;" the figure being that of the thread, of life, which, if it becomes knotted and entangled, is liable to be broken. But retaining the reading of the present Massoretic text, two interpretations are possible: (1) "They have no fetters for their death," which may either mean, if we take fetters (as in Is. lviii. 6, the only other passage in which the word occurs) in the literal sense, "they are not delivered over bound to death;" or, if we take it metaphorically, "they have no sufferings, diseases," &c., which bring them to death. So Hulsius: "Nulla sunt ipis ligasnenta ad mortem eorum, i.e. nullis calamitabis, nullis morbis sunt obnoxii; morbi sunt mortis ligamenta quod in mortis potestatem homines conjiciant." And Delitzsch, in his first Edition: "Denn keine Qualen gibts, daran sie stürben." (2) "They have no fetters (i.e. troubles, cares, sufferings) in their death." In this case the Psalmist is stating here by anticipation, not his present conviction as to the death of the wicked, but the view which he once took of it, in a mood of mind which he afterwards discovered to be wrong. So Aq. oýk eiýi δυσπάθειαi τῶν ἁγνῶν αὐτῶν. It is of importance to observe, however, that Symm. and Jerome seem to have had a different reading. The former has: οὐκ εἶναι κακά ἐν τέλος αὐτῶν. The LXX. have καὶ σταῖς ἀνάπνεοις ἐν τῷ ἁγνῷ αὐτῶν. With all this variation in the ancient Versions, they agree in one respect, they all have the word death. But for this, I should be disposed to accept the alteration of the text proposed above, as the simplest solution of the difficulty. Delitzsch has now (in his 2d Edit.) accepted this, and renders: Denn keine Qualen leiden sie, gesund and mastig ist ihr Wanst.

e מַזִיק, from the noun מַזִיק, strength (connected with מַזִיק, לָא, &c., from the root לָא, with the suffix, and occurring only here (an alleged plur. form, 2 Kings xxiv. 15, is doubtful). Symm. and others of the ancient interpreters, supposed it to be the noun מַזִיק, meaning vestibule, portico, &c., and hence the rendering of Symm., στεπειά ήν τα πρόπυλα αὐτῶν, and Jerome, vestibula. The LXX. have καὶ στεπείωμα ἐν τῇ μάστιγι αὐτῶν. The Syr., "and great is their folly," seems to have read by a confusion of letters מַזִיק הֶבְרָא, but the variations of the Syr. in this Ps., as in the 56th, are very numerous.

f מַנֵּסָה, a denominative from מַנֵּס, a necklace, and occurring in the Qal only here.
The second clause of this verse will admit of four renderings:

1. "a clothing of violence," and 10, the object of the verb (which is the construction of other verbs of clothing, comp. ἓ ἴν, Is. ix. 9); (2) may be the predicate (which the accent Rebia Geresh would indicate), "violence covereth them as a garment;" (3) ἓ may belong to ἴν, and the object of the verb be understood, "their violence covereth (them) as a garment" [this rendering is most in accordance with the accents]; (4) By an enallage of number, sing. for plur., "they cover (themselves) with their own violence as with a garment." So the LXX. Symm. Circumdederunt sibi iniquitatem.

[ or ἤν, which is found in some MSS. the dual noun being with the sing. verb. Stier, indeed, maintains that this is the only correct form, as ἵν is not used with a singular noun, but we have ἤν; in ver. 5, which is only a plena scriptio for ἤν, ἵν having no plural], lit. "their eye goeth forth (looks out proudly) from fatness (i.e. a sleek countenance)."

Comp. Job xv. 27. Aq. ἐκθήσεται ἀπὸ στέατος ὑπαλαμοὶ αὐτῶν, and Symm. προεπιστον ἀπὸ λαπαρώτητος (al. ἐκθετειν ἀπὸ λίπους) οἱ ὀφθ. αὐτ., take ὑμίν as plural. Ewald, Hupfeld, and others, following the LXX. ἐκείνοιστεταὶ ὑμῖν ἐκ στεάτως ἡ ἀδικία αὐτῶν, would read ἤμιν, "their iniquity," or without changing the word, would take ὑμίν here to stand for ὑμῖν, as in Zech. v. 6, and the Q'rè in Hos. x. to. (And so the Syr. .) They also take ὑμῖν, as in xvii. 10, in the sense of heart, or as Ewald renders, aus feistem Innern, the word fatness denoting a stupid, insensible heart. And so Ges. Thes. in v.

The word occurs only here. It is doubtless to be connected with the Aramaic Eng. mock. Comp. the Greek, κον, κτήρ, the nose, as expressing scorn; κτήριζω, &c. So Symm., καταμκωμενοί, and Jerome, irisserunt. The Chald., Rabb., and others, wrongly connected the word with ἐκ, either (1) trans. "they make to melt, i.e. afflict, others;" or as the P. B. V., "they corrupt other;" or (2) "they melt away, i.e. they are dissolute, corrupt," &c.

as in Ex. ix. 23, for ἢ, though it looks almost like an abbreviated Hithpael, a form which would be peculiarly suitable here in its common meaning, grassari. ἴν in the first clause of the verse is for ἴν, as in xlix. 15, and with the tone on the ult. The perfect, followed by the future, shows that the second clause is subordinated to the first: "They have set, &c., whilst their tongue goeth," &c. The construction is the same as in ver. 3.

If we retain the K'thlbh, we must assume that the sing. is here put for the plur., the subject being virtually the same as that of the plur. verbs in ver. 7, 8, only that now these prosperous sinners are regarded singly, not collectively. " He, i.e. one and another of these proud, ungodly men, makes his people (those whom he draws after him) turn hither, i.e. copy his example;" or, more generally, "one turns his people," which is equivalent to the passive, "his people are turned." Hence the
Q'ri, according to which מ is the subject, is unnecessary. Phillips, who adopts the Q'ri, refers the suffix to Jehovah. His people, i.e. the people of God. And so the Chald., and Abulwalid, and the LXX. who have ὁ λαός μου.

^ from the root הה, to wring out, to drain. The verb is several times used with מ, to drink, in order to convey the idea of draining to the dregs. So in lxv. 9, Is. li. 17, Ezek. xiii. 34. It is used of wringing out (a) the dew from the fleece, in Judg. vi. 38; (b) the blood of the sacrifices, Lev. i. 15, v. 9. Our Version has everywhere employed wring out as the equivalent, except in Ezek., where it has suck out. Mendelssohn renders:--

Bethöret folgt ihm das Volk in ganzen Haufen,
Strömt ihm, wie Wasserfluthen, nach.

In the Biur, "waters to the full" is explained to mean "the waters of a full river, which rush along with strength," and to be used as a figure or comparison; "so the men of their generation run after them;" and מ is said to be for מ, the על being dropt, as in Num. xi. 11, and Ezek. xxviii. 16. So this word was taken, too, by the older interpreters. The LXX ἤμεραι (reading מ) πληρεῖς ένευρετήσοται ἐν αὐτοῖς. Sym. καὶ διαδοχὴ πλήρης ένευρετήσαται ἐν αὐτοῖς. Jerome, quis (מ) plenus invenietur in eis.

The word, Hupfeld thinks, is out of place. What is the meaning, he asks, "If I had said (or thought, i.e. said to myself) let me declare thus"? Not the forming the purpose to speak so, but the speaking so itself, would have been the treachery against the children of God. And therefore he would transpose the word either before the particle מ, "I said (thought) if I should declare thus," &c., or to the beginning of ver. 13. See on xxxii. note c. But is it not possible that מ may stand parenthetically: "If (methought) I should declare thus"?

If the reading be correct, this word must here stand as an adverb, in the sense so, thus מ, a meaning, however, in which it never occurs anywhere else. [Maurer, however, contends for this as the primary meaning, מ being abbreviated from מ and מ = מ, indefinite, quidquam; hence the compound מ מ means tale quid.] Some would punctuate מ, and suppose it to stand for מ, like them (the persons mentioned before), or like these things (such words as those just repeated), but this form, again, is never found. Ewald would read מ מ, and supposes the מ to have been dropt out because of the following מ, and we must either adopt this supposition, or with Ges., Hupf., and Del. conclude that the word מ is here used abnormally as an adverb, as the older interpreters take it. LXX. εἰ έλεγον, διηγήσομαι οὕτως. Aq. (perhaps Symm.), Theod., εἰ ἐ. τοιαύτα. Del. compares the elliptical use of the prep. מ in Is. lix. 18, and the absolute use in Hos. vii. 16, xi. 7.

The punctuation of the מ with Pathach here, instead of Qametz, appears to be arbitrary. Delitzsch, indeed, draws a distinction,
and says that with the word would mean *et cogilavi*, whereas with it means *et cogitabam* (or, which would be unsuitable here, *et cogitare volo*).

But in other passages where this last form occurs, as lxix. 21; Judg. vi. 9; Job xxx. 26, it is joined either with another verb in the fut., with, or with a verb in the pret., without any mark of difference of time. There is more force in what Del. says as to the cohortative form of the fut., which often serves, without a particle of condition, to introduce the protasis. (See on xlii. note c.) So here we might render, "And when (or if) I thought to understand," &c., καὶ εἰ ἐλογιζόμην, as Aq. and Theod.

In the next clause it is unimportant whether we adopt the K'ṭbh̄ kūn, or the Q'ṛ kūn. The former may refer more immediately to the preceding ἁρα, and the latter to the whole preceding sentence, but either must be taken equally in a neuter sense.

q 톤אשַפֶל occurs again only in lxxiv. 3. It is related, as Hupf. remarks, to such forms as הָנַשְׁפַּה, and the like, but is not to be derived from הָנַשְׁפַּה, as if it were for תונאשַפ, "an impossible form," but from a root כש, with the common interchange of letters in weak stems. (See next note.)

The LXX. κατέβαλες αὐτός ἐν τῷ ἐπαρθηναί, connecting the word with the root כש).

r תונאשַפֶל. The noun is apparently by transposition of letters for הָנַשְׁפַּה. It occurs once in the sing. in Is. xvii. 14, elsewhere only in Job and Ezekiel, and there always in the plur.

s רֶפֶה. So far as the grammatical form goes, this might mean *in the city*, as the ancient interpreters understood (whence our P. B. V., but in defiance of grammar, "Thou shalt make their image vanish *out of the city*"). But the sense is not suitable. The word is evidently a contracted form of the Hiphil infin. for רֶפֶה, and is used intransitively, as in xxxv. 23. For other instances of this contracted infin. see Jer. xxxix. 7; 2 Chron. xxxi. 10; Prov. xxiv. 17.

t רֶפֶה. According to Hupfeld, this introduces the protasis "when my heart," &c., the apodosis beginning with 1 in ver. 22, and the imperfects (futures) being relative preterites. Similarly Ewald. But I know of no instance by which such a construction can be defended. Commonly when רֶפֶה introduces the protasis, followed by a verb in the future, that tense is used in its proper *future* (not its *imperfect*) meaning. Comp. lxxv. 3; 2 Chron. vi. 28. Delitzsch, feeling this, supposes that the Psalmist is speaking, not of the past, but of a possible return of his temptation, and renders, si exacerbaretur animus meus aique in renibus meis pungerer, "if my mind should grow bitter, &c. . . . then I should be," &c. But I cannot see why, if be taken simply as a conjunction, (LXX., Aq., ὅτι) *for*, and not as governing the clause, the verbs may not be regarded as imperfects, describing continued past action. The first verb means, properly, "to turn acid" (lit. "make itself acid"). Flam., acescere, Call, acidum esse instar fermenti. Perhaps Aq. meant this by his rendering ἔτυποδύτο. The second is also strictly a reflexive, "to prick
oneself." Both verbs, misunderstood by the ancient interpreters, were first rightly explained by Rashi.

υ ὑμνίσκω. The Hebrew will admit of the rendering, "Thou wilt receive me with glory" (accus. of instrument). So the LXX. μετὰ δόξης προσελάβουσα με. Symm. takes ὑμνίσκω as the nominative, and the verb as in the 3d pers., καὶ ὑπερτερούς τιμή διεδέξατό με. Contrary to the accents, others would take ἡμέρα as a prep. (referring to Zech. ii. 12, which is not really analogous): "Thou leadest me after glory," i.e. as my aim (Ew. Hitz), or "in the train of glory" (Hengst.). But the other interpretation, "to glory," i.e. "to the everlasting glory of God's presence," is far better. ἡμέρα is an adverb, as in Gen. x. 18, xxx. 21, Prov. xx. 17, and many other places. On the use of the verb προσελαβοῦ in this sense, see xlix. 16. The whole context is in favour of the rendering "to glory."

PSALM LXXIV.

THIS Psalm and the Seventy-ninth both refer to the same calamity, and were, it may reasonably be conjectured, written by the same author. Both Psalms deplore the rejection of the nation, the occupation of Jerusalem by a foreign army, and the profanation of the Sanctuary: but the Seventy-fourth dwells chiefly on the destruction of the Temple; the Seventy-ninth on the terrible slaughter of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Assuming that both Psalms refer to the same event, we have to choose between two periods of Jewish history, and only two, to which the language of the sacred Poet could reasonably refer. The description might apply either to the invasion of Nebuchadnezzar, or to the insolent oppression of Antiochus Epiphanes; and with one or other of these two occasions it has been usually connected.

That no presumption can be raised against the latter of these dates from the history of the Canon, I have already shown in the General Introduction to Vol. I. pp. 17-19, and in the Introduction to Ps. xlv.; and there are, more particularly in this Psalm, some expressions which are most readily explained on the supposition that it was composed in the time of the Maccabees.

(a) One of these is the complaint (ver. 9), "There is no prophet any more." It is difficult to understand how such a complaint could have been uttered when Jeremiah and Ezekiel were both living; or
with what truth it could be added, "Neither is there any among us who knoweth how long," when Jeremiah had distinctly foretold that the duration of the Captivity should be seventy years (Jer. xxv. 11, xxix. 10).* On the other hand, such words are perfectly natural in the mouth of a poet of the Maccabean age. For 250 years, from the death of Malachi, the voice of Prophecy had been silent. During that long interval, no inspired messenger had appeared to declare and to interpret the will of God to His people. And how keenly sensible they were of the greatness of their loss in this respect, we learn from the frequent allusions to it in the First Book of Maccabees (iv. 46, ix. 27, xiv. 41). The language of this Psalm, then, is but the expression of what we know to have been the national feeling at that time.

(b) Another feature of this Psalm is the description of the profanation of the Sanctuary, and the erection there of the signs (ver. 4), the military standards or religious emblems, of the heathen. The Book of Maccabees presents the same picture. There we read that Antiochus, on his return from the second Egyptian campaign, "entered proudly into the Sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof" (i. 21). Two years later, the king sent a division of his army against Jerusalem, which fell upon the city and having made a great slaughter of the inhabitants, plundered it, set it on fire, pulled down the houses and walls, and carried away captive women, and children, and cattle. A strong garrison was placed in the city of David, the sanctuary was polluted, and the sabbaths and festival days profaned. The abomination of desolation was set up on the altar, and sacrifice offered "on the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God." (I Macc. i. 30-53. See also ii. 8-12, iii. 48-51.)

On the other hand it has been urged, that there is nothing in the language of the Psalm inconsistent with the supposition that it refers to the Chaldean invasion. The desolation of Jerusalem and the profanation of the sanctuary are described in terms quite as suitable to that event. Indeed, one part of the description, "They have cast Thy sanctuary into the fire," ver. 7, it is argued, would only hold good of the destruction of the temple of the Chaldeans. Antiochus Epiphanes plundered the temple, but did not burn it. On the contrary, we are particularly informed that not the temple itself, but the gates of the temple (I Macc. iv. 38; 2 Macc. viii. 33) and the porch of the temple (2 Macc. i. 8), were burned, nor is the

* It has been suggested to me by a friend, that this complaint would not be unsuitable to the time of Esar-haddon's invasion (2 Chron. xxxiii. 11). That period was singularly barren in prophets.
complete destruction of the whole building implied in the same way as it is in the Psalm.

It has also been contended that even the complaint of the cessation of prophecy is not absolutely at variance with the older date, provided we suppose that the Psalm was written during the Exile, when both Jeremiah and Ezekiel had ceased to prophesy, and before Daniel entered upon his office. (So Delitzsch; and Calvin admits this to be possible). Tholuck, however, observes that ver. 18, 23, lead us to infer that the Chaldean army was still in the land, and even in Jerusalem itself, and therefore that the Psalm must have been written when Jeremiah had already been carried away in chains to Ramah, on his way to Babylon (Jer. xl. 1). He suggests further, that these words (and the same may be said of the words which immediately follow, "Neither is there any among us who knoweth," &c.) need not be taken in their exact literal meaning. The deep sorrow of the poet would lead him to paint the picture in colours darker and gloomier than the reality. Seventy years—who could hope to see the end of that weary length of captivity?—who knew if the end would ever come? Such was the language of despondency. To one who refused to be comforted, the end promised was as though it were not.

Further, both Jeremiah and Ezekiel, it has been observed, indulge in a similar strain. Thus the former sings: "Her gates are sunk into the ground; He hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the Law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from Jehovah" (Lam. ii. 9). And the latter threatens: "Then shall they seek a vision of the prophet: but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients" (Ezek. vii. 26). Neither of these passages, however, so absolutely denies the existence of a prophet as that in the Psalm. One other expression in the Psalm, ver. 3, "Lift up Thy feet to the everlasting ruins," seems, it must be confessed, most suitable in the mouth of an exile during the Babylonish captivity.

The relation both of this Psalm and the Seventy-ninth to the writings of Jeremiah, presents another difficulty. Jeremiah x. 25 is almost word for word the same as Ps. lxxix. 6, 7. Again, Lam. ii. 2 resembles lxxiv. 7, and Lam. ii. 7 is very similar to lxxiv. 41 and, as we have already seen, there is at least a point of connexion between lxxiv. 9 and Lam. ii. 9; besides these, other minor similarities may be observed, on a comparison of the Psalmist with the Prophet. Now we know that it is the habit of Jeremiah to quote largely and frequently from other writers, and in particular from the Psalms and the Prophets. But on either of the hypotheses above
mentioned, as to the date of our two Psalms, the writer of these must have imitated the language of Jeremiah. This is, of course, quite possible. A similar problem, and a very interesting one, arises out of the relation of Jeremiah to the later chapters of Isaiah xl.—lxvi. That one of the two writers was familiar with the other, is beyond a doubt.

On the whole, I am inclined to think that this Psalm may be most naturally explained by events that took place in the time of the Maccabees. If, in any particular, the language seems too strong as applied to that time—as, for instance, the description of the burning of the temple—this may be as readily explained by poetic exaggeration, as ver. 9 is so explained by those who hold the opposite view. Or perhaps, as Calvin suggests, the writer, overcome by the mournful spectacle before his eyes, could not but carry back his thoughts to the earlier catastrophe, and thence borrowed some images, blending in his imagination the two calamities in one.

The Psalm does not consist of any regular system of strophes. It opens with a cry of complaint, and a prayer that God would remember His people in their desolation. Ver. 1-3.

It then pictures the triumph of the enemy, the destruction of the sanctuary, and the loss of Divine counsel in the day of peril. Ver. 4-9.

Then again there is an appeal to God for help (Ver. 10, 11), and a calling to mind of God's past wonders on behalf of His people, and of His Almighty power as seen in the world of Nature. Ver. 12-17.

And finally, based upon this, a prayer that God would not suffer reproach to be brought upon His own Name, by the triumph of the heathen over His people, Ver. 22, 23.

[A MASCHIL OF ASAPH. a]

10 GOD, why hast Thou cast (us) off for ever, (Why) doth Thine anger smoke against the sheep of Thy pasture?

I. HAST THOU CAST OFF. See note on xlv. 9. The object here may be supplied from the next clause, viz. "the sheep of Thy pasture." WHY DOTH THINE ANGER SMOKE. For the figure, compare xviii, 8 [9], where see note. There is a change in the tenses, the pre-terite in the first clause being used to denote the act of casting off, the future (present) here to denote the continuance of the same. See on xlv. 9.

SHEEP OF THY PASTURE; a favourite figure in those Psalms which are ascribed to Asaph. (See
2 Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old,  
Which Thou hast ransomed to be the tribe of Thine inheritance,  
(And) the mount Zion wherein Thou hast dwelt.

Introduction, Vol. I. p. 97.) It is found also in Jer. xxiii. 1. The name contains in itself an appeal to the compassion and tender care of the shepherd. Can the shepherd slay his sheep?  

2. THOU HAST PURCHASED . THOU HAST RANSOMED. Both verbs contain in themselves a reason why God should remember His people. The first verb (kanah) may mean only to get, to acquire, the idea of a price paid for the acquisition being not necessarily contained in the word. So Gen. iv. 1, "I have gotten a man with (the help of) Jehovah:" Gen. xiv. 22, "the most High God, possessor of heaven and earth," Prov. viii. 22, "Jehovah possessed me in the beginning of His way." And Jerome renders here possedisti and the LXX. ἐκτήσω. Exactly analogous is the use of the Greek περιποιεῖσθαι. Acts xx. 28, "The church of God which He purchased (acquired) with His own blood." 1 Tim. iii. 13: "Purchase (acquire) to themselves a good degree." Comp. Eph. i. 14, and 1 Thess. v. 9, where see Vaughan's note. The second verb (ga-al, to ransom, whence goel,) from a root meaning to loosen [see Fürst's Concord.], is the technical word for every kind of redemption under the Law, whether of fields (Lev. xxv. 25), tithes (Lev. xxvii. 31, 33), or slaves (Lev. xxv. 48, 49). The next of kin was called Goël, because on him devolved the duty of redeeming land which his poor relation had been compelled to sell (Lev. xxv. 25), and also because on him fell the obligation of redeeming, demanding satisfaction for, the murder of a kinsman. (Num. xxxv. 12, 19, and often.)

A third word is common in Hebrew, padah, which means properly to separate, and then to loosen, and so to redeem, as in Dent. ix 26, "Thine inheritance which Thou hast redeemed." This word is also employed, but more rarely, in the technical sense of the redemption of the first-born of animals for instance (Ex. xiii. 13, xxxiv. 20). Both this and the verb ga-al are frequently used of the deliverance from Egypt and from Babylon.

OF OLD, as in xlii. 2, with reference, doubtless, to the deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

THE TRIBE. Such is, apparently, the meaning of the word here, the whole nation being regarded, not as many tribes, but as one tribe, probably in reference to other nations. The same expression occurs besides only in Jeremiah x. 16, and li. 19, whereas in Isaiah lxiii. 17 we have the plural form, "the tribes of Thine inheritance." The E. V. has here "rod of thine inheritance," and so Luther, Calvin, and others, and the word frequently means rod, staff (as in xiv. 6), sceptre (as in xlv. 6), &c., but here it is usually explained to mean measuring-rod, and so the portion measured out — a meaning, however, in which the word never occurs. Jerome explains it by sceptre, and so Theophylact, δῆλον δὲ ἢ ῥάβδος τῆς βασιλείας.

The CONGREGATION represents the people in their religious aspect, THE TRIBE in their national and political aspect, or as distinct from other nations (Del.) cf. Jer. x. 16, li. 19, with Is. lxiii. 17. The two great facts, the redemption from Egypt, and God's dwelling in the midst of them, the one of which was preparatory to the other, seem here, as in the Sixty-eighth Psalm, to sum up all their history.
3 Lift up Thy feet unto the everlasting ruins!  
   The enemy hath laid waste all in the sanctuary;
4 Thine adversaries have roared in the midst of Thine assembly;
   They have set up their signs as signs.

3. LIFT UP THY FEET (lit. footsteps, the word being a poetical one), i.e. "come speedily to visit those ruins which seem as though they would never be repaired." A similar phrase (though the words in the original are different) occurs in Gen. xxix. 1, where it is said of Jacob, that after his vision, "he lifted up his feet," a phrase "which in Eastern language still signifies to walk quickly, to reach out, to be in good earnest, not to hesitate."—Kitto, *Bible Illustrations*, i. 305.

EVERLASTING, the same word as in ver. 1, "for ever," i.e. which seem to human impatience, looking forward as if they would never be built again. In Is. lxi. 4, "the everlasting ruins," (where, however, the Hebrew words are different) are so called, looking back on the long past continuance of the desolation.

IN THE SANCTUARY. This is his greatest grief. His country has been laid waste with fire and sword, his friends slain or carried into captivity, but there is no thought so full of pain as this, that the holy and beautiful house wherein his fathers worshipt has been plundered and desecrated by a heathen soldiery. Instead of the psalms, and hymns, and sacred anthems which once echoed within those walls, has been heard the brutal shout of the fierce invaders, roaring like lions (such is the meaning of the word in the next verse) over their prey. Heathen emblems, military and religious, have displaced the emblems of Jehovah. The magnificent carved work of the temple, such as the Cherubim, and the palms, and the pillars, with pomegranates and lily-work (i Kings vi. 15, &c., if the allusion be to the first temple) which adorned it, have been hewed down as remorselessly as a man would cut down so much wood in the forest. And then that splendid pile, so full of sacred memories, so dear to the heart of every true Israelite, has been set on fire, and left to perish in the flames. Such is the scene as it passes again before the eyes of his mind.

4. THINE ASSEMBLY, i.e. here evidently "a place of assembly," a word originally applied to the Mosaic tabernacle, and afterwards to the great national festivals. Here it would seem the temple is meant. Comp. Lam. ii. 6, where the word occurs in both senses. "He hath destroyed His assembly (or temple; E.V. His places of assembly) . . . He hath caused to be forgotten solemn feast, and sabbath," &c. It comes from a root signifying to fix to establish, &c., and hence is used both of a fixed time (see on lxxv. 2) and a fixed place.

THEIR SIGNS. An emphasis lies on the pronoun, comp. ver. 9. I have retained the literal rendering, together with the ambiguity of the original. These were either military ensigns, standards, trophies, and the like (as in Num. ii. 2 ff.), the temple having been turned into a barrack; or, religious emblems, heathen rites and ceremonies, perhaps even idols, by which the temple and altar of Jehovah were profaned. (In this last sense the words would aptly describe the state of things under Antiochus Epiphanes. Comp. 1 Macc. i. 54 and 59, "Now the five-and-twentieth day of the month they did sacrifice upon the idol altar, which was upon the altar of God." Again in chap. iii. 48, it is said that "the heathen had sought to paint the likeness of their images" in the book of the
5 It seems\textsuperscript{c} as though one lifted up on high 
Axes against the thickets of the wood:
6 And now the carved work thereof\textsuperscript{f} altogether
With hatchet and hammers they break down.
7 They have set Thy sanctuary on fire;
They have profaned the dwelling-place of Thy Name
(even) unto the earth.
8 They have said in their heart: "Let us make havoc\textsuperscript{g}
of them altogether."
They have burnt up all the houses\textsuperscript{h} of God in the land.

\textsuperscript{Law.)} This last sense is further confirmed by the use of the word in ver. 9. But both meanings may be combined, the word \textit{sign} being here used in its most general sense of all symbols of a foreign power of whatever kind. So Geier, "ita ut accipiatur pro indicio potestatis alienae, quae est turn politica, tum religiosa: ita namque hostes mutaverant quoque signa priora, quibus turn Dei, turn magistratus proprii jurisdictio ac veneratio designabatur."

5. This verse has been completely misunderstood by our translators, who have here followed Calvin, as well as by nearly all the older interpreters. It does not describe the preparation once made for building the temple, by hewing down cedars in the forest of Lebanon, but it compares the scene of ruin in the interior, the destruction of the carved work, &c., to the wide gap made in some stately forest by the blows of the woodman's axe. See the use of the same figure, Jer. xlvii. 22. Buchanan's paraphrase gives the true meaning:--
\begin{quote}
AEdis ruentis it fragor:
Quales sub altis murmurant quercus jugis
Caesa bipenni quum ruunt.
\end{quote}

IT SEEMS, lit. "it is known, makes itself known, appears," &c., as in Gen. xli. 21; Ex. xxi. 36, xxxiii. 16. Or possibly, "he, i.e. the enemy, makes himself known as one who lifts up," &c.

7. THEY HAVE SET ON FIRE, lit. "They have cast into the fire."
Hupfeld compares the German, "in Brand legen, stecken," and the French, "mettre a feu."

THEY HAVE PROFANED . . . UNTO THE EARTH, \textit{i.e.} "by casting it to the earth," as the expression is filled up in the E. V., but in the P. B. V. the English idiom is made to adapt itself to the Hebrew, and this I have followed. We have a similar construction in lxxxix. 39 [4o], "Thou hast defiled his crown to the earth," \textit{i.e.} by casting it to the earth. For the fuller expression, on the other hand, see Lam. ii. 2.

8. ALL THE HOUSES OF GOD IN THE LAND, \textit{i.e.} "all the assemblies," which must here mean "places of assembly," as in ver. 4, and Lam. ii. 6. The work of devastation does not stop short with the temple. The plain meaning of the words is that there were many other places for religious worship in the land besides the temple, and that these, as well as the temple, were destroyed. All attempts to get rid of this meaning are utterly futile. It is assumed that this Psalm refers to the Chaldean invasion, and as we hear of no synagogues or legalized holy places before the Exile, therefore it is said the temple must be meant, the plural being here used for the singular. It is quite true
9 Our signs we see not; there is no prophet any more,

Neither is there with us any who knoweth how long.

that we have other plural forms applied to the temple. Thus in xxiii. 3, "Thy tabernacles," lxii. 17, "the sanctuaries of God," the plural being used to denote the several parts, courts, chambers, &c., of the one building. But it is not only the plural word that we have here, but the far wider phrase, "all the places of assembly in the land." Hupfeld tries to escape from this difficulty by saying that all the previous different names of the sanctuary are finally comprised in one—that one house which may be called "all the houses of God," because it represents and is the substitute for all and he attempts to defend this by Is. iv. 5, where, however, "every dwelling-place," and "her assemblies," are expressly confined to "Mount Zion." Mendelssohn has a similar explanation, except that he supposes the expression to be used from the point of view of the enemy: "They say in their heart, that by destroying this house, we shall destroy all the assemblies of God together: "Israel having but one sanctuary, while all other nations build houses of assembly for their gods in every city and district. But all this is the merest trifling, and it is surprising that commentators of unquestioned ability should have recourse to such strained interpretations. Such interpretations are unnecessary, even on the assumption that this Psalm refers to the Chaldean invasion. Before that time synagogues are not mentioned, it is true, nor indeed are they in the Books of the Maccabees; still it is scarcely credible that even before the Exile there were no houses of God, no places for religious worship, except the temple in Jerusalem. Without holding, as Vitringa surmised and as others have thought, that sacred places, such as those consecrated by the patriarchs and others, in earlier times—Ramah, Bethel, Gilgal, Shiloh—are meant, or "the high places" (see 2 Chi.. xxxiii. 17; comp. I Kings xviii. 30, from which it appears that in [? before] Elijah's time there was an altar of Jehovah on Mount Carmel), there must have been buildings where it was customary to meet, especially on the Sabbath (which in Lev. xxiii. 3 is called "an holy convocation), and to pray, turning towards Jerusalem. There must surely have been some public worship beyond the limits of the family, and if so, places, houses, for its celebration. If, however, the Psalm be of the age of the Maccabees, there is no difficulty, for before that time, there can be little doubt, synagogues were established. Our translators would seem, by their rendering "synagogues," to have regarded this as a Maccabean Psalm. See more in Critical Note.

9. OUR SIGNS, i.e. the sign of God's dominion and presence in the midst of us. Taken in connexion with what immediately follows, "There is no prophet," &c., these may mean miraculous signs, in which sense the word frequently occurs. Or it may only denote here religious emblems, which were displaced to make room for the signs of the heathen. See ver. 4.

No PROPHET. Such a complaint seems most suitable to the time of the Maccabees, when, in fact, the complaint was frequent. See Introduction to the Psalm.

Stier draws attention to the emphatic way in which the lament here closes: no signs—religion destroyed and rooted out: no prophet—to announce approaching consolation, or to begin the work of restoration; none of us all therefore knows how long this sad state of things shall last. The latter expression refers, not to the prophet (as Hupfeld), but to the mass of the people.
10 How long, 0 God, shall the adversary reproach?  
Shall the enemy despise Thy name for ever?  
11 Why withdrawest Thou Thy hand, even Thy right hand?  
(Pluck it out) from the midst of Thy bosom, consume  
(them)!  
12 Surely God is my King of old,  
Working deliverances in the midst of the earth;  
13 THOU didst divide the sea through Thy strength,  
Thou brakest the heads of the monsters upon the  
waters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. Taking up that word, How long? the Psalmist turns with it to God, beseeching Him not to suffer this reproach to be cast upon His Name. Twice the same appeal is made, see verses 18 and 22. This holy jealousy for the honour of God, as bound up with His people's deliverance, is characteristic of the Old Testament. The feeling is strikingly exemplified in the prayers of Moses, Ex. xxxii. 12, 13; Num. xiv. 13-16; Deut. ix. 28, comp. xxxii. 27.</th>
<th>MY KING, expressive of the strong personal feeling of the Psalmist. See note on xlv. 4, and comp. Hab. i. 12, where in like manner the Prophet claims his own covenant relation to God, whilst speaking as the representative of the people, &quot;Art Thou not for everlasting, O Jehovah my God, my Holy one?—we shall not die.&quot;</th>
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<td>II. WHY WITHDRAWEST THOU, lit. &quot;Why makest Thou to return,&quot; i.e. into Thy bosom. See Ex. iv. 7, where the full expression occurs: it denotes, of course, a state of inactivity, the hand being enveloped in the ample folds of the Eastern robe. (PLUCK IT OUT.) It seems necessary to supply the ellipse in this way. The construction is a pregnant one, similar to that which we have already had in ver. 7. For the absolute use of the verb, CONSUME, comp. lix. 13 [14]. It may either be rendered as above, or perhaps as Meyer, Stier, and others, &quot;Make an end,&quot; i.e. of this state of things.</td>
<td>13-15. Special instances of God's wonder-working power in the passage of the Red Sea, in bringing water from the rock, and in the passage of the Jordan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. SURELY, or, &quot;and yet,&quot; in spite of this seeming inactivity. The appeal rests, first, on the fact that God has already manifested His power in signal instances on behalf of His people, and next, on the dominion of God as Creator and absolute Ruler of the universe.</td>
<td>13. THE MONSTERS. (Symmachus, τῶν κτητων, the whales). A symbolical description of the Egyptians. Comp. Is. li. 9, and Ezek. xxix. 3, where Pharaoh is called the &quot;monster which is in the sea.&quot; The E.V. has in all these places, &quot;dragon&quot; as the equivalent word. Here the LXX. have δράκων, to express both this word and Leviathan in the next clause. The same Hebrew word, tannin, is employed again cxxviii. 7, and also Gen. i. 21 (where it is rendered whales), to denote huge sea-monsters, lit. creatures extended, stretched out, hence serpents, crocodiles, &amp;c. Perhaps the crocodile (as in the next verse Leviathan) is meant here as emblematic of Egypt. The head of the monster has been smitten, and the huge unwieldy carcase lies floating on the waters.</td>
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| The plural HEADS has been sup- | }
14 THOU didst crush the heads of Leviathan, 
That Thou mightest give him as food to the people 
inhabiting the wilderness:
15 THOU didst cleave fountain and brook; 
THOU driedst up everflowing rivers.
16 Thine is the day, Thine also is the night, 
THOU hast established the light and the sun.
17 THOU hast set all the borders of the earth:

posed to refer to Pharaoh and his 
princes, as in next ver., but it may be only poetic amplification.

14. LEVIATHAN, i.e. the crocodile, 
as in Job xl. 25 (xii. 1. E. V.). In 
what sense is this said to be given 
as food to the people inhabiting the 
wilderness? Bochart, who is fol-
lowed by Hengstenberg and others, 
supposes that the allusion is to the 
Ichthyophagi who, according to 
Agatherides, fed on the sea-mon-
sters which were thrown up on 
their shores. Comp. Herod. ii. 69. 
Similarly, the LXX. render λοσίς 
tοῖς Αἰθιοπισί. Others, again, think 
that by the people inhabiting the 
wilderness are meant the Israelites, 
to whom the Egyptians, are said, 
figuratively, to be given as food, 
i.e. as plunder. But by far the 
simplest way is to understand the 
passage as meaning that the corpses 
of the Egyptians were cast upon the 
shore, and so became the prey 
of the wild beast, which are here 
called a people inhabiting the wil-
derness, as in Prov. xxx. 25, 26, 
the ants and the conies are called 
"a people." Comp. also Joel i. 6, 
Zeph. ii. 14.

INHABITING THE WILDERNESS. 
On this word see on lxxii. note.b

15. THOU DIDST CLEAVE FOUN-
TAIN, &c. Another instance of a 
pregnant construction: for "Thou 
didst cleave the rock, whence foun-
tain and brook issued forth." Comp. 
xlviiii. 15; Hab. iii. 9. The re-
ference, is, no doubt, to Exod. 
xxvii. 6.
THOU DRIEDST UP. The same 
word is used, Josh. ii. 10, of the 
Red Sea, and iv. 23, v. i, of the 
Jordan.

EVERFLOWING RIVERS, literally 
LL streams of constant flow." The 
same word occurs in Exod. xiv. 27, 
"The sea returned to its constant 
flow, its usual current." See also 
Deut. xxi 4; Amos v. 24. Here the 
Jordan is meant, the plural being 
used, not to denote the several 
streams by which it is fed (as Qim-
chi), but merely by way of poetic 
amplification. Aq. πολίμοις στερεούς.

Sym. π. ἀρχαίους.

16. From the wonders wrought 
by God on behalf of His people in 
their history, the Poet rises to the 
wider view of His ever-continued, 
ever-displayed power and majesty 
in the world of nature. The miracle 
does not lead him to forget God's 
power and goodness in that which 
is not miraculous. The one is rather 
a witness to, and an instance of, the 
other.

LIGHT, or rather "luminary," 
corresponding to the Greek φωστήρ 
(which Aquila employs here). It is 
the same word which occurs in Gen. 
i. 14, 16, and is there rendered 
"lights.". The singular is used col-
lectively for the plural, all the hea-
venly bodies being meant, and then 
of these the sun is named as chief. 
In the same way we have, as Hup-
feld remarks, Judah and Jerusalem, 
Ephraim and Samaria, and so the 
Greeks say, "Ελλήνες τε καὶ Ἀθηναίοι, 
and the like.

17. THE BORDERS OF THE 
EARTH, i.e. not those merely by 
which the land is divided from the 
sea (Gen. i. 9, comp. Prov. viii. 29;
Thou hast formed summer and winter.

18 Remember this, how the enemy hath reproached Jehovah, And how a foolish people have despised Thy Name.

19 O give not the soul of Thy turtle-dove to the wild beast, The life of Thine afflicted forget not for ever.

20 Look upon the covenant,

For the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.

21 O let not the oppressed turn back confounded,
Let the afflicted and the poor praise Thy name!
22 Arise, 0 God, plead Thine own cause;
Remember how the foolish man reproacheth Thee all
the day long.
23 Forget not the voice of Thine adversaries,
The tumult of them that rise against Thee which
goeth up for ever.

"Remember Thy reproach from a

foolish man all the day." See note
on ver. 18.

21. GOETH UP, i.e. which ascends
to heaven, crying aloud for ven-
geance.

a On Maschil, see above on xxxii. note a, and General Introduction,
Vol. I. p. 86; on Asaph, see 1. note a, and General Introduction, Vol. I.
P. 97.

b תַּנּוֹנֵם. These words seem to be a predicate, the relative being
supplied before J. So Ewald: "Hast erlöst zum Stammer" &c.
Mendelss. renders somewhat differently, as if דִּבְרֵים depended on דִּבְרֵים, and
יתנו were the predicate: "(Denke), Des Stammes, dir zum Eigenthum,
befrei't." But in the Biur, the explanation of Ibn Ezra is quoted: "to
be a tribe on the mountain of Thine inheritance," which is substantially
the same view of the construction as that I have given. Delitzsch
(1st Edit.) takes this clause as parenthetical, and says that the relative
form of expression is here given up, though the next clause depends on
דִּבְרֵים, but in his 2d Edit. renders as in text.

c פָּרָשֵׂה. On the form and derivation of this word see on lxxiii.
note q.

d מַטְלִית. A large number of MSS. and editions have the plur.
as in ver. 8. The Chald., Qimchi, and others, have also adopted it, and it
is in itself admissible, even if the temple be meant. See note on ver. 8.

e יִפְרֵץ. It is known, and so it appears, see note on ver. 5. This word
puzzled all the ancient interpreters. The Chald. omits it altogether, but
gives the true sense of the passage, which all the others have missed.
As regards the construction, either this and the next verse describe, as in
a parenthesis, the scene of destruction, and hence the verbs are presents,
giving more vividness to the narration; or perhaps the two verses may
be taken as protasis and apodosis. As . . . so now (והז). אֲרֵבִים, lit.
as one causing to come in, or perhaps as one bringing. So Ges. Thes., in
v. מִבֵּית, comp. Job xii. 6. In מַטְלִית, the vowel is Qametz, not Qametz-
Khatuph, as Sol. Yedidyah of Norcia calls it. Comp. מַטְלִית, Esth.
iv. 8.

f עֲפַרְפַּת, carved wood work, as in I Kings vi. 29. The fem. suff.
cannot refer immediately to any of the preceding nouns. It seems to be
used here as a neut., in an indefinite sense, referring generally to the
"sanctuary" and "assembly" mentioned before.

g מִלְחַלָּה. Qimchi first rightly explained this as I plur. fut. Qal. of מְלָלָה (elsewhere, except in the Part., occurring only in Hiph.), with suff. מָלָה, instead of מָלָה, as מִלְחַלָּה; Num. xxi. 30.

h מִלְחַלָּה. The word מִלְחַלָּה, as has been remarked, may be used either
of a fixed place of meeting (hence the Tabernacle was called מִלְחַלָּה, tent of meeting, i.e. where God met the people) or of a fixed time, and so of the festivals, as in Lev. xxiii. 2, 4, 37. The ancient interpreters were divided as to the signification here. Aq. has וַיֵּןְפֶּרְלֶשֶׁאִּן פָּסְגָּא סָנָה תָּאֶשׁ עֲבַדְתַּךְ. On the other hand, Sym. פָּסְגָּא סָנָה סָנָה קַאֲרוּוֹס. Theod. פָּסְגָּא קַאֲרוּוֹס. And the LXX., who put the words into the mouth of the enemy, render, δέωτε, κατακαύσωμεν (πασάς τὰς συν αἰώνας. On the other hand, Sym. πάσας τὰς συνταγὰς τοῦ θεοῦ. Theod. πάντας καιροὺς. The sixth translator in the Hexapla (Montf.) has κατακαύσωμεν, which may have been the original reading of the LXX., as Jerome (in his Ep. to Sunnia and Fretela) contends. It might easily have been altered to avoid the awkwardness of saying, "Let us burn up all the feasts." Jerome translates the LXX. Quiescere faciamus omnes dies festos Dei in terra; but his own rendering of the Hebrew is Incenderunt omnes solemnitates Dei in terra.

i מִלְחַלָּה לְעֵינֵי. This is grammatically indefensible. If the two nouns are in apposition, then the first cannot be in the stat. constr. It must be מִלְחַלָּה. But more probably the second has been inserted by mistake before מִלְחַלָּה. See a similar instance in Is. xxxii. i. The LXX. λαοίς τοῖς Αἴθωνι. Aq. τοῖς ἔξελευσομένοις. Theod. (λαοί) τῷ ἐσχάτῳ. E' (λαοί) τῷ ἔξελευσομένῳ.

k מִלְחַלָּה. According to the accents, this word is not to be joined with what follows; hence many regard it as the constr. state put for the absol. But there is no instance of such usage. Others would supply מְלָלָה, or some such word, beast of (the field). It is better to regard it as an instance of a feminine noun terminating in its absolute state, in -ath instead of -ah. See on lxii. note a, and Qimchi's remark there quoted. It is, then, doubtful whether we should take מְלָלָה in the sense of wild beasts, or in the sense of host (sc. of enemies). Delitzsch contends that the latter is required, because in the very next clause it occurs in this sense, "the congregation or host of Thine afflicted." Comp. lxviii. to [11], and note there.

Others would connect מִלְחַלָּה יָלַנְתָּה לְעֵינֵי together, taking מִלְחַלָּה, in the sense of eagerness, as in xvii. 9 (where see note). Hence יָלַנְתָּה לְעֵינֵי would either mean to the eager host (sc. of enemies)—so Ges., Maur., and others—or, to the eager (fierce, devouring) wild beast.

Hupfeld thinks the difficulty at once got over by the simple remedy of transposition, מִלְחַלָּה יָלַנְתָּה לְעֵינֵי "Give not to rage (to the fierce will of the enemy) the life of Thy turtle-dove." He tries to defend this absolute use of יָלַנְתָּה in the sense of fierce desire, by reference to xxvii. 12,
xli. 2 [3], where the word, however, occurs with a genitive ("will of mine enemies"), which he thinks may be supplied here from the context. In the next clause he keeps the same meaning of יֶה, "the life of Thine afflicted."

None of these explanations is satisfactory, though there can be no doubt as to the general sense of the passage. All the ancient Versions have misunderstood יַי. The Chald. either read יַי, as it paraphrases, "the souls of them that teach Thy Law," or perhaps gave this as a midrashic interpretation. Sym. (ψυχή) יַי יְדִידָא יָאִם תֹּנ וּמַע. Jerome, animam eruditam lege tua. Others, apparently, as the LXX., Syr., Arab., and Ethiop., read יַי, "the soul (which) confesseth, or giveth thanks, to Thee." All agree in rendering the first part of the sentence alike, "Give not to the wild beasts," except the Syr., which has 'ne des fractioni" (Dathe); but why not praedae? as in Is. v. 29. Does not this point to a reading יַי or יַי and may not the copyist have fallen into the error by his eye catching י in the next line?

PSALM LXXV.

THE Psalm celebrates in prophetic strain the righteous judgement of God. The voice of God Himself from heaven declares His righteousness, announces to the world that He is not, as human impatience has ever been wont to deem, regardless of wrong and suffering, but that He only waits for the moment which to His infinite wisdom seems best, that He may chastise the insolence of evildoers.

There are no clearly marked historical allusions in the Psalm. It seems, however, not improbable, as has been conjectured by many commentators (Ewald, Tholuck, Delitzsch, &c.), that it may refer to the time of the Assyrian invasion, either as celebrating, or immediately anticipating, the defeat of Sennacherib. Like Ps. xvi. it bears some resemblance to the prophecies of Isaiah uttered at that time. But there is, as Ewald has observed, a difference in the manner in which the Prophet and the Psalmist treats his subject. The Prophet adds thought to thought and scene to scene; he expands, enlarges upon, diversifies his theme. He sees in this one act of righteous judgement the prelude to many others. He threatens not the Assyrian only, but other nations who lift themselves up. The Poet, on the other hand, seizes upon the one truth, the single thought
of God's righteous judgement as manifested in this instance, and strives to present it to others with the same force and vividness with which it has filled his own mind. He too is a Prophet, a Prophet who has heard the word of God (ver. 2, &c.) and seen the vision of the Most High, but a Prophet, as it were, under narrower conditions and for a more limited purpose.

The close resemblance between many of the expressions in this Psalm and parts of the song of Hannah in I Sam. ii. is very noticeable.

The Psalm opens with the ascription of praise which God's wonders now and in all past time have called forth, ver. 1.

It passes then to the prophetic announcement of the truth which has been uttered from heaven and echoed with triumph upon earth, of God's righteous judgement, ver. 2-8.

Finally, it concludes with a determination to publish the praise of Jehovah for ever, whilst the same prophetic strain of triumph is heard, as in one last echo, repeating itself, ver. 9, 10.

[FOR THE PRECENTOR. (TO THE MELODY) "DESTROY NOT." A PSALM OF ASAPH, A SONG.]

I WE give thanks to Thee, O God, we give thanks;
And (that) Thy name is near Thy wondrous works have told.

| Ver. I, 2. The connexion between these verses is not, at first sight, very obvious. It may, perhaps, be traced as follows. First, the Psalmist blends in one the past and the present. God has been, and is now, the object of Israel's praise; as He has both in the past and in the present displayed His wonders on their behalf. (Hence the use of the perfect tense lit. "We have given thanks," &c.) Then he abruptly cites the words of God, words whose fulfilment he had just witnessed, or whose approaching fulfilment he saw in the spirit of prophecy; words that were themselves an exemplification of the truth that God is near, despite the madness of men and the disorders of the world. |
| AND (THAT) THY NAME IS NEAR. The construction of this member of the verse is doubtful. It may be rendered in two separate clauses: "And Thy Name is near: they (i.e. men, or our fathers, as in xli. I, [2], lxxviii. 3) have told of Thy wonders" (so Ewald). But it is, perhaps, better to connect the two clauses, as our translators have done. Luther and Mendelssohn, and, more recently, Hupfeld and Bunsen, have taken the same view. THY NAME IS NEAR, not "near in our mouth," i.e. as the great object of praise (as Hengstenberg and others explain it, referring to Jer. xii. 2, a passage which is totally different), but near in presence, near in self-manifestation, near in love and power, near in succour and |
2 "When the set time is come,
   I myself will judge uprightly.
3 (Though) the earth and all the inhabitants thereof are melting,
   I myself have set up the pillars of it. [Selah.]

blessing. So in Deut. iv. 7, "What nation is there that hath God so near unto them?" Comp. xlvi. lxvi. 1., "His name is great in Israel," and see xxxiv. 18 [19], exly. 18, and the note on xx. 2.

2. God is abruptly introduced as the speaker, as in xlvi. lo [11]. The oracle is thus given as from the mouth of God Himself, to those who may be in doubt or perplexity because their lot is cast in troublous times.

WHEN THE SET TIME IS COME, lit. "When I shall have taken (reached) the set time," i.e. the time appointed in the Divine counsels. The thread of time is ever running, as it were, from the spindle, but at the critical moment God's hand arrests it. (For this strong sense of the verb take, see xviii. 16 [17] and comp. καιρὸς δεκτός, εὐπρόσδεκτος of 2 Cor. vi. 2.) God is ever the righteous Judge, but He executes His sentence, not according to man's impatient expectations, but at the exact instant which He has Himself chosen. The words are an answer to all such misgivings as those in lxxiii. 3, as well as a rebuke to all hasty and over-zealous reformers, who would pull up the tares with the wheat rather than wait for the harvest.

SET TIME. The Hebrew word (mo'ed) has also the signification assembly, congregation, which our translators have adopted here, and which is common in the phrase "tabernacle of the congregation," &c. The root-idea is that of something fixed, whether time or place (and hence persons gathered in a place). See note on lxxiv. 4. The former sense is clearly preferable here. Comp. cii. 13 [14] (where the E.V. has correctly "set time" instead of "congregation" as here) ; Hab. ii. 3, "the appointed time," i.e. for the accomplishment of the vision. And so also Dan. viii. 19, xi. 27, 35. The proper rendering is given by the LXX. ὅταν λάβω καὶρόν. Jerome and the Vulgate, cum accepero tempus. Symmachus, apparently, led the way with the other interpretation, ὅταν λάβω τὴν συναγωγήν. The "congregation" would, of course, mean all who are assembled to behold the solemn act of judgement, as in vii. 7 [8], 1. 5.

I MYSELF. The pronoun is emphatic. The Greek Version known as the Fifth renders it still more emphatically: "I am; I prepared the pillars thereof for ever" (ἐγὼ ἐμί, ἡτοίμασα τοὺς στύλους αὐτῆς ἀεί. The same prominence is given to the pronoun in the second member of the next verse.

3. Such a critical moment is the present. The world itself seems "utterly broken down and clean dissolved" (Is. xxiv. 19, 20), but He who once built it up like a stately palace, still stays its pillars with His hand. The natural framework and the moral framework are here identified. To the poet's eye, the world of nature and the world of man are not two, but one. The words of Hannah's song (1 Sam. ii. 8) furnish an exact parallel. "For the pillars of the earth are Jehovah's, and He hath set the world upon them,"—language which, as the context shows, has a moral application.

HAVE SET UP, lit. "poised, balanced." A word properly used of fixing a thing by weight or measure. Comp. Job xxviii. 25; Is., xl. 12, 13.
4 I said unto the arrogant, Deal not arrogantly;
And to the wicked, Lift not up the horn,
5 Lift not up your horn on high,
Speak (not) with a stiff neck."
6 For not from the East, and not from the West,
And not from the wilderness (cometh) lifting up.
7 No, God is Judge;
He putteth down one, and lifteth up another.
8 For there is a cup in the hand of Jehovah.

4. I SAID. Ewald and others suppose the Divine utterance to end with the previous verse. This is possible; for the Poet, speaking as a Prophet, may thus triumph in the revelation which has just been made, and turn it into a defiance of the proud. At the same time, as there is no indication of any change of speaker, it is better to regard this and the next verse as a continuation of the Divine oracle.

UNTO THE ARROGANT, &C., or "Unto the madmen, Deal not madly," — the same words as in lxiii. 3, where see references.

5. WITH A STIFF NECK. Here, again, there is evidently an allusion to the words of Hannah's song. I Sam. ii. 3.

6. FOR. The Poet himself speaks, taking up and applying to himself and to others the Divine sentence which he had just been commissioned to deliver. Glory and power come not from any earthly source, though a man should seek it in every quarter of the globe, but only from God, who lifteth up and casteth down, according to His own righteous sentence. Again, an allusion to I Sam. ii. 6.

FROM THE WILDERNESS, i.e. the South, the great wilderness lying in that direction. Thus three quarters are mentioned, the North only being omitted. This may be accounted for, supposing the Psalm to refer to Sennacherib, by the fact that the Assyrian army approached from the North; and therefore it would be natural to look in all directions but that for assistance to repel the invader.

LIFTING UP. The word is evidently an emphatic word in the Psalm; it is the same which occurs in ver. 4 and 5, and again in ver. 7 and ver. 10. I have, therefore, given the same rendering of it throughout. The rendering of the E. V. "promotion," besides losing sight of the manifestly designed repetition of the same word, is peculiarly unfortunate in conveying a wrong idea. "Lifting up," in its Hebrew sense, does not mean "promotion," as we commonly understand it, but deliverance from trouble; safety; victory. The image, in particular, of lifting up the head or the horn (the last, borrowed from wild beasts, such as buffaloes, &c., in which the horn is the symbol of strength), denotes courage, strength, victory over enemies. See iii. 3 [4], xviii. 2 [3], xxvii. 6. For other interpretations of this verse, see Critical Note.

8. The solemn act of judgement. God puts the cup of His wrath to the lips of the wicked, and holds it there till they have drained it to the uttermost. It is the same figure which we have already had in lx. 3 [5]. In the Prophets it occurs frequently. Is. li. 17—23 (comp. xix. 14); Hab. ii. 15, 16; Ezek. xxiii. 32, &c.; Jerem. xxv. 27; xlviii. 26; xlix. 26; and, in the form of a symbolical action, xxv. 15; Obad. i. 16, &c.
And the wine foameth,\textsuperscript{d} it is full of mixture;
And He poureth out of the same:
Surely the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth
Shall drain (them) out in drinking (them).
9 But as for me, I will declare for ever,
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
10 And all the horns of the wicked will I cut off,
(But) the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

\textsuperscript{a} See above on 1. note \textsuperscript{a}; lvii. note 8, and General Introduction, Vol. I. pp. 89, 97.

\textsuperscript{b} יָבָשָׁה. Delitzsch and others take this, not as an adj. qualifying the preceding noun, but as immediately dependent on the verb of speaking, which is, in fact, its usual construction. So in I Sam. ii. 3; Ps. xxxi. 19, xciv. 4. In this case יָבָשָׁה must be taken absolutely; "with the neck," meaning "with a proud stiff neck," a mode of expression which it is supposed may be defended by Job xv. 26, "he runneth against Him with the neck," where, however, as Hupfeld remarks, the phrase seems only equivalent to our expression "with the head."

\textsuperscript{c} מַעְפָּרָה. This reading is supported by most of the MSS. and Edd., and can only be translated from " the wilderness of the mountains " (Sym. ἀπὸ ἐρήμου ὀρέων. LXX. ἀπὸ ἐρήμου ὀρέων), which is usually explained to mean the Arabian desert, so called because it is walled in by the mountains of Idumea. "The desert of the mountains" is, then, a mode of describing the South, and, according to Hengst., the allusion is to Egypt, as the great Southern power which was the hope of Israel in the Assyrian invasion. According to this reading, there is an aposiopesis. Not from the East, &c., and not from the wilderness of mountains.
[cometh judgement (Hengst.) or lifting up (Del.)]. But it is far better to read, מֵלָכִי מִיִּם (absol. instead of constr.) and to take מִיָּם as the Hiph. Inf. used as a noun, lifting up, like מֵלָכִי, xxxii. 9. Qimchi testifies that in his time (end of the 12th and beginning of the 13th century) this was the reading of the best MSS. (it is still found in several), and the Midrash expressly says that harim means harim (i.e. mountains) everywhere but in this passage. The whole scope of the Psalm, where so much is said of "lifting up," confirms this view. Ewald also adopts the reading מֵלָכִי, but supplies the copula before מִיָּם, which he takes in its usual signification "mountains," i.e. Lebanon, &c. as descriptive of the North. Thus he completes the four quarters, as the Chald. has done also, only inverting the order and understanding the North by the desert and the South by the mountains.

ד מִיָּם. It seems doubtful whether מִיָּם is here accusat. or nominat. So far as the constr. is concerned, it may be the former: "It (i.e. the cup) foameth with wine." The objection to this is that the verb is in the masc., whereas מָכָה is, in almost every instance, fern., and the suffix in מָכָה would seem to show that it is fern. here. To this Hupf. replies: (1) that in Jer. xxv. 15, מָכָה is masc. (and therefore a noun of common gender), and (2) that the fern. suffix here refers to מָכָה and not to מָכָה.

The LXX. (ποτήριον) . . . οἶνον ἄκρατον πληρες κεράσματος. Sym. καὶ οἶνος ἄκρατος πληρῶν ἑκχυθεὶς.

רַלֵּ֥ל is a verb followed by the accus. See lxv. 10.

PSALM LXXVI.

THIS is one of several Psalms which, as has been remarked in the Introduction to Psalm xlvi., were composed in celebration of the miraculous overthrow of Sennacherib's army. From the days of Israel's first occupation of the land, when God went forth with their hosts, giving the victory by signs and wonders from heaven, no deliverance so signal had been witnessed. Hence it roused in an extraordinary degree the religious fervour of the nation, and called forth loud songs of thanksgiving. Like Psalms xlvi., xlvii., xlviii., this is an ode of victory over the Assyrians. It tells of Zion's glory and Zion's safety (to which there may be an allusion in the name Salem), because God has chosen it for His dwelling-place. It tells of the discomfiture of that proud army, whose might was weakness itself when arrayed against the might of Jehovah. It tells how the warriors sank into their last sleep before the walls of the city, not beaten down before a human enemy, not slain by any earthly arm, but at the rebuke of the God of Jacob. And then the Poet looks
beyond the immediate scene. He beholds in this great deliverance,
not the power only, but the righteousness of God. It is God's solemn
act of judgement. It is His voice speaking from Heaven and filling
the earth. And the lesson which this act of judgement teaches is,
the folly of man who would measure his impotent wrath against the
Majesty of God; and the wisdom of submission to Him who is the
only worthy object of fear.

The internal evidence points so clearly to the occasion for which
the Psalm was written, that the LXX. have inscribed it, προὶς τὸν
'Ασσυρίαν, and this reference has, with few exceptions, been recog-
nized by commentators, ancient and modern.

The Psalm consists of four strophes, each of which is comprised
in three verses.

I. The first celebrates Jerusalem and Zion as the abode of God,
and the place where He has manifested His power, ver. 1-3.

II. The second describes in a forcible and animated manner the
sudden destruction of the beleaguering army, ver. 4-6.

III. The third dwells on that event as a solemn, far-reaching act
of judgement, conveying its lesson to the world, ver. 7-9.

IV. The last tells what that lesson is, counseling submission to
Him whose power and whose righteousness have so wonderfully
made themselves known, ver. 10-12.

[FOR THE PRECENTOR, WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS. A PSALM
OF ASAPH. A SONG.]

1 IN Judah is God known,
His name is great in Israel.

1-3. The whole emphasis of this
first strophe consists in the pro-
minence given to the particular
locality where God has manifested
His power. It is on the same field
where He has so often gotten to
Himself glory. It is in Judah, in
Salem, in Zion. It is there (ver. 3,
the word is peculiarly emphatic)
that He hath dashed in pieces the
might of the foe.

I. IS KNOWN, or perhaps more
exactly, "maketh Himself known,"
as xlvi. 3 [4], i.e. by the present
deliverance which he has wrought.
The participle expresses present
action.

IN ISRAEL. According to Hup-
feld, Israel is here mentioned in the
parallelism merely for the sake of
the poetry, although Judah only is
meant. He accounts for such
usage by saying that "Judah and
Israel" was a common phrase to
denote the whole nation. But if
the date assigned to the Psalm be
correct, there may be a special
reason for the mention of Israel.
Hezekiah was the first monarch
who made any attempt to restore
the ancient unity of the tribes.
After the fall of Samaria, a.nd the
deportation of the inhabitants of
the northern kingdom by Esar-had-
2 In Salem also hath been His tabernacle,  
And His dwelling-place in Zion.

don, Israel, i.e. the ten tribes, had  
no longer a national existence.  
And yet we read that Hezekiah, on  
his accession, after purifying the  
Temple, and restoring the worship  
of God, "sent to all Israel and  
Judah, and wrote letters also to  
Ephraim and Manasseh, that they  
should come to the house of the  
Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the  
passover unto the Lord God of  
Israel." (2 Chron. xxx. I.) A study  
of the whole chapter will show what  
importance was attached to this  
union of Israel with Judah, at the  
time, and will explain, as it seems  
to me, the mention of both together  
in the Psalm.

2. SALEM. The LXX. render Ev  
εἰρήνη, and the Vulg. in pace: but  
the word is evidently a proper  
name. "It seems to be agreed on  
all hands," says Mr. Grove, "that  
Salem is here employed for Jeru- 
salem, but whether as a mere ab- 
brreviation, to suit some exigency  
of the poetry and point the allusion  
to the peace which the city enjoyed  
through the protection of God [this  
is Ewald's view], or whether, after  
a well-known habit of poets, it is an  
antique name preferred to the more  
modern and familiar one, is a ques- 
tion not yet decided. The latter is  
the opinion of the Jewish com- 
mentators, but it is grounded on  
their belief that the Salem of Mel- 
chizedek was the city which after- 
wards became Jerusalem. This is  
to beg the question." He shows  
that this was the general belief, up  
to the time of Jerome, of Christians  
as well as Jews. But Jerome  
places the Salem of Melchizedek  
near Scythopolis, and identifies it  
with the Salim of John the Baptist.  
The narrative in Genesis does not  
mark the return route of Abraham,  
so as to furnish any data for fixing  
the locality of Salem. It is pro- 
bable that Abraham "would equally  
pass by both Scythopolis and Jeru- 
salem." On the other hand, the  
distance of Sodom from the former  
place (50 miles), renders it unlikely  
that the king or Sodom should  
have gone so far to meet Abraham,  
and makes it more possible that  
the interview took place after his  
return; and this "is, so far, in  
favour of Salem being Jerusalem."  
Mr. Grove, who has discussed the  
whole question with his usual learn- 
ing and ability, throws out the sug- 
gestion that the antithesis in ver  
I, between "Judah" and "Israel"  
may "imply that some sacred place  
in the northern kingdom is con- 
trasted with Zion, the sanctuary of  
the south. And if there were in  
the Bible any sanction to the iden- 
tification of Salem with Shechem  
[according to a tradition of Eupole- 
mas, which he has quoted], the  
passage might be taken as referring  
to the continued relation of God to  
the kingdom of Israel." Although  
there is no "identification of Salem  
with Shechem," there is mention  
of a Salem, a city of Shechem, Gen.  
xxxiii. 18. But see note on ver. 1.  
Salem and Zion denote the lower  
and upper city respectively.  

HIS TABERNACLE, lit. "booth,"  
as made of interwoven or inter- 
lacing boughs of trees, &c. (So the  
feast of tabernacles is the feast  
of booths or huts.) The name  
may have been used, of any tem- 
porary structure, and so of the  
Tabernacle, and then, as here, of  
the Temple. Comp. xxvii. 5, and  
Lam. ii. 6.

But I am inclined to prefer  
another meaning here, and one  
more in accordance with the con- 
text. The word may signify a  
dense thicket, the lair of wild beasts.  
(It occurs in this sense in x. 9, "like  
a lion in his lair.") In ver. 4 it is  
said, "Thou art glorious from the  
mountains of prey." May not God  
be here likened to a lion couching  
in his lair, and going forth from  
those mountains to destroy? This  
seems almost certain, when we find
3 There brake He the arrows of (the) bow, 
Shield, and sword, and battle. [Selah.]
4 Glorious art Thou, excellent 
From the mountains of prey;
5 The stout-hearted have been spoiled; 
They have sunk into their sleep,
And none of the men of valour have found their hands.
6 At Thy rebuke, O God of Jacob,
Both chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep.
7 Thou, even Thou, art to be feared,
And who can stand before Thee when once Thou art angry?
8 From heaven Thou didst cause judgement to be heard;
The earth feared and was still,
9 When God arose to judgement,
To save all the afflicted of the earth. [Selah.]

presses the languor and lassitude by which a man is overpowered, and so falls asleep. In all other passages where it occurs, the E.V. renders it by slumber. See, for instance, cxxi. 3, 4; Is. V. 27, &C. and comp. Nah. iii. 18, "Thy shepherds slumber, O King of Assyria," where the word is used, as here, of the sleep of death. A third word is employed in the next verse.

HAVE FOUND THEIR HANDS finely expresses the helplessness and bewilderment of those proud warriors who but a short while before had raised their hands in scornful defiance against Jerusalem (see Is. x. 32). The idiom is apparently similar to our common expression "losing heart." (Comp. 2 Sam. vii. 27, to "find heart.") Hupfeld thinks that this rendering is not supported by usage, and would render "have found nothing, i.e. achieved, affected nothing, with their hands." But this is hyper-critical. The Rabbis have the phrase, "he has not found his hands and his feet in the Beth ham-Midrash" (the school of allegorical interpretation), when they wish to describe an ignorant, incompetent person.

6. ARE CAST INTO A DEAD SLEEP. In the Heb. this is but one word (a participle, denoting present condition). It is used of a profound slumber, either (1) natural, or (2) supernatural, the sleep into which

God casts men. Comp. Jud. iv. 21; Dan. x. 9, and the noun from the same root, Gen. ii. 21; I Sam. xxvi. 12.

CHARIOT AND HORSE, i.e. of course the riders in chariots and on horses (as the ancient Versions paraphrase). The figure is so obvious, that it might be left to explain itself, were it not for the strange prosaic misunderstanding of Hengstenberg, who supposes that the chariot is said to sleep, because it has ceased to rattle.

Byron's animated lines on the destruction of Sennacherib, which may have been partly suggested by this Psalm, will occur to every reader:
"And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,
But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride:
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.
And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail."

7. WHEN ONCE THOU ART ANGRY, lit, "from the time of Thine anger." See a similar form of expression, Ruth ii. 7; Jer. xlv. 18.

8. As in the last Psalm, God is spoken of as the Judge (this is a
10 For the wrath of man must praise Thee,
With the remainder of wrath Thou girdest Thyself.\(^f\)
11 Vow and pay unto Jehovah your God;
Let all that are round about Him bring presents unto
Him who ought to be feared.
12 He cutteth off the spirit of princes:
He is to be feared by the kings of the earth.

peculiar feature in the Psalms ascribed to Asaph); and, as in that,
He speaks from heaven, terrifying His enemies with the thunder of
His word. Comp. lxxv. 2, 3, 7, 8 [3, 4, 8, 9]. The train of thought
in that Psalm has certainly sufficient in common with the train of
thought in this to justify us in assigning both to the same period.

10. WITH THE REMAINDER OF
WRATH, &c. The meaning is not very clear. Whose wrath is here
meant? that of man, or that of God? Some understand the latter, and explain the verse thus: All the wrath of men, every attempt that
they make to defeat the will of God, does but turn to their own discomfiture, and His glory; and after all their efforts, He has a store, a residue, of wrath to pour out upon them as punishment. But the objection to this is, that in the previous clause the wrath spoken of is that of man: and it is better to retain the same subject in both clauses. Then we have:

(a) Man's wrath does but praise God.

(b) With the remainder of man's wrath, his last impotent efforts to assert his own power, God girds Himself, puts it on, so to speak, as an ornament—clothes Himself therewith to His own glory.

Thus the parallelism of the two clauses is strictly preserved.

The word WRATH is in the plural, denoting either wrath of every kind, or wrath in its intensity. See note on lxviii. 35 [36], and for a like use of the plural (i Sam. ii. 3), where "a God of knowledge" is lit. "a God of knowledges."

11. This is the end. God has wrought His terrible act of judgement—but the first of a long series of judgements to be executed on the nations, unless by timely submission they acknowledge Him as their King. See the similar exhortation in ii. 11.

VOW AND PAY. See on xxii. 2; [26], BRING PRESENTS, comp. lxviii. 29 [30].

ALL THAT ARE ROUND ABOUT, i.e. the heathen nations, who are to bring presents in token of homage, as in lxviii. 30.

UNTO HIM WHO OUGHT TO BE FEARED, lit. "to the fear," i.e. the proper object of fear. See the same use of the word in Is. viii. 12. In like manner God is called "the Fear of Isaac" in Gen. xxxi. 42, 53 (though there the word is different).

12. This verse, or at least the first clause of it, reminds us of the last verse of the preceding Psalm, which closes in a similar strain.

HE CUTTETH OFF, like a vinedresser, who prunes away the rank boughs, or cuts off the ripe clusters of the vine. Comp. Is. xviii. 5, where the same image is employed by the Prophet at the same time, Jude viii. 2, xx. 45; Jer. vi. 9, li. 33; Joel iii. 13, [iv. 13]; Rev. xi.v. 15.,


On Asaph, see 1. note a.

\(^b\) here used apparently as = ב. Hupfeld refers to its use in the common phrase ביעד בקוש אוש (Ex. xxix. 42, al.), "where I meet..."
with you;" but surely there motion to a place is implied = "whither I go to meet you." More in point is Ezek. xlviii. 35, Jehovah shammah, "Jehovah is there. See also cxxii. 5; Is. xxxiv. 15 (where יְשׁוּע occurs in the parall.); Jer. xviii. 2; 1 Chron. iv. 41. "The Semitic accus. has a wide signification, and denotes not only the whither (and how long), but also the where (when and how), so that, for instance, יָמִּית in the accus., and יָבֹא, mean before, or at the door, as יָשָׁע at the gate. Again, the accusative ending יָשִּׁים, is only met with in a partial and fragmentary manner; and in dying out seems to have lost much of its original meaning. Finally, of this particular word neither the Arab. nor Aram. has the simple form, but only the accus. form in the same sense." The above is from Hupfeld.

The word יָשִּׁים denotes any hot, glowing substance. Hence Cant. viii. 6, יָשִּׁים (where observe the Dagesh, which is wanting here), "coals of fire;" Job v. 7, יָשָׁע, "sons of burning," or, a firebrand, interpreted by many to mean sparks. In Hab. iii. 6, the word is used of a burning fever.

dוָנָא, a Niphal form from יִנָא (which, like יִבְשׁו, is intrans.), and therefore questionable; for יָנָא, in 2 Sam. ii. 32, is not fut. Niph, but Qal, like יָבֹא, as Hupf. observes. He therefore thinks that perhaps ונָא should be read; comp. ver. 8, 13, and so Theod. יָפְשֵׁר. Sym., however, has יָפְשֵׁרְתָּשָׁה, the LXX. יָפִיטְפֵּלֵה, Aq. יָפִיטִיפִלֵה, and Jerome, Lumen. As regards the construction of יָנָא in the next hemistich all the Greek versions render it by Juda. Sym., however, has יָנָא, the LXX.

"They have been plundered, or they have exposed themselves to plunder, agreeably to Abu'l Walid, who has taken the verb in a reciprocal, and not in a passive sense: they have despised themselves, i.e. they have cast away their weapons." So in Dad. xx. 15, 17, ZUnZ has "stellen sick zur Musterung" and in xxi. 9, "liess sick mustern." (Indeed it is quite astonishing that the Hithp., in these instances, should have been regarded as a passive.) In Micah vi. 16, he renders "halten sich." On, Eccl. viii. to, Preston remarks: "The verb יָפְשֵׁר, being in the Hithp., expresses that their quiet and unostentatious lives cause them to be forgotten, 'that they sink of themselves into oblivion.'" In Is. lix. 15, יָפְשִׁים (the same verb that we have here) is rightly rendered in the E. V. "maketh himself a prey." In Prov. xxxi. 30, get to herself praise, and in Lam. iv. 1, pour themselves out (inanimate things, by a common figure, having life attributed to them); in 1 Sam. in. 14, shall not make atonement for itself, lit. shall not cover itself, are the proper renderings of the several Hithpaels. There is no necessity, I am satisfied, in any case,
to lose sight of this strict reflexive meaning of the conjugation, though it may be more convenient in another language to employ the passive, just as in rendering the German phrase, "davon findet sich keine Spur," in English, we may say, "No trace of it is found;" yet it would be absurd to maintain that the German reflexive is here used as a passive. Ewald, indeed, limits this pass. use of the Hithp. to rare cases, and to the. later books chiefly, and only gives the two passages from Micah and Ecclesiastes, as illustrating it (Lehrb. d. H. S. § 124 c. p. 284, 6te Auf.); but even in these the proper reflexive force is retained. The rendering is merely a question of idiom.

There is no reason for departing from the ordinary meaning of the root. (Jerome, accingeris, and so apparently the Chald. and Sym. λείψανον θυμῶν περιζώσει.) Comp. Is. lix. 17, &c. Qimchi gives this sense in his commentary, but in his Michlol he explains it by וָדֻּחַ, restrain (as it is found in a passage of the Mishnah, and in accordance with the signif. of the cognate roots in Arab. and Syr.). The LXX. again have ἐφορτάσει σοὶ, and must therefore have read ἰνη, shall hold festival to Thee, answering to the parall. shall praise Thee. This Ewald adopts, observing: "Ver. 11 contains a very lofty thought. The only object with which Jehovah judges and punishes is, that even the most furious transgressors may at last attain to wisdom and to the praise of Jehovah; and though many fall under His chastisements, at least the remainder, taught by these terrible examples, will be saved. Or to put it in a shorter and more emphatic form: The wrath of man itself will praise Thee, being suddenly changed to its opposite, and as it were against its will.

PSALM LXXVII.

THIS Psalm is the record, first, of a sorrow long and painfully questioning with itself, full of doubts and fears, trying in vain to find in itself, or in the past, a light for the present; and then of the triumph over that sorrow by the recollection of God's love and power, as manifested in the early history of Israel. By whom the Psalm was written, or to what period of the history it is to be referred, it is now impossible to say. The manner in which, towards the close, the passage of the Red Sea is dwelt upon, has led many to conclude that it was written by one of the exiles during the Babylonish captivity. Those two memorable events, the deliverance from Babylon, and the deliverance from Egypt, were always associated in the minds of the Jews, the one being regarded, in fact, as the pledge of the other. This, however, in itself, is not decisive. At any time of great national depression, the thoughts of the true-hearted in
Israel would naturally revert to God's first great act of redeeming love: and other Psalms (the 78th, the Both, the 81st), evidently not written during the Exile, look back to the Exodus, and the wonders of God's hand displayed then, and in the journey through the wilderness. Besides, an inference of a positive kind, in favour of an earlier date, has been drawn from the relation of this Psalm to the Prophecy of Habakkuk. Delitzsch, in his commentary on the Prophet, has traced carefully the coincidences in thought and expression between Hab. iii. 10-15, and verses 16-20 [17-21] of the Psalm. Among the various arguments by which he endeavours to establish the priority of the Psalm, two seem to be of weight; first, that the Prophet throughout his ode is in the habit of quoting from the Psalms; and secondly, that with his eye on the future, he arrays all the images of terror and magnificence which are suggested by the past, in order to describe with more imposing pomp the approaching advent of Jehovah; whereas the Psalmist is not looking to the future, but dwelling on the past: hence it is far more probable that the Prophet imitates the Psalmist, than that the Psalmist borrows from the Prophet. Supposing this to be satisfactorily established, we might reasonably infer that this Psalm was not written later than the reign of Josiah. But on the other hand, as Hupfeld has pointed out, the mode of expression in Habakkuk, as compared with that here employed, would lead us to an exactly opposite conclusion. (1) The figure in Hab. iii. 10, "The *mountains saw* Thee, they were afraid (lit. in pangs or throes)," is more natural and correct than the use of the same figure as applied in the Psalm to the waters (ver. 16 [17]). (2) The phrase, "the overflowing of the *waters,*" in Hab. iii. to, is more simple and natural than the corresponding phrase in ver. 17 [18] of the Psalm, as I have remarked in the Critical Note on that verse, the verbal form here employed occurring nowhere else. Hence it is most likely that the latter was a designed alteration in copying from the former. (3) That the lightning should be termed the "arrows" of God in Habakkuk, is quite in keeping with the martial character and figures of the whole passage. In the Psalm, on the other hand, the figure seems more out of place. There is some force, no doubt, in this argument. There is less, I think, in that which Hupfeld urges, on the ground of the apparent want of connexion between the "lyric episode," ver. 16-19 [17-20], and the rest of the Psalm. It is true that the rhythm of this portion is different, being in three members instead of in two; and that here the strophe consists of four verses [or five], whereas the preceding strophes consist of three. But these are of themselves unimportant variations. Nor do I see that ver. 20 [21] is naturally
connected with ver. 15 [16]. On the contrary, it is far more striking (see note) in its present position. As to the objection that a single instance of God's deliverance is so enlarged upon, is made to occupy so prominent a place, that is surely quite in accordance with the true genius of lyric poetry; not to mention that it was the one great act from which the whole history dated, and which has left its stamp on all the literature of the people.

But whenever, and by whomsoever, the Psalm may have been written, it clearly is individual, not national. It utterly destroys all the beauty, all the tenderness and depth of feeling in the opening portion, if we suppose that the people are introduced speaking in the first person.* The allusions to the national history may indeed show that the season was a season of national distress, and that the sweet singer was himself bowed down by the burden of the time, and oppressed by woes which he had no power to alleviate; but it is his own sorrow, not the sorrows of others, under which he sighs, and of which he has left the pathetic record.

The Psalm falls naturally into two principal parts: the first, verses 1-9, containing the expression of the Psalmist's sorrow and disquietude; the second, verses 10-20, telling how he rose above them.

Of these, again, the former half consists of strophes of three verses, 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, the end of the first and third being marked, by the Selah. The latter may also be divided into three strophes, the first two only being of three verses each, 10-12, 13-15 (the second having the Selah), and the last consisting of five, 15-20.

[FOR THE PRECENTOR. AFTER THE MANNER OF JEDUTHUN. a  A PSALM OF ASAPH.]

1 With my voice unto God let me cry, b
With my voice unto God, and may He give ear unto me. c

1. AND MAY HE GIVE EAR, or more literally, in the form of an ad-
dress to God, " And do Thou give ear." The constant interchange of

* It is much to be regretted that the author of the Art. PSALMS in
Dict. of the Bible (vol. ii. p. 957), should have committed himself to the
theory that all the Psalms ascribed to the Levitical singers are of necessity
national. He has thus been obliged to give a most strained and unnatural
interpretation to many of them. Thus, for instance, he holds that this
Psalm is "the lamentation of the Jewish Church for the terrible political
calamity . . . . whereby the inhabitants of the northern kingdom were
carried into captivity, and Joseph lost, the second time, to Jacob." And
still more strangely, of the 73d Psalm, that "though couched in the first
person singular, (it) is really a prayer of the Jewish faithful against the
Assyrian invaders." (Ib. p. 959.) This is, I must think, an entire mis-
understanding of a very striking Psalm.
2 In the day of my distress I sought the Lord;  
My hand was stretched out in the night and failed not,  
My soul refused to be comforted.  
3 I would remember God, and must sigh;  
I would commune (with myself), and my spirit is overwhelmed. [Selah.]  
4 Thou halt held mine eyes waking;  
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.  
5 I have considered the days of old,  
The years of ages (past);  

Tenses in the first six verses lend vividness to the expression of the Psalmist's feelings. Sometimes, as in ver. 2, 4, 5, we have the past tenses in narration, and then alternating with these, the paragogic future or optative, as in ver. 1, 3, 6, expression purpose, resolve, and the like. And thus are marked the fluctuating emotions of the mind, ever passing from the mere statement of fact to the utterance of feelings and desires.  

2, 3. These verses show both the reality and earnestness of the prayer, and the strong faith of the Psalmist. It is no occasional petition hastily put up, but a struggle, like that of Jacob, through the livelong night. It is even a sorer conflict, for he has not found the blessing as Jacob did. He cannot be comforted. He would think of God, but even that thought brings him no strength: he looks within, and his sorrow deepens.  

2. WAS STRETCHED OUT, lit. "poured out" like water, 2 Sam. xiv. 14; or as the eye is said to be poured out or dissolved in tears, Lam. iii. 49; here apparently applied to the hand stretched out in prayer. "The stretched-out, weak and powerless hand," says Hengstenberg, "conveys the picture of a relaxation of the whole body." Or there may be a confusion of metaphor, that being said of the hand which could only properly be said of the eye (so the Targum substitutes the latter for the former). Rashi explains my hand to mean the hand, or blow, laid upon me, and hence came the singular rendering of the E. V., my sore ran, &c.  

AND FAILED NOT (or it may be rendered as an adverbial clause, without intermission. Sym. ἐκτέτασε δινέκomega), lit. "and grew not cold," like a corpse; "became not weary," used, like the last verb, of tears. Comp. Lam. ii. 18, "Let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest;" and iii. 49, "Mine eye trickled down (the word rendered above was stretched out), and ceaseth not, without any intermission." The words rest and intermission are derivatives from the verb here employed, and are applied to tears, perhaps as frozen at their source.  

REFUSED. Comp. Gen. xxxvii. 35, where the same is said of Jacob when he received the tidings of Joseph's death.  

3. MUST SIGH, or "groan." It is the word used of the roaring of the sea, xlvi. 3 [4]. See Rom. viii. 26 (στεναγμός ὀαλαλητος) "St. Paul teaches us that it is the Holy Ghost who in such sighs makes intercession for believers with God."—Tholuck.  

4. I CANNOT SPEAK. Silence and thought succeed to the uttered
6 I would call to remembrance my song in the night,  
    I would commune with my heart,—and my spirit hath made diligent search:  
7 "Will the Lord cast off for ever?  
    And will He be favourable no more?  
8 Hath His loving-kindness come to an end for ever?  
    Hath (His) promise failed to all generations?  
9 Hath God forgotten to be gracious?  
    Hath He shut up in anger His tender mercies?" [Selah.]  
10 Then I said: This is my sorrow,  
    That the right hand of the Highest hath changed.

prayer. But the heart still prays on in secret, though the mouth is silent.  
  6. MY SONG, properly, a song sung to a stringed instrument, as the harp. He would console himself with the recollection of a happier past. Such recollections, as Tholuck remarks, may hush the storm of the soul, may give a man courage to say to himself, Thou art His, He cannot forsake thee. But such recollections may also be made the very instruments of Satan's temptations, when the soul asks, Why is it not always thus? and so falls into the sad and desponding thoughts which follow in the next verses.  
  IN THE NIGHT. This repeated mention of the night (see ver. 2) shows that he was one who loved the stillness and the solitude of night for meditation and prayer. (Comp. xvi. 7, xvii. 3; Is. xxvi. 9.)  
  8. God's loving-kindness and God's promise (or, word, as in lxviii. 11 [12], and Hab. iii. 9) are the two props of his faith.  
  9. IN ANGER HIS TENDER MERCIES. The words are evidently placed with design in juxtaposition, in order to heighten the contrast. Comp. Hab. iii. 2, "In wrath remember mercy," where there is the same juxtaposition in the Hebrew.  
  10. All this that I have been asking myself, and saddening myself with asking, seems impossible, and yet it is this very change which perplexes me.  
    MY SORROW, or perhaps "my sickness," i.e. as Calvin explains, a disease which is only for a time, and to which, therefore, I should patiently submit. Comp. Jer. x. 19. Others, "my infirmity," i.e. the weakness of my own spirit, which leads me to take this gloomy view, and which I must resist.  
    THAT THE RIGHT HAND, &C., lit. "the changing of the right hand." This fact, that it is no more with him as in days past, it is which fills him with grief. And then in the next verse he recovers himself, and passes from self-contemplation to record God's wonders for His people. But another rendering is possible. The word changing (sh'noth) may mean years (as it does in ver. 5): "The years of the right hand," &c., and the whole verse might be understood thus: "Then I thought: This is my sadness,-  
    The years of the right hand of the Most High." i.e. the very recollection of those years, and God's help vouchsafed in times past, does but increase my present gloom.  
    The E. V. connects this second clause with the following verse, and repeats the verb from that verse. See more in Critical Note.
11 (But) I will celebrate the deeds of Jah,
    For I will call to remembrance Thy wonders of old;
12 Yea, I will meditate on all Thy work,
    And commune with myself of Thy doings.
13 0 God, Thy way is holy!
    Who is a great God as (our) God?
14 Thou, even Thou, art the God that doest wonders,
    Thou hast made known Thy strength among the peoples.
15 Thou hast with (Thine) arm redeemed Thy people,
    The sons of Jacob and Joseph. [Selah.]

11. With this verse the change of feeling begins. Hitherto he has looked too much within, has sought too much to read the mystery of God's dealings by the light of his own experience merely. Hence the despondency, when he contrasts the gloomy present with the far brighter and happier past. He cannot believe that God has indeed forgotten to be gracious, that He has indeed changed His very nature; but that he may be re-assured and satisfied on this point, his eye must take a wider range than that of his own narrow experience. There lies before him the great history of his people. There recurs especially the one great deliverance never to be forgotten, the type and the pledge of all deliverances, whether of the nation or of the individual. On this he lays hold, by this he sustains his sinking faith. Calvin says: "Jam animosius contra tentationes exsurgit Propheta quae fere ad opprimendam ejus fidem praevaleverant. Nam recordatio hec operum Dei ab ea eujus ante meminit [ver. 5] differt: quia tunc eminus intuebatur Dei beneficia, quae lenire vel minuere dolorem nondum poterant. Hic vero arripit quasi certa testimonia perpetua gratiae, et ideo vehementiae causa sententiam repetit."

   THY WONDERS. The word is in the singular (though the Ancient Versions and many MSS. have the plural) here, and also in ver. 14. So also in the next verse THY WORK, because the one great wonder, the one great work in which all others were included, is before his thoughts. Comp. Hab. iii. 2, "Revive Thy work."

   13. Is HOLY, lit. "is in holiness," not as others, "in the sanctuary," for the Psalmist, though speaking generally of God's redeeming love and power, is evidently thinking chiefly of the deliverance from Egypt, on which he afterwards dwells. In this and the next verse there is an allusion to Exod. xv. 11, "Who is like unto Thee, 0 Jehovah, among the gods? Who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (where the noun, as here, is singular.)

   15. THOU HAST REDEEMED, a word especially applied to the deliverance from Egyptian bondage. See note on lxxiv. 2. "The word 'Redemption,' which has now a sense far holier and higher," says Dean Stanley, "first entered into the circle of religious ideas at the time when God 'redeemed His people from the house of bondage.'"— Jewish Church, Lec. V. p. 127.

   JOSEPH, mentioned here apparently as the father of Ephraim (comp. lxxviii. 67), and so as representing the kingdom of Israel (as lxxx. 1 [2], lxxxi. 5 [6]); perhaps this special mention of Joseph may indicate that the Psalmist himself belonged to the northern kingdom.
16 The waters saw Thee, 0 God, the waters saw Thee, they were troubled,
Yea, the depths also trembled;
17 The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered;
Yea, Thine arrows went abroad;
18 The voice of Thy thunders rolled along,
The lightnings gave shine unto the world:
The earth trembled and shook.
19 Thy way was in the sea,
And Thy paths in the mighty waters:
And Thy footsteps were not known.

16-20. There follows now a description of the manner in which the redemption (ver. 15) was accomplished in the passage of the Red Sea. In verses 17, 18, the rain, the thunder and lightning, and the earthquake, are features of the scene not mentioned in the history in Exodus, though Tholuck sees an allusion to a storm in Exod. xiv. 21. Both Philo (V. M. i. 32) and Josephus (Ant. ii. 16 § 3) add this circumstance in their narrative of the event. "The Passage, as thus described," says Dean Stanley, "was effected, not in the calmness and clearness of daylight, but in the depth of midnight, amidst the roar of the hurricane, which caused the sea to go back—amidst a darkness lit up only by the broad glare of the lightning, as the Lord looked out of the thick darkness of the cloud." He then quotes these verses of the Psalm. (Jewish Church, pp. 127-8.) This is one of those instances in which we obtain valuable incidental additions, by means of the Psalmists and Prophets, to the earlier narratives.

See Mr. Grove's Article on OREB, in Smith's Dict. of the Bible.

16. SAW THEE. Comp. exiv. 3, where both the Red Sea and the Jordan are mentioned, a passage which Hupfeld thinks is the original from which both this and Hab. iii. to are copied.

WERE TROUBLED, lit. "were in pain," as of travail. The same expression is used of the mountains in Hab. iii. 10: "The mountains saw Thee, they were in pain;" where the verb seems more aptly to describe the throes of the earthquake, by which the mountains are shaken.

17. The way is made by means of tempest and hurricane.
POURED OUT. Comp. Hab. iii. 10 (where the noun is from the same root): "the overflowing of the waters." E.V. In the same way the lightning is spoken of as "the arrows" of God, in Hab. iii. 11.

18. ROLLED ALONG, lit. "was in the rolling," with allusion to God's chariot; or perhaps "in the whirlwind" or "rolling cloud." See Critical Note.

GAVE SHINE. I have adopted here the Prayer-Book Version. of the same words in xcvii. 4 (its rendering in this place is less correct), in preference to that of the E. V., "the lightnings lightened," (1) because the verb and the noun are from entirely different roots; (2) because the idiomatic "gave shine" is an exact equivalent of the Hebrew.

19. THY FOOTSTEPS WERE NOT KNOWN. "We know not, they knew not, by what precise means the deliverance was wrought: we know not by what precise track through the gulf the passage was effected."
20 Thou leddest Thy people like sheep By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

We know not, and we need not know; the obscurity, the mystery here, as elsewhere, was part of the lesson. . . . All that we see distinctly is, that through this dark and terrible night, with the enemy pressing close behind, and the driving sea on either side, He led His people like sheep by the hand of Moses and Aaron."—STANLEY, *Jewish Church*, p. 128.

20. This verse stands in beautiful and touching contrast with the last. In that we have pourtrayed the majesty, the power, the unsearchable mystery of God's ways; in this, His tender and loving care for His people, as that of a shepherd for His flock. See for a like contrast, Is. xl. 10—12, li. 15, 16, lvii. 15.

So ends the Psalm. Nor can I see in such a close that abruptness which has led shine commentators to suppose that the Psalm was never finished. The one great example is given, and that is enough. All is included in that; and the troubled, desponding spirit has found peace and rest in the view of God's redemption. "He loses himself, as it were, in the joyful recollection." (De Wette.) So may every son of a faithful spirit now find peace and rest in looking, not to itself, not even to God's dealings with itself, but to the cross of Christ.

The paragogic נ shows that the verb is an optative. The same form recurs ver. 4, 7, 12, 13. Alternating as it does with the perfects, it well describes the strong emotions of the Psalmist's mind. This nice distinction of tenses has been too often completely overlooked.

c נֶאֶסְמָל, not the infin., but the imperat, *And do Thou give ear to me,* by a somewhat abrupt transition. Ewald and others would soften this harshness by taking it as the preterite, with change of vowels, for נאֶסָמָל. And in this they are supported by the LXX. καὶ ἡ φωνή μου πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ προσέσχε μου, and Sym. καὶ βοήσαντός μου πρὸς τὸν θεόν, παρέσχε τοῖς άροις αὔτοῦ. But the preterite with the! may be equivalent to a future, and I have rendered accordingly.

d The double paragogic form may be taken here as marking protasis and apodosis. "When I remember, then I sigh," &c. (so Ewald): or as in the text. See on xlii. 5, note c, and lv. 3, 18.

e נוֹרָםָש, only here. It may be either for, (1) נוֹרָםָשָׁ, the night-watches. Comp. for the sense lxiii. 7; and then, "Thou hast held the night-watches of mine eyes," = "Thou hast held mine eyes in the night-watches." Or (2) the eyelids (so called as guards, keepers of the eye, as R. Mosheh Hakkohen explains), as the Chald., Ges., De Wette, &c. the meaning being, Thou hast held them so that I could not close them in sleep. Or (3) it may be the part. pass., as a predicate to the noun eyes = watchful, waking.
f. יִתְאֹלַח, with the accent drawn back, because of the tone on the following monosyllable. This is either (1), as Qimchi takes it, an infin. (like הָלָה, ver. 10), from לֵאָל, meaning lit. my wounding, and so my sufering. Comp. for this use of the verb, cix. 22 (so Ewald). Or (2), infin. Piel of לֵאָל, my sickness, lit. "that which makes me sick." See the same verb in the Piel, Deut. xxix. 21, "the diseases wherewith Jehovah hath made it sick." Hiph., Is. H. io. This seems to be supported by the parallel passage Jer. x. 19, "And I said, Surely this is my sickness (יִתְאֹל, הַח) and I will bear it," i.e. God has laid His hand upon me, and I will resign myself to His chastisement. Here, too, there is a similar expression of resignation. Or (3), the verb has been supposed to occur here in the same sense as in the phrase מִמִּי יִתְאֹלַח, to entreat the favour of any one. Hence it has been rendered my supplication. But the objection to that is, that here the phrase is incomplete, the noun being wanting, whereas the verb by itself never means to supplicate.

There is another word in this verse which presents a difficulty. תַּנָּשׁ. This is capable of two meanings. Either it is (i), ininf. constr. of the verb הָנָשׁ, to change, in a neuter sense = to be changed (the verb in Qal. is never used transitively) ; or (2), the plur. constr. of the noun הָנָשׁ, a year (as in ver. 6). According to these different renderings of these two words, the passage has been very differently interpreted. Even the Chald. gives two explanations:

(a) "This is my infirmity (אֶחֶזֶב, הָלָה); the strength of the right hand of the Highest is changed (בַּעֲלֵי הָלָה)."
(b) Another Targum: "This is my supplication (אֶלְעָה), (that) the year of the end (should come) from the Right Hand."

The LXX. νυν ἡ ἐξαρμῆνα (a meaning which לֵאָל has only in the Hiph.), αὐτὴ ἡ ἀλλοιωσεὶς τῆς δέξυας τοῦ υἱός του.

Of more modern interpretations the following may be mentioned. Mendelssohn: "Flehen stela bei nzir; dndern in des Hochsten Macht," which is ingenious; but even admitting that לֵאָל can mean flehen, św cannot be transitive. The same objection applies to Luther's translation "Ich muss das leiden; die rechte Hand des Höchsten kann alles andern." Zunz has: "Das ist mein Flehen—die Jahre der R. d. Höchsten! " which certainly gives a very good sense: "This is what I long and pray for—those years of God's right hand in which He exhibited His grace and power." The right hand of God cannot mean, as some would take it, "His chastening hand," it must mean "His supporting hand." It would be possible, however, to render, "This it is which saddens me,—the years of the right Hand," &c. i.e. the remembrance of God's power and grace in past times, as compared with my present lot. And this falls in with the previous complaint: "Hath God forgotten," &c. On the whole, however, the rendering of J. H. Mich, is to be preferred: "meine Krankheit (i.e. the misery of my spirit) ist alas: Bass die R. des H. sich geändert habe." So also Hupfeld. And Maurer well explains: "quod aegrunz me Twit hoe. est, haez est mea calamitas: prod se mutavit, non amplius ut olim parata est ad juvandum dextera Altissimi." He then supports interpretation (2) of יִתְאֹלַח and observes of הָנָשׁ, "murtari in deterius, ut Thren iv. 1, in
fide: Prov. xxiv. 21; Mal. iii. 6, quo posteriore loco in contrarium haec leguntur haud nihil lucis ascendentia haic quem tractamus loco: ego, Jova, non mutor, ideoque vos, filii Jacobi, non periistis." Not unlike this is the rendering of Aq., ἀνάρωσις μου, ἀνάρωσις δὲ ὑμων. (except that he must have understood ΗΛ of bodily infirmity, not of mental suffering). Theod. and the Quinta, ωδινέσ (μου) εἰσίν, ἀλλοιψις δὲ ὑμων.

In this instance the E. V. and the P. B. V. coincide, the latter not following here either the Vulg. or the German. Our translators have copied Ibn. Ez. and Qimchi, in supplying the verb I will remember, from the next verse. In so doing, they have followed the Q'ri, whereas the K'thibh, דיקסא, I will celebrate, is preferable, as it avoids the tautology with הראק in the next verse.

g וַיִּנָּחֶם, only here, sometimes regarded as a Poel, but better as a Pual, the construction being that of the accus. יִנָּחֶם with the pass., "the clouds were poured forth (in, or with) water." (Phillips, indeed, would make מ the subject, and suggests an ellipse of the prep. מ, from the clouds, but I am not aware of any instance of such an ellipse,) Cf. 'ב מ, Hab. iii. 11, which, certainly, looks like the original expression. In ירומת we have the expanded poet. form, instead of ירומת (comp. ירומת, ירומת, &c.), perhaps chosen to express the zig-zag flash of the lightning. The verb in the Hithp. fut. is also expressive: "kept going hither and thither."

h הָעַלְשָׁנֵס, properly, a wheel. (i) Some, following Qimchi, understand it of the globe or sphere of heaven. So Luther and the E. V., and with this has been compared the difficult and doubtful expression προβοσκὸς τῆς γενεσίως, in James iii. 6. (2) J. D. Mich. and others render it whirlwind. So Ewald, im Wirbel. In lxxxiii. 14, it. means "a whirling mass," or perhaps "a dust-storm." It is better, therefore, to take the word here in the sense of rolling, a sense to which it might easily pass from that of wheel, and which its etymology confirms. The rolling will be that of the chariots of God. Comp. Hab. iii. 8; Joel ii. 5. Or possibly the wheel may stand by metonymy for the chariot.

i The omission of the copula, here and in the previous verse, where the reference is clearly to the past, is rare. See a similar instance in Jer. vii. 12: לכו אלי מקימר אשת בيلة, "Go to my place which was in Shiloh."

k ובינש. So the K'thibh in the plur., as in Jer. xviii. 15, the only other place where it occurs. The Q'ri is an unnecessary correction.
IN this, the longest of the historical Psalms, the history of Israel is briefly recapitulated, from the time of the Exodus to the final union of the tribes under David, and the establishment of the kingdom in his family. This appeal to the past is made evidently with a purpose. The Psalmist comes forward as a prophet to rebuke the sin, the ingratitude, the rebellion of his people. This he does by showing them the present in the light of the past. God had wrought wonders in behalf of their fathers of old; God had redeemed them from Egypt, led them through the wilderness, brought them to His holy mountain. But the history of their nation had been at once a history of wonders and a history of rebellions. Miracle had followed on miracle to win them; chastisement had succeeded to chastisement to deter them; but the miracle was forgotten, the chastisement produced but a temporary reformation. They had ever been "a faithless and stubborn generation." It is evident, from his opening words, that the Psalmist was anxious to bring out sharply and clearly the lessons with which the past teemed. He saw that his people were in danger of forgetting those lessons. He saw in that history, instruction, warning, reproof, for the age in which he lived.

It is, however, remarkable that another and more special purpose appears in the Psalm. If the whole nation is rebuked, the rebuke falls heaviest upon Ephraim. Ephraim is singled out as the leader in the earlier apostasy of the people, as the very type of a faithless and recreant spirit (ver. 12). The rejection of Ephraim and the choice of Judah are dwelt upon at the close in a tone of satisfaction and triumph, as the fulfilment of the purpose of God. It is scarcely possible, therefore, to resist the conclusion, that the Psalm was written after the defection of the Ten Tribes, and that it was designed either to curb the pride of the northern kingdom, or to address a warning to Judah, based on the example of Ephraim.

Various conjectures have been hazarded as to the time when the Psalm was written. Hengstenberg, who is determined, at the risk of any absurdity, to maintain the authority of the Inscription, which gives this Psalm to Asaph, is obliged to place it in the reign of David. He says that the object of the Psalmist is "to warn the people against a possible revolt from David, and from the sanctuary

in Zion; he cannot therefore have composed the Psalm after this event had taken place." But if the Psalmist had any such object in view, he seems most effectually to have disguised it. Indeed, Hengstenberg is obliged to admit that he does "not once name the disruption which he is anxious to prevent, and makes no express mention whatever of any inclination to this, which might exist at the time;" and tries to account for this singular reticence by supposing that "it was of importance not to irritate, for fear of increasing the dissatisfaction." But could any more effectual mode of irritation have been devised, than first to exhibit Ephraim as chief in transgression (ver. 12), and then to commemorate in tones of triumph the degradation of that tribe from its ancient supremacy, and the exaltation of the rival tribe of Judah in its place? Was this a method likely to heal those heart-burnings and animosities which even David had failed altogether to allay? When Hengstenberg therefore adds that, "to deny that the Psalm belongs to the time of David manifests utter ignorance of its contents," we can only say that the facts point to an exactly opposite conclusion.

Ewald, with equal dogmatism, and equal improbability, places the Psalm as late as the fifth century B.C., in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. According to him, it was composed in a spirit of strong antagonism to the Samaritans, "the new Ephraim," in whom the Poet sees the old Ephraim revived. In this spirit he reviews the ancient history of his nation: "what would happen if Ephraim were the centre, he infers from the misfortunes of the period between Joshua and Saul, when the ark of the covenant was yet in Shiloh, which belonged to that tribe, whereas the true worship of Jehovah was only firmly established in Zion under David . . . The history itself was a witness that rest and faith could not be found in Ephraim." But so arbitrary a treatment of the Psalm as this may at once be dismissed. Where is the proof that the Samaritans were ever regarded as the successors and legitimate representatives of Ephraim? Or what trace is there in the Psalm of any such feeling as that which Ewald supposes to have influenced the writer? The Psalm itself furnishes us with the following data for a conclusion.

(I) It is clear from the concluding verses that it was written after David was established on the throne; from ver. 69 it might even be inferred after the Temple had been built. (2) The manner in which these events are spoken of leads naturally to the inference that they were of no very recent occurrence; men do not so speak of events within their own memory. (3) The sharp contrast between Ephraim and Judah, the rejection of Shiloh and the choice of Zion,
are an indication, not of a smouldering animosity, but of an open and long-existing separation.

But at this point two hypotheses become possible.

(a) On the one hand, the Psalmist's object may have been, by holding up the example of Ephraim, to warn Judah against a like falling away, not from the house of David, but from the God of their fathers. In this case we must suppose that a particular prominence is given to the conduct of Ephraim, in the past history, though the whole nation was guilty, in order to prepare the way for what is said of Ephraim's subsequent rejection (see note on ver. 9). Such a warning might be compared to that of Jeremiah at the time of the Chaldean invasion (chap. vii.).

(h) On the other hand, the Psalmist's design may have been not so much to warn Judah, as to rebuke Ephraim. Hence it is that whilst speaking of the past history of all Israel he mentions only Ephraim by name. Though all the burden of guilt in that mournful past did not rest exclusively upon them, yet it is with them only that he is concerned. Hence it is, too, that he dwells with so much pride and satisfaction on the transference of the sanctuary from Shiloh to Zion. That haughty tribe, strong in numbers and in power, might boast that it had recovered its ancient ascendancy. Ten out of the twelve tribes might be lost to David's house. But God's presence and favour were not with the ten, but with the two. His sanctuary was not in Shiloh, but in Zion. He had chosen to be the ruler of His people, no scion of the thousands of Ephraim, but the shepherd stripling of the tribe of Judah.

On the whole, I confess that the tone of triumph with which the Psalm concludes seems to me to favour the last hypothesis, though I fear I must also add that I am unsupported in this view by other commentators.

The Psalm has no regular strophical division. Groups of four verses frequently occur, and the general structure may be said to rest on the common principle of pairs of verses. Here and there certain expressions recur, such as "They tempted and provoked the Most High;" "When God heard this, He was wroth," &c., which, as Hupfeld says, give a kind of epic character to the Psalm. In the review of the past history, the narrative is not given in bare chronological order, but is rather combined in two principal masses. In the first of these the Psalmist but mentions the "wonders in Egypt," and passes on to detail the events in the wilderness. Then, having set forth all God's marvellous works there, and all the rebellion of Israel, he begins the history again. He will paint more fully those "signs in Egypt," which were of themselves so wonderful a proof of
PSALM LXXVIII.

God's Redeeming Love, he will show more convincingly Israel's ingratitude, and having done this, he pursues the narrative, passing lightly now over the march through the wilderness, touching on the history in the time of the Judges, and bringing it down to the days of David, in whose election God had again magnified His grace.

[A MASCHIL OF ASAPH\(\textsuperscript{a}\)]

1 GIVE ear, 0 my people, to my law,
Incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
2 I would open my mouth in a parable,
I would utter dark sayings of old.

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1-4. The Introduction, announcing the Psalmist's purpose. He will recall the past, that it may act as a warning to the present, and that the wholesome lessons which it teaches may be perpetuated in the future. In the following four verses he declares that such commemoration of God's wonders is the very destiny of Israel. For this end did He give them His law, and the lively oracles of His mouth.

1. MY PEOPLE. This does not imply that God or the Messiah is the speaker. The Prophet, speaking in the name and by the authority of God, as His inspired messenger, thus addresses the nation. The opening of the Psalm is similar to that of Ps. xlix. See also Deut. xxxii. I.; Is. i. 2.

MY LAW, here evidently used in its wider sense of instruction generally, as often in the Book of Proverbs. It is the teaching of a Prophet (Matt. xiii. 35), and in that sense a law—a law of life to those who hear it.

2. I WOULD OPEN. The form of the tense expresses the wish, resolve, &c. The sentence is very similar to that in xlix. 4 [5]. The two words PARABLE and DARK SAYINGS are the same which occur in that passage, where see note. The former (mashal) etymologically signifies a comparison, the placing of two objects in their due relation, whether of likeness or unlikeness; hence it is used of gnomic sentences, proverbs, parables, and indeed of poetical discourse generally (see Numbers xxii. 27, hammosh'lim, "the ballad-singers"), as being based on the principle of parallelism, or of antithesis. The latter means, properly, either (1) a sharp or pointed saying; or (2) a perplexed saying, a riddle. (For a discussion of these words, see Delitzsch on Habak. ii. 6, and in Gesch. der Jud. Poesie, S. 196, 199.) Having said so much on the meaning of these words, we have two further questions to consider.

(a) In what sense is the early history of Israel, which forms the subject of the Poem, called here a "parable" and "dark sayings"? Does the Psalmist merely announce his purpose of treating that history in language of poetry (we have seen that the word "parable" may be almost equivalent to "poetry"), or does he mean more? Does he mean that he has a moral end in setting forth that history? that under it truths are veiled which have a significance and an application to present circumstances for those who can read them aright? Probably, though we can hardly say certainly, the last.

(b) How are we to understand the quotation made by St. Matthew of this passage, who sees a fulfilment of it in the parables spoken by our Lord (Matt. xiii. 34, 35)? It cannot be supposed for a moment that these words were a prediction of our Lord's mode of teaching, or that He Himself is here the speaker.
3 (The things) which we have heard and known.  
And our fathers have told us,
4 We will not hide (them) from their children;  
Telling to the generation to come the praises of Jehovah,  
And His strength and His wonderful works that He hath done.
5 For He established a testimony in Jacob,  
And appointed a law in Israel,  
Which He commanded our fathers  
To make known unto their children;
6 To the intent that the generation to come might know (them),  
(Even) the children which should be born,  
Who should rise up, and tell (them) to their children;
7 That they might put their confidence in God,  
And not forget the doings of God,  
But keep His commandments;
8 And might not be as their fathers,  
A stubborn and rebellious generation,  
A generation that was not steadfast in heart,  
And whose spirit was not faithful towards God.
9 The children of Ephraim, being equipped as archers,
Turned back in the day of battle.

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<th>9. THE CHILDREN OF EPHRAIM.</th>
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<td>An example of that &quot;stubborn and</td>
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<td>Nothing is gained by introducing</td>
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<td>the P.B.V., &quot;like as the children</td>
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<td>xi. 5 [6]; for in ver. 67 the dis-</td>
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<td>the most powerful of the tribes.</td>
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<td>however, that the Psalmist forgets</td>
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<td>only thinks of the tribe as the rival</td>
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<td>leader in the revolt. But see the</td>
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<td>Psalm.</td>
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A different interpretation is given in the article EPHRAIM in Smith's *Dict. of the Bible*. Hupfeld would expunge the words "the children of Ephraim" as a gloss, but it is difficult to see how such a gloss could have crept in.

**EQUIPPED AS ARCHERS.** This and the next clause are designed apparently to express, in a figure, the faithlessness of the Ephraimites. They are like archers who, fully equipped for war, at the critical moment when they should use their weapons, afraid to meet the shock of battle, wheel round and fly in disorder.

**TURNED BACK.** Comp. Jud. xx,. 39, 41. Panic-struck, when they were expected to be of service; hardly (as Maurer suggests) pretending flight, like the Thracian archers, in order to take the enemy at greater advantage. In any case, the image is one of faithlessness.

The next verse is an explanation of the figure.

The following paraphrase is given in the *Catena Aurea* (from Aug. Cassiod. and the Glossa Ord.).
10 They kept not the covenant of God, 
    And refused to walk in His Law;
11 And they forgot His doings,  
    And His wonderful works which He had showed them.
12 In the sight of their fathers He did wonders,  
    In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
13 He clave the sea, and caused them to pass through,  
    And made the waters to stand as an heap.
14 And He led them with the cloud in the day-time,  
    And all the night through with a light of fire.
15 He clave rocks in the wilderness,

"The children of Ephraim taking aim and shooting with the bow, that is, promising to keep the law, and openly saying, All that the Lord hath said unto us we will do and hear, turned back in the day of battle, when they said unto Aaron, Make us gods to worship. They failed in the day of battle, that is, in the day of temptation; for the prophet Hosea saith: Ephraim is as a silly dove that hath no heart. For it is not hearing, but temptation, that puts to the proof the promise of obedience."

12. ZOAN. Its Greek name was Tanis. It "lay near the Eastern border of Lower Egypt, . . . on the east bank of the canal which was formerly the Tanitic branch" (of the Nile). "Zoan is mentioned in connection with the plagues in such a manner as to leave no doubt that it is the city spoken of in the narrative in Exodus, as that where Pharaoh dwelt. The wonders were wrought 'in the field of Zoa,' which may either denote the territory immediately round the city, or its nome, or even a kingdom. This would accord best with the shepherd-period." See the article ZOAN, in the *Dict. of the Bible*, by Mr. R. S. Poole. May not "the field of Zoa" be the rich plain which, as he tells us, "anciently extended due east as far as Pelusium, about thirty miles distant," and the whole of which, "about as far south and west as Tunis, was anciently known as 'the Fields' or 'Plains,' 'the Marshes' or 'Pasture-lands,' and which is now almost covered by the great Lake Menzeleh'? The name only occurs once in the Pentateuch, in Num. xiii. 22. (See the passage discussed in the article just quoted.)

It is remarkable that, after beginning in this verse to speak of the wonders in Egypt, the Psalmist drops all mention of there till ver. 43 (which is a resumption of this verse), and turns aside to dwell on the wonders in the wilderness (see Introduction).

13. Now follows the exemplification, in certain detailed instances, of the faithlessness and disobedience, and forgetfulness of their fathers in the wilderness. First, in ver. 13-16, some of God's wonders wrought on their behalf are mentioned, and then, ver. 17-20, the thankless and perverse spirit in which these wonders were regarded.

As AN HEAP; borrowed from Ex. xv. 8. See note on xxxiii. 7.

15. ROCKS. The word *tsur* shows that the Psalmist is thinking in this verse of the miracle at Horeb, recorded in Ex. xvii. (See note on ver. 16.) The plural does not necessarily imply that the two great instances in which this miracle was performed, the one in the first and the other in the last year of the wandering, are here brought together (Ex. xvii. and Num. xx.); for both
And gave them drink as it had been the great deeps. e
16 He brought forth streams also out of the cliff,
And caused waters to run down like the rivers.

17 Yet they went on still to sin more against Him,
To rebel against f the Most High in the desert.
18 And they tempted God in their heart,
Asking food for their lust,
19 Yea, they spake against God;
They said, "Can God prepare a table in the wilderness
20 Lo, He smote the rock, that waters gushed out,
And torrents rushed along:
Can He give bread also?
Will He provide flesh for his people?"

that and the verb, which (being here without the Vau consecutive) is apparently the aorist of repeated action, may only be used in the way of poetic amplification. The miracle seems as if ever repeated.

As IT HAD BEEN THE GREAT DEEPS, lit. "and gave them, as it were, the great deep to drink " (or, "as from the depths in abundance"). De Wette calls this a "gigantic" comparison. But "the deep" here may mean, perhaps, not the sea, but the great subterranean reservoir of waters from which all fountains and streams were supposed to be supplied, as Deut. viii. 7. Comp. xlii. 7 [8], and note there.

16. The word here used (Sela) "is especially applied to the cliff at Kadesh, from which Moses brought water, as Tsur is for that struck in Ex. xvii."—STANLEY, Sinai and Palestine, App. § 29. See also Chap. I. Part II. p. 95.

17. YET THEY WENT ON TO SIN. In the verses immediately preceding no special instance of transgression is recorded, though such is implied in the mention of the miracle of the water, when they murmured against God. Hence the murmuring for flesh is described as a further and fresh instance of sin. Hupfeld thinks it may be only a phrase bor- rowed from the Book of Judges, where it is commonly prefixed to each fresh act of disobedience (as in iii. 12, &c.); but there the formula is quite in place, as it follows the narration of previous transgression.

18. THEY TEMPTED GOD, i.e. demanded, in their unbelief, signs and wonders, to put His power to the proof, instead of waiting in faith and prayer for its exercise (repeated ver. 41, 56 as a kind of refrain, see also cvi. 14). The original is Ex. xvii. 3, 7, where also the name Massah, "tempting," is given to the spot.

19, 20. The words here put into the mouth of the people are only a poetical representation of what they said, not differing materially from the historical narrative, Ex. xvi. 3, &c., xvii. 2, 3, 7; Num. xi. 4, &c., xx. 3, &c.

19. PREPARE A TABLE, lit. "Set out in order," the same phrase as in xxiii. 5.

20. WATERS GUSHED OUT occurs also cv. 41; Is. xlviii. 21.
PROVIDE, or "prepare," as in lxv. 9 [10], lxviii. 10 [11].
FLESH: the word is a poetical one. "Bread and flesh" are used in the same way of the manna and the quails, in Ex. xvi.
21 Therefore Jehovah heard (that), and was wroth,  
   And a fire was kindled in Jacob,  
   And anger also went up against Israel;  
22 Because they believed not in God,  
   And put not their trust in His salvation.  
23 He commanded also the clouds above,  
   And opened the doors of heaven;  
24 And He rained manna upon them to eat,  
   And gave them the corn of heaven;  
25 Bread of the mighty did they eat every one,  
   He sent them meat to the full.  
26 He led forth the east wind in the heaven,

21-29. The awful punishment of their sin. He gives the bread which they ask (ver. 21-25), and then the flesh (ver. 26-29), but His granting of their desire is in itself the most terrible of chastisements. The representation is freely borrowed from the two accounts in Ex. xvi.; Num. xi.; more particularly the last.

21. A FIRE, with allusion to the "fire of Jehovah" in Num. xi. 1 (whence the name of the place was called Tab'erah, "burning"), where also occurs the similar expression, "And when Jehovah heard (it), His anger was kindled."

22. His SALVATION, as already shown in the deliverance from Egypt.

23. RAINED. Hence the expression in the preceding verse, "opened the doors," &c. as in Gen. vii. 11; 2 Kings vii. 2; Mal. iii. 10. In the same way the manna is said to be "rained" from heaven in Ex. xvi.

4. (Every expression used shows plainly that it was a miraculous gift, and not a product of nature.)

25. BREAD OF THE MIGHTY (see the marginal rendering of the E.V.) probably means "Angels' bread," LXX. ἄρτον ἀγγελῶν, not as if angels were nourished by it, or as if it were food worthy of angels, but as coming from heaven, where angels dwell. The word MIGHTY is nowhere else used of the angels, though they are said in ciii. 20, to be "mighty in strength." Hence many would render here "bread of nobles or princes" (such is the use of this word in Job xxiv. 22, xxxiv, 20), i.e. the finest, the most delicate bread.

26. LED FORTH, lit. "made to journey, or go forth." The verb is again the aorist of repeated action, as in ver. 15.

GUIDED (like a flock). The two verbs occur below, ver. 52, where they are used of God's conduct of His people. The usage here is borrowed from the Pentateuch, where both verbs are said of the wind, the first in Num. xi. 31, the second in Ex. x. 13. The winds are thus conceived of as God's flock, which He leads forth and directs at His pleasure.
And by His power He guided the south wind,
27 And He rained flesh upon them as the dust,
And winged fowls like as the sand of the seas;
28 And He let it fall in the midst of their camp,
Round about their habitations.
29 So they did eat and were well filled,
Seeing that He gave them their own desire.
30 They were not estranged from their desire;
Whilst their food was yet in their mouth,
31 The anger of God went up against them,

These may be mentioned poetically, without being intended to describe exactly the quarter from which the quails came. In Num. xi. 31, it is merely said that, "there went forth a wind from Jehovah, and brought quails from the sea," which Hupfeld too hastily asserts must be the Red Sea (i.e. as he evidently means, the gulf of Suez); and that consequently the quails must have been brought by a west wind. But Kibroth-hattaavah was probably not far from the western edge of the gulf of Akabah. And the quails at the time of this event were, as Mr. Houghton has remarked (see Quails, in Dict. of the Bible), on their spring journey of migration northwards; "The flight which fed the multitude at Kibroth-hattaavah might have started from Southern Egypt, and crossed the Red Sea near Ras Mohammed, and so up the gulf of Akabah into Arabia Petrma." In this case, the wind blowing from the south first, and then from the east, would bring the quails.

27. RAINED FLESH: as before, "rained manna," from Ex. xvi. 4, 8, 13.
28. LET IT FALL. The word aptly describes the settling of these birds, unfitted for a long flight, and wearied by their passage across the gulf. Pliny, Nat. Hist. x. 13, says that quails settle on the sails of ships by night, so as to sink sometimes the ships in the neighbouring sea. And

Diod. Sic. i. p. 38, τὰς θηρὰς των ὄρτυγων ἐποιοῦτο ἑφέροντό τε οὕτωι κατ’ αγέλας μείζους ἐκ τοῦ πελάγους.
The verse follows Ex. xvi. 13; Num. xi. 31. 29. WERE WELL FILLED, i.e. even to loathing, as follows, ver. 30 (see Num. xi. 18-20). So in ver. 25, "to the full," from Ex. xvi. 3, 12.

THEIR DESIRE, the satisfaction of their fleshly appetite. The word (taavah) no doubt alludes to Kibroth-hattaavah, "the graves of desire, or fleshly appetite." Num. xi. 4, 34.

30. THEY WERE NOT ESTRANGED, or, as it may be rendered, "(Whilst) they were not (yet) estranged," i.e. whilst they still found satisfaction and enjoyment in this kind of food, whilst it was yet in their mouths, the anger of God went up, &c. Thus the two verses, 30, 31, stand in the relation of protasis and apodosis. The passage is manifestly borrowed from Num. xi. 33, "And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of Jehovah was kindled against the people, and Jehovah smote the people with a very great plague;" and so closely borrowed as to be evidence that this portion of the Pentateuch already existed in writing. But, unfortunately, we cannot draw hence any argument for the age of the whole Pentateuch in its present form.

31. WENT UP, See above, ver 21, and xviii. 8 [91}
And slew the fattest of them,  
And smote down the young men of Israel.
32 For all this, they sinned yet more,  
And believed not His wondrous works.
33 Therefore did He make their days vanish in a breath,  
And their years in terror.
34 When He slew them, then they enquired after Him,  
Yea, they turned again and sought God;
35 And they remembered that God was their Rock,  
And the Most High God their Redeemer.
36 But they flattered Him with their mouth;  
And they lied unto Him with their tongue;
37 For their heart was not steadfast with Him,  
Neither were they faithful in His covenant.
38 But He, in His tender mercy, covereth iniquity, and  
destroyeth not;

31. THE FATTEST: it may mean either the strongest, or the noblest.  
Comp. xxii. 29 [30]. On these and the young men, the flower of the people, the judgement especially falls.
32. The allusion seems to be to Num. xiv. 11, "How long will it be ere they believe Me, for all the signs which I have showed among them;" the words of God to Moses after the return of the spies. And this is the more likely, because the next verse alludes to that cutting short of the life of the people, which was the consequence of their rebellion at that time. Num. xiv. 28-34.
33. IN A BREATH, or possibly, "as a breath," the prep. merely introducing the predicate. See xxxix. 5, 6 [6, 7], and the complaint of Moses, xc. 9, though the word there used is different.
34. The passage which follows, to the end of ver. 39, is a most striking and affecting picture of man's heart, and God's gracious forbearance, in all ages: — man's sin calling for chastisement, the chastisement producing only temporary amendment, God's goodness forgotten, and yet God's great love never wearied, and God's infinite compassion ever moved afresh by man's weakness and misery.
36. FLATTERED. Comp. Is. xxi. 13, lvii. 11, lix. 13. "This returning to God, at least so far as the majority were concerned, was not from any love of righteousness, but only from the fear of punishment."—Lyra.
37. THEIR HEART WAS NOT STEADFAST, &c. This is the ever-repeated complaint, see ver. 8, 22. There is no permanence, no stability in the reformation which has been produced. Comp. Hos. vi. 4.
38. The verbs in the first clause are present, and should be so rendered. It destroys the whole beauty of the passage to render, "But He was so merciful, &c., as if the reference were only to a particular occasion. God's mercy is like Himself, everlasting, and ever the same.

BUT HE. The words are emphatic, and the allusion is to Ex. xxxiv. 6; Num. xiv. 18, 20.
Yea, many a time turneth He His anger away,
And stirreth not up all His fury.
39 And He remembered that they were (but) flesh,
A wind that goeth and cometh not again.

40 How often did they provoke Him in the wilderness,
And grieve Him in the desert:
41 Yea, again and again they tempted God,
And dishonoured the Holy One of Israel.
42 They remembered not His hand,
Nor the day when He redeemed them from the adversary.
43 How He had set His signs in Egypt,
And His wonders in the field of Zoan,
44 And turned their rivers into blood,
So that they could not drink of their streams.
45 He sent among them flies which devoured them,
And frogs which destroyed them.

39. Compare Gen. vi. 3, viii. 21: Job vii. 7, 9, X. 21; Ps. ciii. 14-16; and for the word "goeth" or "passeth away" of the wind, Hos. vi. 4, xiii. 3.

40. After thus celebrating God's tender compassion in striking contrast with the perpetual rebellion and ingratitude of the people, the Psalmist resumes the sad tale afresh. But instead of mentioning other instances of rebellion in the wilderness (ver. 40), he passes from that topic to dwell on the wonders wrought in Egypt, the lively recollection of which ought to have kept the people from these repeated provocations. Thus he takes up again the thread dropped at ver. 12.

The second principal portion of the Psalm begins with this verse. It is occupied, first, with the narrative of the plagues in Egypt, the Exodus, and Israel's entrance into the Promised Land, ver. 40-55. It then touches briefly on the history under the Judges, the Philistine invasion in the time of Eli, which was God's chastisement for transgression, the disaster at Shiloh, whereby Ephraim was robbed of his ancient honours, and which led to the choice of Zion, the ascendency of the tribe of Judah, and the union of the kingdom under David, ver. 56-72.

41. DISHONOURED, or perhaps "provoked." Others, "limited," i.e. set bounds to His power. See Critical Note.

43. In the enumeration of the plagues, the Psalmist does not follow the order of the history, except as regards the first and the last, and omits all mention of the third (the lice), the fifth (murrain of cattle), the sixth (boils and blains on man and beast), and the ninth (darkness).

44. The first plague. Comp. Ex. vii. 17, &c.

45. The fourth plague (Ex. viii. 20, &c.), and the second plague (Ex. viii. 1, &c.).

FLIES. The LXX. and Sym. θυρώματα. The rendering of the
46 He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar,
   (And) their labour unto the locust.
47 He killed their vines with hail,
   And their sycomore-trees with frost:
48 He gave up their cattle also to the hail,
   And their flocks to hot thunder-bolts.
49 He let loose upon them the burning of His anger,
   Wrath and indignation and distress,
   A letting loose of evil angels (among them).

E.V. "divers sorts of flies," (Aq. παραμικτον), comes from a wrong derivation of the word from a root signifying to mix.

46. CATERPILLER, or possibly the word means some particular species of locust, or the locust in its larva state. See Dict. of the Bible, III. App. xxxix. This word is not used in the Pentateuch, but in Joel i. 4, it is joined with the locust, as here.

47. 48. The seventh plague, that of the hail mingled with fire (Ex. ix. 13), with its effects, both on the produce of the land and on the cattle. As belonging to the former, vines and sycomores are here mentioned, as in cv. 33, vines, and fig-trees. De Wette and Hupfeld assert that the writer, as a native of Canaan, ascribes too much prominence to the vine, the cultivation of which was but little attended to in Egypt, and which is not said in the Pentateuch to have suffered. But this is an unfounded assertion. Mr. R. S. Poole, in his learned article on Egypt, in the Dict. of the Bible, says: "Vines were extensively cultivated, and there were several different kinds of wine, one of which, the Mareotic, was famous among the Romans." (Vol. i. p. 497.) Pharaoh's chief butler dreams of the vine, Gen. xl. 9-11, and the vines of Egypt, as well as the figs and pomegranates, are thought of with regret by the Israelites in the wilderness (Num. xx. 5). The mural paintings at Thebes, at Beni-

Hassan, and in the Pyramids, contain representations of vineyards. Boys are seen frightening away the birds from the ripe clusters, men gather them and deposit them in baskets, and carry them to the wine-press, &c.

47. FROST, or, as this is unknown in Egypt, perhaps, rather, "huge hailstones," but the word occurs nowhere else, and its meaning is uncertain.

48. HOT THUNDER-BOLTS, Or "lightnings;" the same word as in lxxvi. 3 [4], "lightnings of the bow," where see note, the allusion being to the fire which ran along the ground, Ex. ix. 23. Comp. cv. 32.

49. This verse expresses generally the whole work of devastation wrought by the Divine ministers of evil in the land of Egypt, and so strikingly introduces the final act of judgement, the destruction of the first-born, which follows in ver. 50, 51. I see no reason for supposing, as Hupfeld and Delitzsch do, that there is any allusion to the fifth plague, that of the murrain among cattle.

A LETTING LOOSE, Or, "a mission," "embassage"; this is a noun, in apposition with the preceding nouns, and further describing the action of the verb, "He let loose." The Poet lifts the veil and shows us the wrath of God as the source, and angels as the ministers in the destruction.

EVIL ANGELS. Others render,
50 He made a free path for His anger;
    He spared not their soul from death,
    But gave their life over to the pestilence;
51 And smote all the first-born in Egypt,
    The firstlings of (their) strength in the tents of Ham.
52 But He made His own people to go forth like sheep,
    And guided them in the wilderness like a flock.
53 And He led them safely so that they did not fear;
    And as for their enemies, the sea covered (them).
54 And He brought them to His holy border,
    To yon mountain which His right hand had purchased.
55 He drove out also the nations before them,
    And allotted them for an inheritance by line,
    And made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.
56 But they tempted and provoked the Most High God,
And kept not His testimonies;  
57 But turned back and dealt faithlessly, like their fathers:  
They were turned aside like a deceitful bow.  
58 And they angered Him with their high places,  
And moved Him to jealousy with their graven images.  
59 When God heard (this), He was wroth,  
And greatly abhorred Israel;  
60 So that He rejected the tabernacle in Shiloh,  
The tent which He pitched among men.  
61 And He gave His strength into captivity,  
And His beauty into the adversary's hand.  
62 Yea, He gave over His people to the sword,  
And was wroth with His inheritance.  
63 Their young men the fire devoured,  
And their maidens were not praised in the marriage-song.

repeated from ver. 17, 18, and 41;  
here the special act of provocation  
being the worship of idols in the  
high places. Comp. Jud. ii. 11, &c.  
57. A DECEITFUL BOW, i.e. one  
which disappoints the archer, by not  
sending the arrow straight to the  
mark (not "a slack bow," as some  
would explain, referring to Prov. x.  
4, "a slack hand").  
60. The tabernacle was at Shiloh  
during the whole period of the  
Judges (Josh. xviii. 10; Jud. xviii.  
31; I Sam. iv. 3). God rejected  
and forsook it when the Ark was  
given into the hands of the Philis-  
tines, I Sam. iv. The Ark was never  
bring back thither, and the Taber-  
nacle itself was removed first to  
Nob (I Sam. xxii.), and subsequently  
to Gibeon (1 Kings iii. 4). Jeremiah  
when warning the nation against  
the superstitious notion that the  
Temple would be a defence, reminds  
them how God had forsaken and  
rejected the place of the first Taber-  
nacle: "For go now to My place  
which was in Shiloh, where I made  
My name to dwell at the first, and  
see what I have done to it, because  
of the wickedness of My people  
Israel." (Jer. vii. 12. See also ver.  
14, and chap. xxvi. 6.) These pas-  
sages do not, perhaps, necessarily  
imply a destruction of Shiloh by  
engines, certainly nothing of the  
kind meets us in the history,—but a  
desolation which followed on the  
removal of the sanctuary. Calvin  
observes: "The mode of expression  
is very emphatic; that God was so  
offended with the sins of His people,  
that He was forced to forsake the  
one place in the whole world which  
He had chosen."  
PITCHED, lit. "caused to dwell."  
Comp. Josh. xviii. 1, xxii. 19.  
61. HIS STRENGTH (or perhaps,  
"glory"). . HIS BEAUTY. The  
Ark is so called as being the place  
where God manifested His power  
and glory. Comp. I Sam. iv. 3, 21,  
and Ps. cxxxii. 8.  
63, 64. The utter desolation of  
the land strikingly pictured by its  
silence. Neither the joyous strains  
of the marriage-song, nor the sad  
wail of the funeral chant fall upon  
the ear. It was a land of silence,  
a land of the dead. Comp. Jer. xxii. 18; Ezek. xxiv. 23; Job xxvii. 15.  
There is perhaps, an allusion in
64 Their priests fell by the sword,
    And their widows made no lamentation.

65 Then the Lord awaked, as one out of sleep,
    Like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine;
66 And He smote His adversaries backward,
    He put them to a perpetual reproach.
67 And He rejected the tent of Joseph,
    And chose not the tribe of Ephraim
68 But chose the tribe of Judah,
    The mount Zion which He loved.
69 And He built His sanctuary like high places,
    Like the earth which He hath founded for ever.
70 He chose David also, His servant,
    And took him from the sheep-folds;
71 As he was following the ewes giving suck, He brought
    him,
    To feed Jacob His people,
    And Israel His inheritance.
72 So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart,
    And led them with the skilfulness of his hands.

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| ver. 64 to the death of Hophni and Phinehas. | of the Temple were to extend into the borders of the other tribe, and thus the two were to be riveted together, as it were, by a cramp, bound by a sacred and everlasting bond."—Blunt, *Undesigned Coincidences*, &c. p. 181. |
| 65, 66. God punishes and then delivers. The reference is to the long series of victories over the Philistines under Samuel, Saul, and David. | 69. LIKE HIGH PLACES, &c., or as we might say, "high as heaven, and sure as the solid earth." |
| 65. AS ONE OUT OF SLEEP, lit. "as a sleeper." Comp. vii. 6 [7], xlv. 23 [24]. | 70-72. The faithful shepherd of the flock became the faithful shepherd of the nation; just as the obedient fishermen in the Gospel history became the successful fishers of men. |
| LIKE A MIGHTY MAN : Comp. Is. xlii. 13. | On the figure here employed, see lxxvii. 20 [21], and the remarks in Introduction to Vol. I. p. 97. |
| 68. THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, though the sanctuary was planted, not " in Judah only, or in Benjamin only, but on the confines of both (comp. Josh. xv. 63 with Jud. i. 21); so that whilst the altars and the holy place were to stand within the borders of the one tribe, the courts |

* See above on xxxix. note a and 1. note a.
The relative may refer to what precedes. Or it may form with the suffix following, a neuter = quae; the relative clause, contrary to rule, being placed before the antecedent. "(The things) which we know... (those things) we will not hide." For a similar indefinite use of the suffix see xxxix. 7.

This is a compound phrase which has perplexed the commentators. For the two words in the stat. constr. are not, as is usual in such cases, in construction, the first with the second, and the second with the noun following, but are each in construction with the noun.tw,q, for we have \( \text{to}\), I Chron. xii. 2; 2 Chron. xvii. 17, meaning "armed with bows," and \( \text{to}\), Jer. iv. 29, "shooting with bows." Hence Hupfeld calls it "a hybrid phrase," and would strike out one of the words as a gloss; but we have an exact parallel in Jer. xlvi. 9, \( \text{to}\), as he admits. The phrase \( \text{to}\), lit. the virgin of Zion, the daughter of Zion," is another instance of the same construction. Maurer, in a note on Jer. xlvi. 9, has drawn attention to this construction, which, as he observes, has escaped the notice of the grammarians. \( \text{to}\) means properly adjungere, applicare, conserere (as in \( \text{to}\), armour, as that which fits together), and then prehendere (manu), tenere, tractare.

Hupf. speaks of this merely as "a pret. without l consec., as frequently in this Psalm, alternating with imperf. cons., vers. 26, 45, 47, 49, 50." But I prefer regarding it as an aor. of repeated action, not "continuance of an action," as Phillips—who, however, well explains the use of the tense, "as often as water was wanted by the Israelites in the wilderness, the rock was cleft." The plur. noun is apparently used for the sing. (comp. Gen. vii. 11; Ps. xxxvi. 7), like \( \text{to}\), &c. Hence the adj. is in the sing. The Chald. changes the adj. into the plur., in order to make it agree with the noun. The LXX. \( \text{to}\). So the older Verss., generally, take the two words as in concord. Others consider \( \text{to}\) to be an adverb, as lxii. 3, lxxxix. 8. "The imperf. consec. [at the beginning of the verse] marks the consequence, which is here contrary to expectation." (De Wette.)

The Hiph. occurs again in Ezek. ix. 4 in the sense of "putting a mark" (on the forehead). This has been explained in two ways: (i) "they put boundaries (marks) limits" to the power of God. Or (2), as Hengst., Del., and others, "they branded with reproach" (Del. brandmarkten). But we may perhaps connect it with the Syr. paenituit eum, doluit. So the LXX. \( \text{to}\). Vulg. exacerbaverunt. Jerome, concitaverunt.
h מַלְאָכֵי רֵעֵם. This is commonly rendered "angels (or messengers) of evil," i.e. causing evil, generally of the object, as in Prov. xvi. 4, "messengers of death," and רֵעֵם is supposed to be a neuter = רֵעָת, "evil things." This may perhaps be defended by רֵעָת, nobilia, Prov. viii. 6, though Hupf. contends that יָעָרֶךְ must be supplied there, as with the adjectives in ver. 9 of the same chapter; to which it may be replied that the noun has immediately preceded, and would therefore be easily understood in ver. 9, which is not the case in ver. 6. However, it is better to explain יָעָת as "angels (belonging to the class) of evil ones," i.e. evil angels. (So the LXX. ποιητῶν; Symm. κακούσας.) Comp. the same use of the adj. after the constr. in Num. v. 18, "waters (belonging to the class) of bitter (waters)." Jer. xxiv. 2, "figs of the early ones." See also Is. xvii. 6; 1 Kings x. 15.

וַיְלַעֲדוּ. This is not (as Schnurr.) pret. Hoph. of לָעַדְתִּי = ejulare factae sunt, i.e. ejularunt; for that must mean "they were lamented." It is merely by incorrect writing for לָעַדְתִּי (Aq. ἔμπνευσθησαν; Symm. Th. ἐπνεύσθησαν), "were sung with praises," i.e. at the marriage feast. (Comp. מַלְאָכִים, "of the harvest feast," Jud. ix. 21, with xvi. 24; Lev. xix. 24, and the Rabb. מַלְאָכִים, "marriage house," מַלְאָכִים, T. B. Berachoth 6b.

PSALM LXXIX.

THIS Psalm is a lamentation over the same great national calamity which, as we have already seen, is bewailed in terms so pathetic in the Seventy-fourth. The two Psalms have, indeed, some points of difference as well as of resemblance. The great features in the scene of misery are presented in the two with a different degree of prominence. In the one, the destruction of the Temple occupies the foreground; in the other, the terrible carnage which had made the streets of Jerusalem run with blood is the chief subject of lamentation. In the former, the hope of deliverance and triumph breaks out strongly in the very midst of the sorrow and the wailing (lxxiv. 12, &c.). In the latter, the tone of sadness prevails throughout, with the exception of the short verse with which the Psalm concludes. There is also a marked difference in style. The Seventy-fourth Psalm is abrupt, and sometimes obscure: the Seventy-ninth, on the contrary, flows smoothly and easily throughout.

But these differences are balanced by resemblances not less observable. Thus, for instance, we may compare lxxix. 5, "how long for ever," with lxxiv. 1, 10; lxxix. 1, the desecration of the
Temple, with lxxiv. 3, 7; lxxix. 2, the giving up to the wild beast, with lxxiv. 19; lxxix. 12, the reproach of the God of Israel with lxxiv. io, i8, 22; lxxix. 13, the comparison of Israel to a flock, with lxxiv. i. There is the same deep pathos in both Psalms; in both, the same picturesque force of description; both the one and the other may be called, without exaggeration, the funeral anthem of a nation.

There can, therefore, be little doubt that both Psalms, even if not written by the same poet, yet bewail the same calamity. It is equally certain that there are but two periods of the national history to which the language of either could properly apply. But in attempting to draw our inference from this Psalm, the same difficulties meet us which have already met us in our attempts to determine the date of Psalm lxxiv. Does the Psalm deplore the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, or is it a dirge over the sack of the city by Antiochus Epiphanes?

That the history of the Canon does not exclude the later of these periods, I must still maintain, notwithstanding the positive and contemptuous manner in which Dr. Pusey has recently expressed himself on this subject (Lectures on Daniel, pp. 56, 292, &c.). There is not a shadow of proof (as I have pointed out in the Introduction to Vol. I., pp. 18, 19) that the Canon was closed before the Maccabean era. We are therefore at liberty to form our opinion as to the probable date of the Psalm purely on internal evidence. And, indeed, it is on this ground that Hengstenberg undertakes to show that the Psalm refers to the Chaldean invasion. Let us examine his arguments.

(1) He contends that there are no traces of any special reference to the Maccabean times. To this it may be replied, that it is almost impossible to find in any Psalm language so precise as to fix at once the date and the occasion for which it was written. But in this instance the fact that the desecration, and not the destruction of the Temple is lamented, is certainly more easily explained on the Maccabean hypothesis than on the Chaldean. Antiochus Epiphanes defiled the Temple, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it.

(2) He asserts that the language used in ver. 1, "They have made Jerusalem an heap of stones," and so general a slaughter as that described in ver. 2, 3, are not applicable to the history of the Maccabean age. It is sufficient answer to say, that the first chapter of the First Book of the Maccabees altogether refutes such an assertion. The desolation of Jerusalem, and the slaughter there spoken of, might adequately, and without exaggeration, be described in the language of the Psalm: the difference is only the difference between poetry and prose.
(3) He objects that in the Psalm (ver. 6) "kingdoms and nations" are spoken of, whereas in the Syrian period the Jews had to do with only one kingdom. But it is obvious that in the one struggle was involved the whole principle of the antagonism to the heathen world at large. And nothing is more common than for the prophets and poets to extend their range of vision beyond the single enemy, or the immediate conflict, so as to embrace a larger issue.

There is one expression in the Psalm, and one only, which may seem to favour the Babylonish exile: "Let the sighing of the prisoner come before Thee" (ver. 11). But even this might be used equally well of the captives who were carried away by the army of Antiochus (I Macc. i. 32). So far, then, there is no positive evidence—and this Delitzsch cordially admits—in favour of one period rather than of the other.

We now come to difficulties of a more formidable kind. Two passages in the Psalm are found elsewhere; the one in Jeremiah and the other in the First Book of Maccabees.

Verses 6 and 7 stand almost word for word in Jer. x. 25. Does the Prophet quote from the Psalmist, or the Psalmist from the Prophet?

In favour of the former supposition it may be said: (1) That it is Jeremiah's habit to quote largely from other writers, especially from Job and the Psalms; (2) That in his prophecy the verse immediately preceding the 24th verse of the chapter, is a quotation from the Sixth Psalm; (3) That the words occupy a more natural position in the Psalm than they do in the Prophecy, inasmuch as the prayer that God would punish the heathen follows immediately on the complaint that His wrath burns like fire against Israel; and also inasmuch as the word "pour out" seems to have been employed designedly with reference to the use of the same verb in ver. 3, "they have poured out" (E. V. "they have shed"); (4) That the difficult singular, ver. 7 (see note), is changed in Jeremiah into the plural, and the passage further altered and expanded by the addition, "and they have devoured him and consumed him," which is quite in the style of Jeremiah, who rarely quotes without some alteration of the kind. The first and the last of these reasons are certainly not without force.

On the other hand, Hupfeld argues with regard to (3), that the passage, as it stands in Jeremiah, is anything but out of place; that the language there, on the contrary, is more definite, the contrast being this, that God would correct His own people with judgement, i.e. in measure, but that He would pour out all His fury without measure upon their enemies. He contends that this (expressing the
same contrast which occurs elsewhere in chap. xxx. 11, xlvi. 28) must be the original passage. However, this question of coherence does not go for much. Considering the abruptness of transition natural to lyric poetry, even a want of close connection would be no proof that the passage was borrowed by the Psalmist. And, on the other hand, the connection for which Hupfeld contends, does not seem to be closer or more obvious than that in the Psalm.

There is, however, another and a very serious difficulty. This Psalm, supposing it to refer to Nebuchadnezzar, must have been written during the Exile—probably some time after the destruction of the Temple. Psalm Seventy-four, in like manner, which speaks of "the everlasting desolations," must have been composed at a comparatively late period of the Captivity. But when were the passages in Jeremiah's prophecy written, which connect them with these Psalms? Jeremiah, in chap. x. 17, 18, predicts the Captivity, and hence that part of his prophecy seems to be in time prior to the Psalm; and Hengstenberg can only evade this difficulty by the supposition that this chapter was not written in its present form till after the destruction of Jerusalem. This however is a mere assumption, without a shadow of proof.

Another difficulty still remains. Ver. 3 is quoted in I Macc. vii. 16. The quotation is introduced by the formula κατὰ τὸν λόγον δὲν ἔγραψε (in the Syriac, "according to the word which the prophet has written"). This, Hengstenberg says, is the usual mode of citing from the Canonical Scriptures, and hence he contends that the quotation could not be from a Psalm written at the time of the persecution of Antiochus. But this does not follow, even if the use of ἔγραψε be as limited as he would make it. As I have remarked, it cannot be shown that the Canon was completed before the age of the Maccabees, and the writer of the Book lived long after the events which he narrates. Hence it would be quite natural for him to refer to a Poem which had sprung out of the very circumstances of his history. Delitzsch even (i. 557) thinks that the aorist ἔγραψε sounds as if the quotation were from some work which was produced under the pressure of the calamities which the author is describing.

It has not I believe been noticed, and yet it appears to me almost certain, that the prayer of Daniel (ix. 19) contains allusions to the language of this Psalm: "for our sins and for the iniquities of our fathers (comp. ver. 8 of the Psalm, where, though the word 'fore-fathers' is different, the thought is the same), Jerusalem and Thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us" (comp. ver. 4 of the Psalm).
Still the question must remain an open one whether the passage in Jeremiah or in the Psalm is the original. Unless this question can be positively settled, we have no clue to guide us as to the age of the Psalm. Its language would apply almost equally well either to the time of Nebuchadnezzar or to that of Antiochus Epiphanes. This seems to have been felt by some of the earlier commentators, who, without venturing to bring it down in point of actual composition so low as the latter period, have supposed it to be a prophecy of that calamitous time. So Cassiodorus: "Deplorat vero Antiochi persecutionem tempore Maccabeorum factam, tune futuram, scilicet in spiritu prophetico quasi praeteritam propter certitudinem eventus."

The Psalm can hardly be said to have any regular strophical divisions.

It consists, first, of a complaint (ver. 1-4); and then of a prayer that God would visit His people again in mercy and pour out His vengeance upon their enemies (ver. 5-12); whilst a closing verse announces the gratitude with which God's mercy will be acknowledged (ver. 13).

[A PSALM OF ASAPH.]

O GOD, the heathen are come into Thine inheritance;
They have defiled Thy holy temple;
They have made Jerusalem a heap of stones.

1-4. Lament over the terrible calamities which have befallen the nation.

HEATHEN. I have retained in this Psalm the rendering of the E.V. "heathen," because the enemies of Jerusalem are here so designated not merely as consisting of different nations (though the Chaldean army was thus composed), but as profane intruders upon the sacred soil. A religious idea is evidently associated with the use of the word. Elsewhere I have thought it better to keep "nations" uniformly as the rendering of the Hebrew word, Goyim.

THINE INHERITANCE, the holy land and the holy people (comp. lxxiv. 2, lxxvii. 62, 71, holy as the abode of God (as Exod. xv. 17), itself a sanctuary. The same idea of profanation, as connected with foreign conquests, occurs frequently in the Prophets (see Joel iii. [iv.] 17; Nah. i. 15 [ii. 1]; Is. xxxv. 8, lii. 1, and especially, as parallel with this passage, Lam. i. 10).

DEFILED. Although to a pious Jew this defilement would be a thing of not less horror than the destruction of the holy house, still it is remarkable that if the Chaldean invasion be meant, the profanation only, and not the destruction of the Temple (as in lxxiv.) should be lamented.

A HEAP OF STONES, or rather plur. "heaps of stones," "ruins."
Thus was the prophecy of Micah fulfilled, which he uttered in the time of Hezekiah (iii. 12). See also
2 They have given the dead bodies of Thy servants
   To be meat unto the fowls of the heaven,
   The flesh of Thy beloved unto the beasts\(^a\) of the
   earth.

3 They have poured out their blood like water round about
   Jerusalem;
   And there was none to bury\(^b\) (them).

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Jer. xxvi. 18, where the prophecy is quoted. In both passages the same
word is used, and in the E. V. rendered "heaps." It occurs also in
the sing., Mic. i. 6, "I will make
Samaria a heap of the field." The
LXX. have ὅσωροφιοιόκαιον, "a gar-
den-lodge," which is explained by a
scholion of the Cod. Vatic. 754
(quoted by Delitzsch) as λιθολόγιος
τόπος, ὑπὸ τὴν σκηνὴν ἐχεῖ ὁ τάς
ὄψωρας φυλάσσων. The Vulg. in
pomorum custodian, in the same
sense, probably, as Cassiodorus ex-
plains, with reference to Is. i. 8, "as
a lodge in a garden of cucumbers."
Lyra says: "Id est in acervum la-
pidum, custodes enim pomorum
faciunt magnum acervum lapidum,
ut desuper ascendentes videant per
totum pomoerium." But the word
employed in this sense is a different
word. See Hos. xii. 11 [12].

2. That which the Psalmist here
   laments was threatened by Jere-
miah, vii. 33, "And the carcases of
   this people shall be meat for the
   fowls of the heaven and for the
   beasts of the earth," &c. See also
   viii. 2; 22; xv. 3; xvi. 4; xix.
   7; the original passage being Deut.
   xxviii. 26.

   THE BELOVED, Or, "Thy godly
   ones." See on xvi. 10. Vaihinger
   argues that such a designation of
   the people is a proof that the Psalm
   cannot belong to the Chaldean in-
   vasion: for then the nation was
   utterly evil and corrupt. But in I.
   5, the same title is given to the
   whole nation as in covenant with
   God, at the very time when they
   are charged with breaking that
covenant. So Habakkuk, after
   complaining of the corruption of
   his people, and seeing that their
   sins will bring God's judgement
   upon them, still speaks of them as
   "righteous," in contrast with the
   Chaldeans, who are "wicked"
   (Hab. i. 13). So it may be here;
   unless, indeed, the Psalmist is
   thinking rather of "the faithful
   few," the "holy seed," than of the
   many whose sins had called for
   chastisement.

   Some of those who regard this as
   a Maccabean Psalm have seen in
   the word Χασιδίμ an allusion to
   the Ασιδιάοι who were slain by
   Alcimus, 1 Macc. vii.

3. This verse is quoted, but not
   exactly (probably therefore from
   memory), from the version of the
   LXX., in 1 Macc. vii. 16, 17, the
   Greek translator of the First Book
   of the Maccabees, being familiar
   with the Greek Psalter, as Ewald
   has shown (Jahrb. vi. 25). For the
   bearing of this quotation on the age
   of the Psalm see the Introduction.

   THEY HAVE Poured OUT. And
   so again in ver. 10, "which is
   poured out." For it is the same word
   which occurs also in ver. 6, "Pour
   out Thy fury," &c.; and there may
   perhaps be, as Hengstenberg thinks,
   a designed antithesis in the repeti-
   tion of the word. "As they have
   poured out our blood, as do Thou
   pour out upon them Thy fury."

   NONE TO BURY, this being ac-
   cording to the deep-rooted feeling
   of all ancient nations, a great ag-
   gravation of the calamity. Comp.
   Jer. xiv. 16, xxii. 18, 19.
4 We are become a reproach to our neighbours.
   A scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

5 How long, 0 Jehovah, wilt Thou be angry for ever?
   Shall Thy jealousy burn like fire?
6 Pour out Thy fury on the heathen which know Thee not,
   And upon the kingdoms which have not called upon
   Thy Name.
7 For they have devoured c Jacob,
   And laid waste his pasture.
8 Oh remember not against us the iniquities of (our) fore-
   fathers; d

4. With the exception of the first
word, this is an exact repetition of
xliv. 13 [14], where see note. (That
Psalm, as we have seen, may per-
haps be of the Maccabean age )
Comp. also lxxx. 6 [7].

NEIGHBOURS. Such as the
Edomites, for instance (see cxxvii.
7, Lam. iv. 21, 22), if the earlier
date be preferred.

5-7. God may make use of the
heathen as "the rod of His anger,"
wherewith to chasten His people,
but nevertheless, when His purpose
is accomplished, then His wrath
is turned against the oppressor.
Comp. Ps. x. 5, &c. It is in this
conviction that the Psalmist prays,
ver. 6, "Pour out," &c. The
ground of his prayer is not only
that they have not called upon
God's name, but that they have de-
voured Jacob. Hence He asks for
a righteous retribution. Precisely in
the same spirit Habakkuk long be-
fore had said of the Chaldeans: "O
Jehovah, for judgement Thou hast
ordained them, and, 0 Thou Rock,
for correction Thou hast appointed
them" (i. 12); and then, after pour-
traying the work of judgement
wrought by that "bitter and hasty
nation," he tells of "the parable"
and "taunting proverb" which shall
greet their utter overthrow (ii. 6,
&c.). The same law of righteous
retribution is frequently recognised

by the Prophets. See for instance
Is. x. 12, 24—26, and elsewhere.

5. FOR EVER. On this, as joined
with the question, see on xiii. 2.
LIKE FIRE. Comp. lxxxiii. 21, and
the original passage, Deut. xxxii.
22.

6. This verse and the next are
repeated with slight variation in
Jer. x. 25. As to the question
whether the Psalmist borrowed
from the Prophet, or the Prophet
from the Psalmist, see Introduc-
tion.

7. PASTURE; or, "habitation of
shepherds." Such is the proper
meaning of the word (not sanctuary,
as the Chald.—but see 2 Sam. xv.
xxv. 13 (where " His holy pasture"
may = "His holy border," lxxxiii.
54); Jer. xxv. 30. The figure is
thus suggested, which is afterwards
more fully expressed in ver. 13,
where, however, the word rendered
"pasture" is a different one in the
Hebrew. It is a favourite image
in all this group of Psalms. See

8. AGAINST US, lit. "with respect
to us," i.e. so that we should thereby
suffer. Daniel ix. 16 combines in
some measure the language of this
verse and ver. 4. The Prophet
confesses that Jerusalem and his
people have become "a reproach
unto all that are round about," not
PSALM LXXIX.

Let Thy tender mercies speedily come to meet us,
For we are brought very low.
9 Help us, 0 God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy Name,
Yea, deliver us, and cover our sins for Thy Name's sake.
10 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God?
Let there be made known among the heathen in our sight

only because of their own sins, but for "the iniquities of their fathers."
This heritage of sin and its curse in indeed fully recognised in Holy Scripture. God Himself publishes it in the Law (Ex. xx. 5, comp. xxxiv. 7). See also Lam. v. 7, and 2 Kings xxiii. 26. Hengstenberg, Delitzsch, and Hupfeld are all at pains to argue that the iniquities of the fathers are not visited upon the children, except when the children themselves are guilty. In proof, they appeal to Deut. xxv. 16, 2 Kings xiv. 6, Ezek. xviii. 20. But only the last of these passages is in point; the other two, the latter of which is merely a quotation from the former, only lay down the rule by which human tribunals are to be bound. Fully to discuss this question in a note would be quite impossible; it would require a volume. I will only remark, (1) That as a simple matter of fact, the innocent do suffer for the guilty. Children receive from their parents their moral and physical constitution, and both the taint and the chastisement of sin are transmitted. To this Scripture and experience alike bear witness. (2) That there is a mysterious oneness of being, a kind of perpetual existence which manifests itself in every family and every nation. Each generation is what all previous generations have been tending to make it. The stream of evil gathers and bears along an ever-increasing mass of corruption; so that upon the last generation comes the accumulated load of all that went before (Matt. xxiii. 35). But (3) Scripture nowhere teaches that a man is guilty in the sight of God for any sins but his own. Sinning himself, he allows the deeds of his fathers; he is a partaker in their iniquities; he helps to swell the fearful catalogue of guilt which at last brings down God's judgement; but his condemnation, if he be condemned, is for his own transgression, not for those of his fathers.

COME TO MEET. E. V. "prevent " God's mercy must anticipate, come to meet man's necessity.

9. Twice the appeal is made "for Thy Name's sake; "that revelation of God which He had made of Himself to Moses, when he passed by and proclaimed the Name of Jehovah. Ex. xxxiv. 6, 7. Comp. PS. xx. 1 [2], xxii. 3, xxix. 2.
COVER, or, "make atonement for," and so "forgive," as the word is commonly rendered. See xxxii. 1. The sins have provoked God's wrath, and from that wrath He only can hide them.

10. The first clause of the verse is borrowed nearly word for word from Joel ii. 17, and this Hengstenberg thinks rests on Ex. xxxii. 12, Num. xiv. 15, 16, Deut. ix. 28. It is repeated cxv. 2.

HEATHEN. See on ver. 1.

IN OUR SIGHT, lit. "before our eyes." There can hardly be an allusion to Deut. vi. 22, as has been supposed. The expression suggests a feeling of joy and satisfaction in beholding the righteous judgement of God. Comp. lii. 6 [8], and note there.
The revenging of the blood of Thy servants which is poured out.

11. Let the sighing of the prisoner come before Thee, According to the greatness of Thy power spare Thou those that are appointed unto death,

12 And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom Their reproach wherewith they have reproached Thee, 0 Lord.

13 So we Thy people and the sheep of Thy pasture will give thanks unto Thee for ever; To all generations we will tell forth Thy praise.


11. THE SIGHING OF THE PRISONER and THOSE THAT ARE APPOINTED UNTO DEATH (Heb. "the sons of death"), are expressions found again in cii. 20 [21], a Psalm written, there can be no doubt during the Exile. By "the prisoner" must be meant, if this Psalm refers to the same time, the whole nation, whose captivity in Babylon, as well as their bondage in Egypt, is regarded as an imprisonment. If, on the other hand, the Psalm is Maccabean, the allusion will be to those who were carried captive by Antiochus Epiphanes.


12. UNTO OUR NEIGHBOURS. Because their scorn was more intolerable, and also more inexcusable, than the oppression of distant enemies. Comp. ver. 4. SEVENFOLD as in Gen. iv. 15, 24. INTO THEIR BOSOM. Comp. Is. lxv. 7, Jer. xxxii, 18.

a יְתִינְפָּה. On this form see I. note े, cxiii. note े, cxiv. note े.

b יְרִבְּלָה. In Jer. xiv. 16 the same expression occurs, but there the verb is in the Pie], and is followed by ה. Gesen. (Thes. in v.) says that the Qal is used of the burial of one (except Ez. xxxix. 12), and the Piel of many. But here the Qal is used of many.

c יְאִבְלָה. It seems unnecessary to suppose, with Ewald, Hupf., and others, that the sing. is here written by mistake for the plur., although sixteen of Kennicott's MSS., and nine of De Rossi's have the latter, and it is also found in the parall. passage, Jer. x. 25. The use of the sing. has been explained by supposing (I) that the Psalmist had some particular enemy before his eyes: but the objection to this is that he immediately returns to the plur. Or (2), as Delitzsch, that the great world-monarchy is here regarded as one mass, subject to one despotic will. But it may be merely the impersonal use of the verb, lit. "one hath devoured," (see on lvii, note े) with which the plur. might readily alternate. See the same interchange of sing and plur. Is. xvii. 13, xxii. 7, 8.
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PSALM LXXX.

ד נַחַיִם. This might be an adj. qualifying זָנוֹת, "former sins," the masc. instead of the fem., as in Is. lix. 2, זָנוֹת בֵּית יִוָה, and it is so taken by the ancient Verss. But it is better to regard י as in construction with just as we have in Lev. xxvi. 45, יָרֵם רֵאָת, "covenant with the fathers." So here, "sins of the fathers," lit. "of those who were at the first, or, were before us." We have the full expression in Jer. xi. 10, יִשְׂרָאֵל. "the iniquities of their fathers who were at the first."

Comp. Ex. xx. 5, Lev. xxvi. 39.

א הָנָךְ. Masc. verb with fem. noun following, as often. (See Ges. § 144.) From overlooking this came the wrong rendering of the A. V. The P. B. V. is correct.

PSALM LXXX.

As in the case of most of the historical Psalms, so in the case of this, it is impossible to say with certainty at what period it was written. The allusions are never sufficiently definite to lead to any positive conclusion. It is not a little remarkable that even the mention of the tribes in ver. 2, so far from being a help, has rather been a hindrance to interpretation. The prayer which recurs so often, ver. 3, 7, 14, 19, would seem to imply that the people were in exile; but it may be a prayer, not for restoration to their land, but only for restoration to prosperity, the verb "turn us again" being capable of either explanation. All that is certain is, that the time was a time of great disaster, that the nation was trampled down under the foot of foreign invaders. The Poet turns to God with the earnest and repeated prayer for deliverance, and bases his appeal on the past. God had brought a vine out of Egypt and planted it in Canaan. How could He give up that vine to be devastated by the wild beasts? Will He not appear at the head of the armies of Israel, as once He went before her sons in the desert with a pillar of fire? Will He not, as of old, lift up the light of his countenance upon them?

The mention of the three tribes, "Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh," may, perhaps, denote that this is a Psalm, for the northern kingdom. Some have supposed it to have been a prayer of the Ten Tribes in their captivity in Assyria, and it has been conjectured that the Inscription of the LXX., ὑπέρ τοῦ Ἀσσυρίου, is to be taken in this sense. Calvin, on the other hand, thinks that it is a prayer for the Ten Tribes, by a poet of the southern kingdom.*

* See Introduction to Psalm lxxxv.
He reminds us that even after the disruption prophets were sent from Judah to Israel, and that Amos (vi. 6) rebukes those in Judah who do not "grieve for the wound of Joseph." That Benjamin cannot be mentioned as the representative of the southern kingdom, and Ephraim and Manasseh of the northern, is perfectly clear. Had the object been to describe the nation by its two principal divisions, Judah would have been mentioned, and not Benjamin. It is quite true that Benjamin remained steadfast in its allegiance to the house of Solomon when Jeroboam revolted (see I Kings xii. 21), and also that Jerusalem, the capital of the southern kingdom stood partly in the borders of Benjamin; but neither the one circumstance nor the other would account for the mention of Benjamin instead of Judah; still less can the insertion of Benjamin between Ephraim and Manasseh be explained on this hypothesis. Hengstenberg attempts to argue that Benjamin really belonged to the Ten Tribes, because Ahijah only promises to Rehoboam one tribe (I Kings xi. 18, 32, 36); but as the Prophet at the same time divides his mantle into twelve parts, and gives Jeroboam ten, he thus leaves two for Rehoboam: one of these Rehoboam is supposed to have already, and hence Ahijah only offers to give him one more. Still, in the course of time a portion of Benjamin may have become incorporated into the northern kingdom. The children of Rachel, Joseph (= Ephraim and Manasseh), and Benjamin, would naturally be drawn together. Benjamin, the tribe of Saul and Ishbosheth, and at one time the leading tribe, would not readily submit to the supremacy of Judah; a jealousy existed which was not extinguished in David's reign (2 Sam. xix., xx., xxi.), and which may have been revived later. It is, moreover, in favour of this view, that in the previous verse Joseph is mentioned, and not Judah; and hence the whole Psalm refers, apparently, only to the kingdom of Israel.

Hupfeld, however, argues that the designations here made use of are intended to describe the whole nation, and not a particular portion of it. He observes (a) that the use of the first person plural in ver. 2, 3 [3, 4], shows that the whole nation is meant (an argument which is of no force, if the Psalm was written by a native of the northern kingdom); (b) that, as regards the mention of Joseph, this is only what we find in lxxxi. 4, 5 [5, 6], where Israel and Joseph denote the whole nation, and in lxxvii. 15 [16], where Jacob and Joseph are employed in the same way, and in both passages with reference to the Mosaic times. So again in Obad. 18, "the house of Joseph" is mentioned with "the house of Jacob," in opposition to "the house of Esau," Jacob's brother. This remarkable usage of later writers has received different explanations. Rashi accounts for
it by Joseph's position in Egypt as a second father and protector of the nation; Qimchi, by the blessing pronounced on Ephraim and Manasseh, Gen. xlviii. 16, and by the statement in I Chron. v. i, that "the birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel." Others again suppose that Joseph is mentioned, because, as being pre-eminent above all his brethren, he might be regarded as a fourth patriarch, and Benjamin, because he was a son of the same mother. Hupfeld admits that the phenomenon may be partially explained on these grounds, but sees in this prominence given to the northern tribes by the poet of Judah (for such he holds the writer of the Psalm to be) a hope implied of the re-union and restoration of all the tribes. After the dispersion of the Ten Tribes, and when calamities fell heavy upon the two, the old animosities were forgotten, and the one desire of Prophets and Psalmists was to see the breach healed, and the ancient unity restored. Hence the use of the Catholic names "Israel" and "Jacob," and hence, also, the mention of "Joseph," the best-beloved son of Jacob, even when Judah only was left.*

But it is strange that Hupfeld entirely passes over, without remark, that particular association of the three tribes which most favours his view. In the journey through the wilderness these three tribes were ranged side by side, and in the order of march followed immediately behind the Ark (Num. ii. 17-24). This explains their mention in the Psalm. The prayer of the Psalmist is, that God would again lead His people, again go forth at the head of their armies as He did of old. All the allusions in the Psalm favour this interpretation. God is addressed as the Shepherd of Israel who led Joseph "like a flock," with manifest reference to the journeys through the wilderness (see lxxvii. 20 [21]). The petition is, that He who "is throned above the Cherubim would shine forth." Here the allusion is to the Ark, and the manifestations of the Divine glory. Then naturally comes the mention of those tribes whose position was directly behind the Ark. Hence the whole prayer may be regarded as a prayer for national restoration, and for the same Divine succour which had been so signally vouchsafed to their fathers in the wilderness.

Still, whilst on this ground I am disposed to believe that the whole nation is the object of the Psalmist's hopes and prayer, I am also inclined to think that the prominence given to Joseph and Benjamin may best be accounted for by supposing that the Psalmist was either

* Hupfeld appeals, in support of his view, to such passages as Hos. i. 10, 11 [ii. 1, 2]; iii. 5; Am. ix. 8-11; Is. xi. 11-13; Jer. xxx. xxxi. (where there is a transition from "Jacob," chap. xxx. to "Israel and Ephraim," chap. xxxii.); Ezek. xxxvii. 15-28; Zech. x. 6; comp. Ps. lx. 7 [9]; lxviii. 26, 27 [27, 28].
a native of the northern kingdom, or that he had some strong sympathy with his brethren in Israel. In the 77th, 78th, and 81st Psalms, we meet with a similar peculiarity in the form of the national designation, and in all it may indicate some special relation on the part of the writer to the kingdom of Israel.

The strophical division of the Psalm is marked by the refrain, ver. 3, 7, 19, with a variation of it in ver. 14. The strophes are thus of very unequal length. The first has three verses; the second four; the third twelve; though this last, again, is partially broken by the imperfect refrain in ver. 14. The first two of these strophes are, in fact, introductory, containing the cry for help, and the lamentation over disaster. The third constitutes the principal part of the Psalm, where, under the figure of a vine, the history of Israel is portrayed. In the refrain we have even more emphatically repeated the burden of the Psalmist's prayer, the emphasis being each time deepened by the name given to God; first, "God;" then, "God of Hosts;" lastly, "Jehovah, God of Hosts."

[FOR THE PRECENTOR. ACCORDING TO "THE LILIES—A TESTIMONY."

A PSALM OF ASAPH.]

1 0 THOU Shepherd of Israel, give ear,
Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock;
Thou that sittest (throned above) the Cherubim,
shine forth.

2 Before Ephraim, and Benjamin, and Manasseh,
Stir up Thy might and come to save us.

| I. SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL. On the figure as common to this group of Psalms, bearing the name of Asaph, see on lxviii. 52. There is an allusion to Gen. xlviii. 15, "the God who was my Shepherd" [E.V. "who fed me"], and xlix. 24. In both passages Jacob blesses Joseph and his sons. So here it follows: "Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock." |
| (THRONED ABOVE) THE CHERUBIM: as in xcix. 1. Comp. xxii. 3 [4], "throned above the praises of Israel," where see note. The expression denotes the dwelling of God in His temple and the manifestation of His presence there, as is evident from the verb following. |
| SHINE FORTH, appear in all Thy Glory and Majesty for our help. |
| See 1. 2, where the same word is used of God's coming forth from His Sanctuary in Zion to execute judgement. |
| 2. To SAVE US. Heb. "for our salvation."

BEFORE EPHRAIM, &c. The three tribes are mentioned together with reference to the position which they occupied in the march through the wilderness, where they followed in the order of procession immediately behind the Ark. See Num.
3 0 God, turn us again,
And show the light of Thy countenance, that we may be saved.

4 0 Jehovah, God (of) hosts,
How long wilt Thou be angry with Thy people that prayeth?

ii. 17-24. [The prep. "before" is used thus of the order in processions. See 2 Sam. iii. 31, Job xxi. 33.] This falls in with the language of the previous verse, "Thou that sittest throned above the Cherubim, shine forth. So Lyra: "Hoc dicitur quia istae tres tribus figeant ten toria ad occidentalem plagam tabernaculi. In parte vero occidentali tabernaculi erat sanctum sanctorum, ubi erat propitiatorium, in quo dabantur divina responsa." It is strange how completely this fact, which is the obvious explanation of the mention of these three tribes together, has been overlooked by nearly all the recent German interpreters. Bear this in mind, and it becomes evident that, whatever the national disaster here deplored, the prayer is, that these tribes may be restored to their ancient position, united as of old, and as of old led by God Himself, with the visible symbols of His Presence.

3. TURN US AGAIN, or "restore us," either from the Exile (as the Chald.), supposing the Psalm to have been written after the captivity of the Ten Tribes; or in the more general sense of recovery from disaster, as in lx. 1 [3].

SHOW THE LIGHT OF THY COUNTENANCE. Again an allusion to the history of the people in the wilderness, Num. vi. 25. See on lxvi. 1 [2], iv. 6 [7].

4. GOD (OF) HOSTS: see on lix. 5 [6]. On this repetition of the Divine Names Hengstenberg remarks: "In prayer all depends upon God, in the full glory of His being, walking before the soul. It is only into the bosom of such a God that it is worth while to pour out lamentations and prayer. 'Jehovah,' corresponding to the 'Shepherd of Israel,' ver. 1, points to the fulness of the love of God toward His people: and 'God, (God of) Hosts,' corresponding to 'throned above the Cherubim,' to His infinite power to help them."

HOW LONG WILT THOU BE ANGRY, &c., lit. "How long hast Thou smoked." The preterite after the interrogative in this sense is unusual. But the full form of expression would be, "how long hast Thou been . . . and wilt continue to be . . . angry." Comp. Ex. x. 3, xvi. 28. This use of the verb "to smoke," said of a person, is also without parallel. The usual phrase would be, "will Thine anger smoke." Comp. lxiv. I, xviii. 8 [9] (where see note); Deut. xxix. 20 [Heb. 19]. But the figure is bolder here than in the other passages, as it is applied immediately to God Himself. Such figures, remarks Delitzsch, would be impossible, were not the power of the Divine wrath to be regarded as belonging essentially to the very nature of the Divine Being. God, who is Light and Love, is also "a consuming fire."

WITH THY PEOPLE THAT PRAYETH, lit. "in (i.e. during, or it may be, notwithstanding,) the prayer of Thy people: "(Jerome ad orationem), not as the E.V., Hengst. and others, "against the prayer of Thy people: "for that is not the object of God's displeasure. That which seems so mysterious, that which calls for the expostulation and the entreaty is, that even whilst they pray, in spite of that prayer, God's wrath is hot against them. Some
5 Thou hast fed them with tears as bread,\textsuperscript{b}
   And hast made them to drink of tears in large
   measure.\textsuperscript{c}

6 Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbours,
   And our enemies mock (us) at their pleasure.

7 0 God (of) hosts, turn us again,
   And show the light of Thy countenance, that we may
   be saved.

8 Thou broughtest \textsuperscript{d} a vine out of Egypt,
   Thou didst drive out the nations and plant it;
9 Thou madest room before it,
   And when it had taken root, it filled the land:

have seen here an implied opposi-
tion between the smoking of God's
wrath, and the prayer which ascends
like the smoke of incense (see cxli.
2, Rev. v. 8, viii. 3). But this seems fanciful.

6. A STRIFE, \textit{i.e.} not an object of
   contention amongst themselves, but
   rather an object which they vied
   with one another in assailing.

   UNTO OUR NEIGHBOURS, not the
great powers, such as the Assyrians,
Chaldeans, and Egyptians, but the
petty states which bordered on
Judea, who were always ready to
exult over every misfortune that
befel the Israelites. Comp. lxxix.
12.

   AT THEIR PLEASURE, lit. "for
themselves," \textit{i.e.} for their own satis-
faction, the pronoun being used to
mark the reflex nature of the action,
as for instance in Is. xxxi. 9. It
cannot mean "among themselves,"
as E.V., nor is this the indirect use
of the pronoun for the direct, as in
lxiv. 5 [6].

8. THOU BROUGHTEST OUT, Or,
   "transplantedst." The word is
   used of rooting up a tree out of its
soil, Job xix. 10. And so here. (In
lxxviii. 52 it is applied to the people
in the literal sense of "making to
depart.") Delitzsch quotes from
Shemoth Rabbah, c. 44. "When cul-
tivators wish to improve a vine,
what do they do? They root it up
out of its place, and transplant it to
another." See also Vayyikra Rabbah,
c. 36.

   A VINE. The same comparison
   is found in other passages: Is. v.
1-7; xxvii. 2-6; Jer. ii. 21; xii.
10; Ezek. xvii. 5-10. In some of
these passages the figure of a vine-
yard is mixed with that of the vine,
and such is partly the case here:
see ver. 12. That there is a refer-
ence to the blessing of Joseph (see
above on ver. 1) can hardly be
doubted. Observe especially the
word "son," ver. 15 (E.V. "bough")
compared with Gen. xlix. 22,
"Joseph is a fruitful son," (E.V. "a
fruitful bough"). Cassiodorus, re-
marking on the aptness of the figure,
says: "Vinea ecclesiae aptissime
comparatur. Quoniam sicut illa
inter folia caduca necessarios infert
fructus, sic et ista inter umbra-
turbarum peccantium ornatur fruge
sanctorum; qui seculi hujus afflic-
tione tanquam torcularibus pressi
saporem norunt emanare dulcissi-
um."

   THOU DIDST DRIVE OUT, &C.
Comp. xlv. 2 [3].

9. MADEST ROOM, by destroy-
ing the Canaanites, as the soil is
prepared for planting, by "gather-
10 The mountains were covered with the shadow of it,
And the boughs thereof were (like) the cedars of God.
11 She sent out her branches unto the sea,
And her young shoots unto the river.

12 Why hast Thou broken down her hedges,
So that all they which pass by the way do pluck her?
13 The boar out of the wood doth root it up,
And the wild beasts of the field devour it.
14 0 God (of) hosts, turn again, we beseech Thee,
Look down from heaven, and see,
And visit this vine;
15 And protect that which Thy right hand hath planted,
And the son whom Thou madest strong for Thyself.

16 It is burnt with fire, it is cut down;
They perish at the rebuke of Thy countenance.
17 Let Thy hand be over the man of Thy right hand,
Over the son of man whom Thou madest strong for Thyself:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a noun, &quot;the vineyard;&quot; and so the P.B.V. &quot;the place of the vineyard.&quot; Others, &quot;stock&quot; or &quot;stem.&quot; But it may be a verb, as the LXX. have rendered it. See more in the Critical Note.</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>THE SON. Ewald and others render, &quot;the branch,&quot; or &quot;shoot,&quot; referring to Gen. xlix. 22, where the word no doubt occurs in this sense (see above on ver. 8), a sense which would be very suitable here with reference to the figure of the vine. But the expressions in ver. 17, &quot;son of man,&quot; &quot;son of Thy right hand,&quot; seem rather to indicate that here, too, the figure is dropt. The ambiguous word may, however, have been chosen designedly, the more readily to connect the figure with what follows. THE SON evidently means the nation of Israel, as in Ex. iv. 22; Hos. xi. 1.</td>
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<td>THOU MADEST STRONG, i.e.whom Thou didst carefully, rear till he reached maturity. Comp. Is. lxiv. 14, where the same word is used of a tree. See also lxxxix. 21 [22], and similar expressions in Is. i. 2, xiii. 4.</td>
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<td>16. IT IS CUT DOWN. The word occurs again only in Is. xxxiii. 12, of thorns cut down that they may be burned. In this verse the lamentation over the present condition of the nation is resumed. In the first clause the figure of the vine reappears; in the second there is an abrupt transition to the nation of whom the vine is the figure. Hence Schroder conjectured that this verse ought to follow ver. 13, and this is approved by Hupfeld, for then, he says: (1) the second member, which now refers awkwardly to the Israelites, might refer to the &quot;boar&quot; and &quot;the wild beasts,&quot; and be rendered as the expression of a wish. &quot;Let them perish,&quot; &amp;c.; and (2) the latter portion of the Psalm, from ver. 8, would thus consist of three equal strophes of four verses each. He takes ver. 14 as a variation of the refrain in ver. 3, 7, and as the conclusion of a strophe.</td>
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<td>17. MAN OF THY RIGHT HAND. This has been explained (1) &quot;one whom Thy right hand protects,&quot; one who is the object of Thy special care and love; or (2) &quot;one whom Thou hast won for Thyself by Thy right hand&quot; (in allusion to God's putting forth His power on behalf of Israel); or (3) with reference to ver. 15, one whom God's right hand planted. This last is perhaps best, as thus the two clauses of ver. 7 answer to the two of ver. 15. Israel has been both planted and made strong by God, and on both grounds asks God's protecting care. Some see in this title, together with that of &quot;son of man&quot; in the next clause, a designation of the Messiah, who in the same sense is said, in cx. 1, 5, to sit on the right hand of God. [Hupfeld, in mentioning this view, quotes xvi. 8, cxxi. 5, as parallels, but in those places God is said to be on the right hand of David and of Israel, i.e. to protect them, whereas the Messiah is said to be on the right hand of God, as Himself invested with kingly dignity.] But the obvious relation of this verse to ver. 17 rather leads to the conclusion that the nation of Israel, the vine spoken of before, is meant. And so Calvin understands it.</td>
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PSALM LXXX.

18 So will we not go back from Thee: Do Thou quicken us, and we will call upon Thy Name.

19 Jehovah, God (of) hosts, turn us again, Show the light of Thy countenance, that we may be saved.

18. The first clause of this verse may perhaps be connected with the previous verse, and be rendered, "and who (i.e. the son of man) hath not gone back from Thee." See Critical Note.

SO WILL WE NOT, &c. Cassiodorus says: "Quae enim semel mente concepimus cordis oculis jugiter intuemur. Quae autem sit utilitas ab ipso non discedere consequenter exponitur; cum dicietur, vivificabis nos." And on these last words Augustine, "ut tecum non terrae amemus in quibus prius mortui eramus."

QUICKEN US, i.e. restore us to a new life. Comp. lxxi. 20; lxxxv. 6 [7].

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a See notes on the Inscriptions of xlv., lx., lxix.

b On the construction of this clause, see note on lx., note c, Vol. I., p. 476. In the next clause the construction is apparently changed. Properly speaking, the verb πηγήν takes a double accus. (of the person and the thing), whereas here we have the prep. παρά instead of the second accus., "Thou makest them to drink of (παρά lit. with) tears." As there is no other instance of such a construction, Hengst. takes ψήφις as the second accus. and renders, "Thou makest them to drink a measure consisting of tears;" the measure, he says, is the thing given them to drink; "of tears," denotes the contents of the measure. But the former construction is the most simple and obvious, in spite of the absence of an exact parallel, and so apparently the LXX.: τοτε τοις ημῶς ἐν δάκρυσιν ἐν μέτρῳ. Sym. ἐπότισας ημᾶς μετὰ δακρύων μέτρῳ.

c ψήφις. The word (which only occurs again Is. xl. 12) means, evidently, a vessel of a particular size for measuring liquids: lit. "a third," i.e. of course of some larger measure, as we say a quart. Comp. the Latin tridental. Jerome renders tripliciter, "in threefold degree," a definite for an indefinite number. The Chald. "(Thou hast made us drink) wine, two-thirds of which consists of tears." But Hupfeld argues that the word denotes not a measure of large size, but one of the usual size, such as would commonly be used for the purpose of drinking. He explains it thus: "Thou hast made them drink of tears as in (or from) a cup (the accus. describing the manner of an action), as wine is commonly drunk from a cup." Hence the phrase would signify that tears were their daily portion (see xlii. 4). Bunsen accepting this says, the idea of abundance can only be derived from the contrast between the tears falling drop by drop, and the cup full of tears.

d ψήφις. It seems impossible to render this except as a past, though Ewald and Olsh. adopt the present. Hupfeld merely remarks, that in the
passage beginning here, "the earlier acts of God are described partly in perfects, partly in imperfects, with or without Vau conv., as in lxxviii." But he overlooks the peculiarity here, which is, that the tense is used as an imperf., without any perfect tense having preceded. In lxxviii. 9, on the other hand, where the Psalmist begins his narrative of the past, he uses first the preterite, then the fut. with Vau consec., and then the simple fut. as the aor. or imperf., describing past action. And this is undoubtedly the rule. See xviii. 5 (pret.), 7 (fut.), and then a frequent interchange throughout the Psalm. In fact, so regular is this usage, that Delitzsch makes the use of אֲבָדֵת, in Habak. iii. 3 a reason for concluding that the Prophet cannot be speaking of the past: otherwise, he argues, a pret. must have preceded. The fact that the vision opens with the fut. tense compels us to regard the Theophany as relating, not to the past (though its images are borrowed from the past), but to the future, or rather the vision itself is present to the Prophet's eye—"God cometh," &c.—whilst it portray's the future. The occurrence, however, of the fut. (imperf.) in this Psalm at the beginning of a past narrative seems to show that such an argument as that of Delitzsch is not of itself convincing; though he is, I believe, right in thinking that Habakkuk's vision regards the future, not the past.

אֲוָיָה. The suspended אֲוָיָה has had all kinds of fanciful meanings attached to it by the Rabbinical writers: the seventy years of the Babylonish captivity, the hanging of the Messiah on a tree; or, according to the Talmud, the middle letter of the Psalms, as similarly a large letter denotes the middle letter of the Pentateuch, &c.

אֵלָל. This has been taken (I) as a noun in the sense of "plant" (Chald., Syr., Ibn Ez., Qimchi, Jerome, radicem) or "vineyard" (E. V.), Chald. אָדַרְנָה, in which case the whole of ver. 16 depends on the verb רֹפֵא, which is thus construed first with the accus., and then with the prep. But it is better, perhaps, to take the word as a verb in the imperat. So the LXX. κατάρπισον, as if it were = אֲוָיָה, from יִבְּר. There can be little doubt, however, that J. D. Mich. is right in deriving it from a root כָּכְר (allied to כָּכָה, to hedge about, to protect, and the Arab. ), construed with יִכְּר, as verbs of "covering" commonly are. There is still a difficulty about the vocalization. The proper form of the imperat. Qal with כָּכְר para-gogic would be כָּכְר. But we have orah for orrah, Num. xxxii. 6, and we find a instead of o in verbs יִכְּר, as יֵכְּר cxix. 22. כָּכְר, therefore, is of the same form as יֵכְּר, with כָּכְר paragog.

g כָּכְר. This is usually taken as fut. Qal t plur. with the vowel o instead of u. Hupf. objects to this (though so slight a variation of the vowel need not trouble us), and alleges, further, that the verb never occurs in the Qal except in the part. liii. 4, Prov. xiv. 14. He contends, therefore, that it is perf. Niph. 3 sing., and that the first clause of this verse must be joined closely with what precedes, as a kind of further relative clause, "the son of man (whom) Thou madest so strong for Thyself, and (who) hath not gone back from Thee."
THIS Psalm was apparently intended to be sung at one or more of the great national Festivals. There has, however, been much difference of opinion as to the particular Festival or Festivals for which it was originally composed.

I. The Jewish interpretation is, for the most part, in favour of the Feast of Trumpets at the New Year. According to the Targum, the Talmud (see especially Babli Rosh hash-Shana), the Midrash, and the Book Zohar, this is a New Year's Psalm. It was to be sung, as it still is, in the Synagogue, on the first day of the month Tishri, the new moon which, beyond all others, was celebrated by the blowing of cornets. But this view can only be maintained by giving to the word Keseh, in ver. 3 [4], the meaning, not of "the full moon," but either of "the new moon," or, more generally, of "an appointed time."

2. Others are of opinion that there is no allusion to the new moon, and that the Festival intended must be one celebrated at the full moon, and therefore either the Feast of Tabernacles or the Passover.

3. According to De Wette, Hengstenberg, and others, this Psalm was intended to be sung at the Passover. Hengstenberg's main argument rests upon the language of ver. 5, where the feast is described as one which was instituted at the time of the Exodus, and as appears in verses 6-10, instituted with special reference to that event. He contends, accordingly, that the word chodesh, in ver. 3, must be rendered, not "new moon," but "month"—"Blow the cornet in the month," that month which is emphatically the first and chief in the year, the month in which the Passover occurred. Comp. Exod. xii. i, 2, "And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, this month shall be to you the chief of months, it shall be the first month of the year to you," "In the full moon," of the second clause, defines exactly the time in the sacred month in which the Festival fell. Just as it is said in Levit. xxiii. 5, "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, is the passover of the Lord," so here the note of time is the same: "in the month . . . . on the full moon." "Month," says Hengstenberg, and not "new moon," is the meaning of the word throughout the Pentateuch. But all festivals, indeed all holy convocations, were regarded as memorials of the deliverance out of Egypt. And the tradition of the Second Temple makes this a New Year's Psalm.
4. A fourth view, and that which is now maintained by some of the most eminent critics (Ewald, Delitzsch, and Hupfeld), combines the first and second interpretations; for it supposes that the exhortation of the Psalm refers both to the Feast of Trumpets on the first of the month, and to the Feast of Tabernacles, which lasted from the fifteenth to the twenty-first or twenty-second. This would explain the mention both of "the new moon" and of "the full moon," both marking important Festivals, and Festivals occurring in the same month. Both would be kept with loud expressions of joy. The blowing of cornets, and the apparatus of musical instruments, by which the first is to be announced, were apparently not usual at the Passover, whereas they would be perfectly in keeping with so joyous an occasion as the Feast of Tabernacles. The music in Hezekiah's celebration of the Passover (2 Chron. xxx. 21, &c.), to which Hengstenberg refers, may have been exceptional. The peculiar circumstances under which the Feast was then kept, and the great joy which it called forth, would sufficiently account for this mode of celebration, but there is no hint given that musical instruments were employed, as the Passover was originally observed; and the general character of the Feast is against such a supposition.* On the other hand, the direction, in Num. x. 10, that the trumpets should be blown "in the day of your gladness and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months," may be taken as evidence that on all Festivals and therefore on the Passover, music accompanied the observance of the Feast. It is, however, a further evidence that the Feast of Tabernacles is meant, that it is styled so emphatically "our feast." See note on ver. 4.

On the relation of the two Festivals which, on this supposition, are combined, more will be found in the note on that verse.

Ewald observes that there is so much resemblance between this Psalm and Psalms lxxvii. and xcv. that, but for certain peculiarities by which this is marked, all might be assigned to the same author. And Delitzsch thinks that Psalm lxxxi. "unites the lyric element of Psalm lxxvii. with the didactic element of Psalm lxxviii." "All these three Psalms," he observes," have the same character: all end in the same abrupt manner. The author rises to the height of his subject, and then suddenly drops it. Again, in lxxvii. the nation is spoken of as 'the sons of Jacob and Joseph,' in lxxviii. as 'the sons of Ephraim,' and here simply as 'Joseph.' Like lxxix., this Psalm rests upon the history of the Pentateuch, upon Exodus and Deuteronomy."

* Hence Tholuck conjectures that this Psalm was composed for Hezekiah's celebration.
Properly speaking there are no strophical divisions. The Psalm consists of two parts:--

I. In the first the Psalmist summons his nation to the Festival, bidding them keep it with loud music and song, and every utterance of joy, because it was ordained of God, and instituted under circumstances worthy of everlasting remembrance. Ver. 1-5.

II. In the next he abruptly drops his own words. What those circumstances were, what the meaning of God's revelation then given, the people had forgotten; and it is for him, in his character of Prophet, as well as Poet, to declare. It is for him to show how that voice from the past had its lesson also for the present; how every festival was God's witness to Himself, how it repeated afresh, as it were, in clear and audible accents, the great facts of that history, the moral of which was ever old and yet ever new. But the Psalmist conveys this instruction with the more imposing solemnity, when, suddenly breaking off his exhortation, he leaves God Himself to speak.

It is no more the ambassador, it is the Sovereign who appears in the midst of His people, to remind them of past benefits, to claim their obedience on the ground of those benefits, and to promise the utmost bounties of grace, on the condition of obedience, for the future. Ver. 6-16.

There could be no grander conception of the true significance of the religious feasts of the nation than this. They are so many memorials of God's love and power, so many monuments set up to testify at once of His goodness, and of Israel's ingratitude and perverseness, so many solemn occasions on which he comes as King and Father to visit them, to rekindle anew their loyalty and their affection, and to scatter amongst them the treasures of His bounty. To give this interpretation to the Festivals, to put in its true light the national joy at their celebration, appears to have been the object of the Psalmist. If so, it is a matter of secondary importance what particular Festival or Festivals were chiefly before his eye.

[FOR THE PRECENTOR. UPON THE. GITTITH.\(^a\) (A PSALM) OF ASAPH.]

I SING joyfully unto God our strength,
Shout aloud unto the God of Jacob.

| Ver. 1-5. The Festivals are to be kept with the loudest expressions of joy and thanksgiving, as Israel's special privilege, as instituted by God Himself, and as a great memorial of His redemption. | 1. SHOUT ALOUD. There may be (as Delitzsch suggests) an allusion in this verb to the expression in Num. xxix. 1, where the noun employed is from the same root (rendered in the E.V., "it is a day |
2 Raise a song, and bring hither the timbrel,  
The pleasant harp with the lute.  
3 Blow the cornet in the new moon,  
At the full moon, on our (solemn) feast.

| of blowing the trumpets." On the  |
| first day of the seventh month  |
| (Tishri) two silver trumpets (at a  |
| later period 120, see 2 Chron. v. 12)  |
| were to be blown.  |

2. RAISE A SONG, &c., or "take music" (the noun is used both of  
the human voice and of instrumental music), "and strike the timbrel."  
See Critical Note.

3. THE CORNET. "The shophar is especially remarkable as being  
the only Hebrew instrument which has been preserved to the present  
day in the religious services of the Jews. It is still blown, as in time  
of old, at the Jewish new year's festival, according to the command  
of Moses (Num. xxix. 1)." (Engel, Hist. of Music, p. 292.) These in-
struments are commonly made of rams' horns; they differ somewhat  
in shape, some being much more curved than others, and the tube  
not being round but flattened. Engel mentions one in the Great  
Synagogue in London, which has this verse of the Psalm inscribed on  
it. He also quotes David Levi  
(Rites and Ceremonies of the Jews),  
as saying that the trumpet is made  
of a ram's horn, in remembrance  
of Abraham's sacrifice (Gen. xxii.  
12, 13), which, according to the  
Jewish tradition, was on the new  
year's day, "and therefore we make  
use of a ram's horn, beseeching the  
Almighty to be propitious to us, in  
remembrance and through the  
merits of that great event."

IN THE NEW MOON. Strictly  
speaking, this might be any new  
moon; for in the beginnings of  
their months they were to blow  
with trumpets over their burnt  
offerings, &c., Num. x. 10; but per-
haps the new moon of the seventh  
month, the new year's day, is es-
pecially meant. See Num. xxix. 1.

And so the Chald. paraphrases,  
"in the month of Tishri."

AT THE FULL MOON. Such is  
apparently the meaning of the  
word here, and of the similar Ara-
maic form in Prov. vii. 20 (though  
the E.V. has in both passages "the  
appointed time"). If, then, the new  
moon is that of the seventh month,  
"the full moon" must denote the  
Feast of Tabernacles, which began  
on the 15th of the same month.  
Accordingly there follows  
ON OUR (SOLEMN) FEAST, i.e.  
the Feast of Tabernacles, which  
was also called pre-eminently "the  
Feast," I Kings viii. 2, 65 (where  
the E.V. has "a feast," wrongly),  
xii. 32; Ezek. xlv. 25; Neh. viii.  
14; 2 Chron. v. 3, vii. 8. Josephus  
calls it η ἑορτή η ἀγιωτάτη καὶ  
μεγίστη (Antt. viii. 4), and Plutarch,  
ἑορτή μεγίστη καὶ τελειοτάτη τῶν  
Ἰουδαίων (Sympos. iv. 6, 2).  

But are we to understand that  
both Festivals, that at the new  
moon and that at the full, were to  
be ushered in with the blowing of  
cornets? Such seems to be the  
meaning. Ewald, Rosenm., Hitzig,  
and Delitzsch, all think that the  
music was a part of the celebration  
of both the feasts. Delitzsch thus  
explains, I think rightly, the re-
ferance to the two. Between the  
Feast of Trumpets on the 1st of  
Tishri, and the Feast of Taber-
nacles, which lasted from the 15th  
to the 21st or 22nd, lay the Great  
Day of Atonement on the loth of  
the month. This circumstance  
gave a peculiar significance to the  
Feast of Tabernacles—made it, in  
fact, the chief of all the Feasts,  
inasmuch as it was the expression  
of the joy of forgiveness and re-
conciliation declared by the High  
Priest to the nation on that solemn  
day. Hence it was kept with more
4 For it is a statute for Israel,
An ordinance of the God of Jacob:
5 He appointed it as a testimony in Joseph,
When He went forth against the land of Egypt,
Where I heard a language that I knew not:

| the gate before (along) the city." |
| where I heard a language that I knew not: |
| Thus is denoted, he thinks, Israel's triumphant march before the very eyes of the Egyptians, who were unable to prevent their departure. |
| See Num. xxxiii. 3, where they are said to have gone out "with a high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians." |
| Similarly Calvin: "populum, praeceunte Deo, libere pervagatum fusisse per terram Egypti, quia fractis ac pavefactis incolis datus est transitus." |
| But it is simpler to retain the usual meaning of the preposition, and to refer the pronominal suffix, not to Israel, but to God: "When He (God) went forth against the land of Egypt," as in the slaying of the first-born (Exod. xi. 4, "I will go forth through the midst of Egypt"), and in all that He did for the deliverance of His people. |
| As this verse connects the institution of the Feast with a particular event, namely, the departure from Egypt, it does unquestionably furnish a strong argument to those who, like Hengstenberg, believe that the allusion is to the Passover. For no other Feast was then instituted. |
| This difficulty is usually got rid of by saying that the note of time is not to be pressed, and that the Feast of Tabernacles did belong to the earlier legislation, Exod. xxiii. 16; xxxiv. 22. But I confess this is, to my mind, not quite satisfactory. On the other hand, both the Jewish tradition and the manner of celebration as here described are against the Passover. I incline, therefore, to think that the "new moon" and "full moon" are put for any feasts that were held at those times respectively, all of which, beginning with the Passover, might thus be spoken of as dating from the Exodus, from which the Jews date all their festivals, and to which they are all held to refer. |

An imperfect. The LXX. and Vulgate have the third person, "he heard," &c., whence it has passed into our Prayer-book Version, not incorrectly as regards the sense. But the first person is used because the Psalmist speaks in the name of his people, identifying himself with them.

A LANGUAGE THAT I KNEW NOT. What was this unknown tongue? Two interpretations have been given. It has been explained (1) Of the language of the Egyptians, which was a foreign tongue to the Hebrews, who were "strangers in the land of Egypt." Comp. cxiv. 1, "the people of strange language," with Deut. xxviii. 49: Is. xxxiii. 19: Jer. v. 15. Accordingly, this fact is mentioned as one of the aggravations of their condition in Egypt, like the toiling with "the burden" and "the basket." Calvin, who takes this view, remarks that the redemption of Israel from a people of foreign language was a special mark of God's favour, inasmuch as the want of that common language, which is the bond of society, made foreigner and enemy synonymous terms: "Quia enim lingua est veluti character mentis ac speculum, non secus ac sylvestres ferae, invicem alieni sunt qui carent linguae usu." (Comp. the curse in Deut. xxviii. 49.) It is no objection to this view that the words of God follow abruptly. See lxv. 2. (2) Of the voice of God, a voice which the people had heard as uttered in His judgements upon the Egyptians, and in His covenant made with themselves, but had not understood (comp. Acts vii. 25). This language is then given in substance in a poetical form by the Psalmist, who seems suddenly to hear it, and to become the interpreter to his people of the Divine voice. He here places in a fresh light, gives a new application to, the earlier revelation, the meaning and purpose of which were not then understood.

I HEARD. The verb is properly
6 "I removed his shoulder from the burden,
   His hands were quit of the basket.
7 Thou calledst in distress, and I delivered thee,
   I answered thee in the secret place of the thunder,
   I proved thee by the waters of Meribah: [Selah.]

Hupfeld supposes it to be called an "unknown" language, merely because it is Divine, unlike the every-day known language of men. Ibn Ezra sees a reference to the words of God uttered on Sinai. So also Delitzsch, who would explain the expression by reference to Exod. vi. 2, &c. "It was the language of a known, and yet unknown, God, which Israel heard from Sinai. God, in fact, now revealed Himself to Israel in a new character, not only as the Redeemer and Saviour of His people from their Egyptian bondage, but also as their King, giving them a law which bound them together as a people, and was the basis of their national existence."

The latter interpretation, which regards the language here spoken of as the voice of God, and as virtually given in the following verses, is now that most commonly adopted. It is that of Mendelssohn, Ewald, Delitzsch, and Hupfeld.

6. The words of God follow without any indication of a change of speakers. The Prophet identifies himself with, and becomes the organ of, the Divine voice. He reminds Israel of that fact in connexion with which the Festival was instituted.

It is as though, amidst all the gladness of the Feast, and all the music and the pomp of its celebration, other thoughts arose, not to check, but to guide the current of a holy exultation. The sound of trumpet and timbrel and sacred song must be hushed, while Jehovah speaks to tell His forgetful people the lesson of their past history associated with that festival, the warning and the expostulation suggested by their own perverseness. If they would praise Him aright, it must be with hearts mindful of His goodness, and sensible of their own unworthiness and ingratitude. For the spirit in which all festivals should be kept, see on the offering of the first-fruits, Deut. xxvi. 1-11.

BURDEN, in allusion to Ex. i. 11; v. 4, 5; vi. 6; where the same word occurs in the plural.

THE BASKET. This word is not found in Exod., and its meaning is doubtful. It may either mean (1) a basket, in which heavy burdens were carried, such as are now seen portrayed on the monuments at Thebes; so it is interpreted by the LXX., and Jerome has cophino; or (2), an earthen pot, with reference to the work in clay which she Israelites were compelled to perform. Hence the E.V. renders, "his hands were delivered from making the pots."

WERE QUIT OF, or, "left toiling with." (E.V. "were delivered,") lit. "passed." The LXX., with a very slight change in a single letter, "served" (ἔδουλευσαν), but this involved also a change of the preposition; "in" or "with" instead of "from."

7. THE SECRET-PLACE OF THE THUNDER, is the dark mass of the thunder-cloud in which God shrouds His Majesty. (Comp. xviii. 11 [121; Hab. iii. 4.) Here is probably a special reference to the cloud-from which Jehovah looked forth in the passage through the Red Sea, Exod. xiv. 19 (comp. the note on lxvii. 16); as there follows the mention of the second great miracle, the giving the water from the rock.

I PROVED THEE. Deut. xxxiii. 8.

The mention of Israel's sin here, which did not of itself belong to an account of the institution of the
8 ‘Hear, 0 my people, and let Me testify unto thee;
     0 Israel, if thou wouldest hearken unto Me,
9 That there should be in thee no strange god,
    And that thou shouldest not bow down unto the god
     of the stranger!
10 —I am Jehovah thy God,
     Who brought thee up out of the land of Egypt,
11 But My people hearkened not unto My voice,
     And Israel was not willing to obey Me.
12 So I gave them up unto the stubbornness of their heart,
    That they should walk after their own counsels.
13 Oh that My people would hearken unto Me,
     That Israel would walk in My way!
14 I would soon put down their enemies,
    And turn My hand against their adversaries.
15 The haters of Jehovah should crouch before him,
And their time should be for ever.

16 He would feed thee also with the fat of wheat,
And with honey out of the rock should I satisfy thee."
Feast of Tabernacles. The Syr. here renders: "sound with horns at the new moons (beginning of the month), and at the full moons (wrongly rendered in Walton's Polygl. *noviluniiis*) on the feast days." An analogous Aramaic form occurs Prov. vii. 20, where Aquila has ḫwēnα πανσέληνου. Jerome renders there *in die plenae lunae*, and here *in medio mense*.

d ṮN. There can be little doubt that this is the better reading. It has the support of the LXX. and is found in the best texts, but the Syr., Chald., and several of Kenn's and De-R.'s MSS. have the plural ḫwēnα,

e ḫp. The stat. constr. with the verb following, as in vii. 16 (comp. xvi. 3, where the noun stands in construction with a sentence), the verb being here, what the second noun usually is, equivalent to an adjective. There is no need to explain the phrase elliptically, "the language of one whom I knew not," though grammatically this would be allowable, as lxv. 5, Job xviii. 21, xxix. 16.

Hengstenberg thinks that ḫp could not be used to denote the voice or speech of God, but can only be employed of a language; but why may not 'א ל ש mean "unintelligible words," as Prov. xii. 19, means "true words"?

f ʾRh. The change to the 3d pers. presents no difficulty, but the use of the 1 consec. does. It is out of the question to take this, as the LXX. and Syr. do, as an historic tense. A condition is clearly implied, What is meant is, that if the Israel of to-day would be obedient, then the miracles of God's love manifested of old should be repeated. Strictly speaking, if the 1 consec. is retained, we ought to render" He would have fed," as if to intimate that not now only, but even from the first, God would have done this, had His people been obedient.

PSALM LXXXII.

THIS Psalm is a solemn rebuke, addressed in prophetic strain, to those who, pledged by their office to uphold the Law, had trampled upon it for their own selfish ends. It is a "Vision of Judgement," in which no common offenders are arraigned, as it is no earthly tribunal before which they are summoned.

God Himself appears, so it seems to the prophet, taking His stand in the midst of that nation whom He had ordained to be the witness of His righteousness, amongst the rulers and judges of the nation who were destined to reflect, and as it were to embody in visible form, the majesty of that righteousness. He appears now not, as in the 50th Psalm, to judge His *people*, but to judge *the judges* of that people; not to reprove the congregation at large for their
formality and hypocrisy, but to reprove the rulers and magistrates for their open and shameful perversion of justice.

As in the presence of God, the Psalmist takes up his parable against these unjust judges: "How long will ye judge a judgement which is iniquity (such is the exalt force of the original), and accept the persons of the ungodly? "These men have scandalously desecrated their office. They had been placed in the loftiest position to which any man could aspire. They were sons of the Highest, called by His name, bearing His image, exercising His authority, charged to execute His will, and they ought to have been in their measure His living representatives, the very pattern and likeness of His righteousness and wisdom. But instead of righteousness they had loved unrighteousness. They had shown favour to the wicked who were powerful and wealthy. They had crushed the poor, the defenceless, the fatherless, whose only protection lay in the unsullied uprightness and incorruptibility of the judge, and whom God Himself had made their charge.

A witness of these wrongs, the Psalmist appeals to them to discharge their duty faithfully and uprightly: "Do justice to the miserable and fatherless," &c. (ver. 3, 4). But the appeal is in vain. They have neither feeling nor conscience. Morally and intellectually, they are corrupt. The light that is in them is darkness. And thus, venal, unscrupulous, base, hard-hearted, the judges and magistrates have loosened the bonds of law, and the consequence is that the foundations of social order are shaken, and the whole fabric threatened with dissolution. Such is the terrible picture of a disorganized society, the very fountains of justice defiled and poisoned, suggested to us by the words in which the Psalmist here addresses the judges of Israel. He himself had thought, he tells us, that their high dignity and the representative character of their office, placed them so far above other men that they were like beings of a different race, but he warns them that the tyrannous exercise of their power will not last for ever, that, as in the case of other rulers of the world, it may only accelerate their fall. And then, finally, he turns to God, and appeals to Him who is the judge, not of Israel only, but of the world, to arise and execute judgement in the earth, which they who bore His name had perverted.

Ewald, De Wette, Hitzig, and others suppose the expostulations of the Psalm to be addressed, not to Israelitish but to heathen rulers, satraps, &c., by a poet who lived towards the end of the Exile, in Babylon, and who, witnessing the corruption which was fast undermining the Babylonish empire, lifted up his voice against it. This view rests mainly upon the appeal to God (in ver. 7) as
the Ruler and Judge of all nations, not of Israel exclusively. But
the Psalmists so frequently take a wider range than their own nation,
so constantly, in a true prophetic spirit, recognize the special rule
and revelation of God in Israel, as only a part of His universal
dominion (compare, for instance, vii. 6-8 [7-9]), that there is no
need to depart from the more common view that Israelitish judges
are meant; especially as this is confirmed by the general tenour of
the Psalm. Besides, as Stier and Hupfeld have pointed out, the
names "gods," and "sons of the Highest," are never given to
heathen monarchs in Scripture. The former says: "We look in
vain for a passage where a heathen king, or even an Israelitish,
except David and Solomon, as types of the Messiah, is thought
worthy of this name (Son of God)."

Hupfeld and Bleek (who have been followed by Bunsen) maintain
(and I believe that they are almost the only modern expositors who
do so) that the "gods" of the Psalm are not human judges, but
angels, that the Psalmist sees a vision of judgement going on in
heaven (which is conceivable, inasmuch as the angels are not pure
in God's sight), and that he poetically applies the circumstances of
this judgement to its parallel upon earth. Hence the rebuke
addressed to the angels is intended for human judges, and this
explains how it is that the angels are charged with human delin-
quencies, with accepting persons, and crushing the poor. So also
when angels are threatened with death (a threat which Hupfeld
argues has no meaning when uttered to human beings), this is a
mode merely of threatening them with degradation; the language
being figurative, and borrowed from the sentence of degradation
pronounced on the First Man (Gen. ii. 17 19, 20). Bleek
carries this notion so far as to suppose that the angels are the
guardian angels to whom is entrusted the government of the several
nations of the world (see Dan. x. 13, 20, 21; xii. I; and Deut.
xxxii. 8, in LXX.), a trust which they have betrayed.

Of such an interpretation it is enough to say with Calvin, Ad
angelos trahere frigidum est commentum, not to mention that it seems
difficult to reconcile such a view with our Lord's use of the Psalm in
John x. 34, which Hupfeld passes over without any notice whatever.
His objections to the common view that men are not called "gods,"
and "sons of the Highest," in Scripture, and that there is no mean-
ing in saying to human judges, "Ye shall die like men," &c. will be
found substantially answered in the notes.

The language of the Psalm is so general that it might belong to
any period of the history; and the history itself and the utterance of
the prophets show us that the evil here denounced was not the evil
of any one age, but of all. It was the accusation brought against the sons of Samuel, the last who bore the venerable title of Judges before the establishment of the monarchy, that they "turned aside after lucre and took bribes, and perverted judgement" (I Sam. viii. 3). And a long line of prophets repeats the same complaint. See Amos v. 12, 15; Micah vii. 3; Is. i. 17; 13-15; Jer. xxi. 12; Zech. viii. 9, 10. The passages which approach most nearly to the Psalm in their general character are (I) one of those already quoted from Isaiah (iii. 13-15):

"Jehovah standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people. Jehovah will enter into judgement with the ancients of His people and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. 'What mean ye that ye beat My people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor?' saith the Lord, Jehovah of hosts:"—and (2) Jehoshaphat's charge to his judges which "he set in the land, throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city" (2 Chron. xix. 5-7):

"Take heed what ye do; for ye judge not for men, but for Jehovah who is with you in the judgement. Wherefore now let the fear of Jehovah be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with Jehovah our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts."

(Cf. Deut. i. 17; x. 17.)

The Psalm has no regular strophical division, but the arrangement is natural, and presents no difficulty. It has been already sufficiently indicated. The general strain is like that of Psalm lviii.

For certain peculiarities, which mark it in common with other Psalms ascribed to Asaph, see General Introduction, vol. i. pp. 97-99, where however the view is taken that God is Himself the speaker in this Psalm.*

[a Psalm of Asaph.*]

I GOD standeth in the congregation of God:
In the midst of the gods doth He judge.

1. Earthly rulers and judges are not, as they are too ready to think, supreme, independent, irresponsible. There is One higher than the highest. As Jehoshaphat reminds the judges of Israel, God is with them in the judgement. Calvin quotes, to the like effect, the words of Horace,

"Regum timendorum in proprios greges,
Reges in ipsos imperium est
Jovis," &c.

Men cannot see God with their bodily eyes, but He is present with the king on his throne (hence Solomon's throne is called the
2 How long will ye give wrong judgement,

to remind the world how near man,
created in God's image, is to God
Himself. So in the 8th Psalm it is
said, "Thou hast made him a little
lower than God." (See note there
on ver. 5.) This would hold espe-
cially of those high in office. Thus
God says to Moses in reference to
Aaron, "Thou shalt be to him in-
stead of God" (Exod. iv. 16). And
again, "See I have made thee a
god to Pharaoh" (vii. 1). In I Sam.
xxviii. 13, the witch of Endor says
of Samuel, "I saw a god ascending
out of the earth" (in allusion either
to his majestic appearance or pos-
sibly to his office as judge). In Ps.
xlv. 6, the king is called God (see
note there). But it was in connec-
tion with the office of judge that
the stamp of divinity was most conspi-
cuous. "The judgement is God's."
Deut. i. 17; whoever comes before
it comes before God. So, again,
Moses uses the phrase, "When ye
come to me, to inquire of God,"
Exod. xviii. 15. The same idea is
found in heathen writers. Seneca
(de Clementia, i. 1) makes Nero say:
"Electus sum qui in terris Deorum
vice fungerer: ego vitae necisque
gentibus arbiter, qualem quisque
sortem statumque habeat in maim
mea positum est."

2. It is usual to consider what
follows, to the end of ver. 6, as the
words of God as He appears, in
vision, pleading with the judges of
His people. To me it seems pre-
ferable to regard the passage as a
rebuke addressed, in the true pro-
phetic strain, by the poet himself,
ver. 6, in particular, is thus more forcible,
and the address to God in ver. 7 less abrupt.

How LONG, like Cicero's "Quo-
sque tandem"; the abuse having
become intolerable, because of its
long standing.

GIVE WRONG JUDGEMENT, lit.
"judge iniquity"; "give a judge-
ment which is iniquity itself";

throne of Jehovah, I Chron. xxix.
23, with the judge on the judg-
ment-seat, with all who hold an
authority delegated to them by Him.

STANDETH, more literally,
"taketh His stand." The word
nitzabh denotes a deliberate and
formal act, connected with a defi-
nite purpose. I Sam. xix. 20. It
is distinct from the more usual
word 'omed, which is merely stand-
ing as opposed to sitting. But see
the use of both words in reference
to the act of judgement, Is. iii. 13.

IN THE CONGREGATION OF GOD,
i.e. in the midst of Israel itself
(called in Num. xxvii. 17; xxxi. 16;
Josh. xxii. 16, 17, "the congrega-
tion of Jehovah".), and not only in
the midst of the people who are the
witnesses of His righteousness, but
amidst the judges of the people,
who are the representatives of His
righteousness. They are called
GODS, not merely as having their
authority from God (or as Calvin,
quibus specialem glories notam
insculpsit Deus), but as His vice-
gerents, as embodying in them-

This name "gods" is applied to
the judges of Israel in the Penta-
teuch. See Exod. xxi. 6; xxii. 8, 28
[27]. There, I agree with Delitzsch
in thinking, Elohim does not mean
God, in whose name judgement is
pronounced (as Knobel and Hup-
feld understand), but the judges
themselves acting in His name and
by His authority. Even if in Exod.
xxii. 28 [27], we render, "thou shalt
not revile God, nor curse the ruler of
thy people," rather than "thou shalt
not revile the judges," &c., still it is
implied that the ruler bears the
image of God, and that every insult
offered to such a representative of God in His
kingdom is an insult against God (as Hengsten-
berg remarks. The use of the name
"gods" may have been intended

How long will ye give wrong judgement,
And accept the persons of the wicked? [Selah.]
3 Judge the miserable and fatherless,
   Do justice to the afflicted and needy;
4 Rescue the miserable and poor,
   Deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

5 They know not, and they understand not,
   In darkness they walk to and fro:
   All the foundations of the earth are out of course.
6 I myself have said, Ye are gods,

| (the opposite being "judging uprightness," lviii. i [2]). Comp. Lev. xix. 15. | 5. Those expositors who consider verses 2-6 to contain the words of God, suppose that here, either the Psalmist introduces his own reflections, or that a pause takes place, after ver. 4, during which God waits to see whether those whom He rebukes will listen to His rebuke. But the transition from the 2d person to the 3d is so common, as to render either exposition unnecessary. It is one strain continued, only that now the infatuation, as before the moral perversion, of the judges is described. The expostulation falls dead without an echo. The men are infatuated by their position, and blinded by their own pride. THEY KNOW NOT, absolutely, as in liii. 5 [6]; lxiii. 21 [22]. Comp. Is. i. 3. Moral blindness is the cause of all sin. IN DARKNESS, Prov. ii. 13. THEY WALK TO AND FRO, such is the force of the Hithp., denoting generally the conversation, manner of life, &c.; here, according to Delitzsch, their carnal security and sell seeking. ALL THE FOUNDATIONS, &c. See note on xi. 3, and comp. lxxv. 3 [4]. The dissolution of society is the inevitable result of corruption in high places. 6. I HAVE SAID. The pronoun is emphatic. If these are the words of God, as most interpreters suppose, then in pronouncing judgment upon the judges, He declares that it was He Himself who called |
| ACCEPT THE PERSONS. Such, there can be no doubt, is the meaning of the phrase here, and so it is understood by the LXX. Comp. Prov. xviii. 5; Lev. xix. 15. Sometimes a different verb is employed, as in Lev. xix. 15; Deut. i. 17; xvi. 19; Prov. xxiv. 23; xxviii. 21; where such partiality is straitly forbidden. Jehoshaphat in his address to the judges (2 Chron. xix. 7) reminds them that "with the Lord our God is no respect of persons, nor taking of gifts." |
| 3. MISERABLE. See note on xli. 1. NEEDY or "destitute:" the word (rash), Delitzsch observes, does not occur in Hebrew literature earlier than the time of David. It is persons such as these who most of all need the protection of the judge. Their very existence depends on his integrity. The orphan who has lost his natural protectors, the humble who have no powerful friends, the poor who can purchase no countenance, to whom shall they look but to God's vicegerent? And if he violates his trust, God who is the "God of the widow and the fatherless" (lxviii. 6), and who in the Law declares," Cursed be he who perverteth the cause of the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow " (Deut. xxvii. 19), will not leave him unpunished. |
| Do JUSTICE TO, lit. "justify," i.e. give them their due. |
And ye are all sons of the Most High.
Yet surely like (other) men shall ye die,
And fall like one of the princes.
7 Arise, 0 God, judge Thou the earth,
For Thou hast all the nations for Thine inheritance,

them to their office, and gave them the name, together with the dignity which they enjoy. (This interpretation falls in readily with our Lord's words in John x. 34.) If, on the other hand, the Psalmist speaks, he expresses his own feelings and convictions. "There was a time when I myself thought that your office and dignity clothed you with something of a superhuman character, but you have degraded it, and degraded yourselves; you are but mortal men, your tenure of office is but for a little while." He does not add what naturally suggests itself to us, and what Calvin inserts here, that they must shortly give an account before the bar of God. If this is implied in ver. 7, it is not after death.

Our Lord appeals to this verse in His argument with the Jews when they charged Him with blasphemy, "because He being a man, made Himself God." John x. 34-38. His words are: "Is it not written in your Law, 'I said ye are gods'? If it called them gods to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—say ye of Him whom the Father sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest, because I said, I am the Son of God?" The argument is one a minori ad majus. How could they charge Him with blasphemy in claiming to be the Son of God when their own judges had been styled gods? They moreover were unrighteous judges (the worthy ancestors, it is implied, of the unrighteous Pharisees and members of the Synhedrines and members of the Synhedrin, who were our Lord's bitterest opponents), whereas He was One whom the Father had sanctified, and sent into the world, and whose life and works were a witness to His righteousness. By nature they had no right to the name of Elohim, "gods," nor had they proved themselves worthy of it by their character. He was, in character as in nature, Divine. To them the word of God had come (πρὸς οὖς ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἐγένετο), by which they had been appointed to their office. He was Himself the Word of the Father. Their office was but for a time, they were mortal men, yet wearing, by Divine permission, a Divine name. He had been with the Father before He came into the world, was by Him sealed and set apart (Ὑγίασεν), and sent to be not a judge, but the Christ—not one of many sons, but emphatically the Son of God, the King of an everlasting kingdom. Both in His office and in His person He has far more right to the title "Son of God," than they have to that of "gods." There is moreover further implied in this argument that the Old Testament does contain hints, more or less obscure, preludes and foreshadowings, which might have arrested the thoughtful reader, as mysteriously prefiguring that close and real union between God and man which was afterwards fully exhibited in the Incarnation.

a See General Introduction, pp. 97, 98.
b ὅθη: for this Ewald reads ὅθη and translates: "And fall, 0 ye princes, together" (lit. like one man), referring to Is. lxv. 25; Ezra iii. 9;
vii. 20, in support of his emendation. He makes this change on the
ground that the opposition here is not between princes and gods, but
between mortal men and gods. At the same time he admits that the
other expression "as one of the princes," i.e. like a common prince, is a
genuine Hebrew phrase. Comp. 2 Sam. ix. 11; Jud. xvi. 7, 11; I Kings
xix. 2.

The verb הָלָּל is construed here with בּ instead of the accus. after the
analogy of verbs of ruling, &c., like לָל, מָלָא, the word itself being
employed to denote that, whilst Israel is God's peculiar inheritance,
He has the same right, makes the same claim, to all the nations.

PSALM LXXXIII.

WE know of no period in the history of Israel when all the various
tribes here enumerated were united together for the extermination of
their enemy. The annals have preserved no record of a confederacy
so extensive. Hence it has been assumed that the enumeration in
the Psalm is merely designed to subserve the purposes of poetry, to
heighten the colouring, to represent the danger as even greater and
more formidable than it really was. It may have been so. Divine
inspiration does not change the laws of the imagination, though it
may control them for certain ends. Or it may have been that the
confederacy as originally formed, and as threatening Israel, was
larger than that which actually advanced to the struggle. The wider
the alliance, and the more heterogeneous its elements, the more pro-
bable it is that some would drop off, through dissensions, or jealousies,
or the working of timid counsels. But as this Psalm helps us to com-
plete the narrative in Judges of the defeat of the Midianites (see note
on ver. 11), so it may itself supplement the narrative of the particular
event which called it forth. It may describe some event which we
read in the history, but which there assumes less formidable propor-
tions, and in so doing it may help us to complete the picture. If so,
there can be very little doubt with what portion of the history it best
synchronizes. The confederacy must be that which threatened Judah
in the reign of Jehoshaphat, the account of which is given in 2 Chron.
xx. There, as in the Psalm, Moab and Ammon, "the children of
Lot " are the leading powers; and though there is some doubt about
the reading, "other beside the Ammonites," in ver. I, the Edomites
are mentioned as forming a part of the invading army. These might
naturally include bordering Arabian tribes, mentioned more in detail in the Psalm. The great hiatus in the narrative (supposing this to be the occasion to which the Psalm refers) is that it omits all mention of the Western nations as joining the confederacy. But on the hypothesis of any other historical reference at all, some hiatus will be found to exist. It is so if, with Hitzig, Olshausen, Grimm, and others, we refer the Psalm to the events mentioned in I Macc. v. 1-8, where only Edomites, Ammonites, and Bajanites (a name as yet unexplained), are mentioned; nor is the difficulty got over even if, with Hitzig, we add to this the subsequent campaign of Judas Maccabeus, recorded in the same chapter, ver. 3-54. Those who, like Ewald, place the Psalm in Persian times, and suppose it to be aimed at the attempts of Sanballat, Tobias, and others, to prevent the rebuilding of Jerusalem, are not more successful. The former of these views compels us to take Assyria (Asshur) as a name of Syria; the latter as a synonym for Persia. In neither case do "the children of Lot" occupy the prominent place; nor can we account for the mention of Amalekites, either in the time of Nehemiah, or in the time of the Maccabees. (Seer Chron. iv. 43.) The more common opinion which connects the Psalm with Jehoshaphat's struggle is certainly preferable to either of the views just mentioned.

One expression in Jehoshaphat's prayer bears a close resemblance to the language of the Psalm in ver. 11, when he prays, "Behold, I say, how they reward us to come to cast us out of Thy possession which Thou hast given us to inherit." (2 Chron. xx. 11.) The remark with which the narrative ends "And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they had heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel," is almost like a recorded answer to the prayer with which the Psalm closes.

It has been conjectured, as the Psalm is said to be a "Psalm of Asaph," that it may have been composed by Jahaziel, the "Levite of the sons of Asaph," who encouraged Jehoshaphat's army before it went out to battle; and that the Psalm itself may have been chanted by the band of singers whom the king appointed to precede the army on its march. (Ibid. ver. 21.) But no argument can be built upon the title. (See General Introduction, Vol. I. pp. 96, 97.) One thing, however, is clear, the confederacy of which the Psalm speaks was formed before Assyria became a leading power. Moab and Ammon hold the foremost place, while Assur joins them only as an ally "they are an arm to the children of Lot." The Poet is fully alive to the danger which threatens his nation. Look where he may, the horizon is black with gathering clouds. Judah is alone, and his enemies are compassing him about. The hosts of invaders are
settling like swarms of locusts on the skirts of the land. East, south, and west, they are mustering to the battle. The kindred but ever hostile tribe of Edom on the border, issuing from their mountain fastnesses; the Arab tribes of the desert; the old hereditary foes of Israel, Moab and Ammon; the Philistines, long since humbled and driven back to their narrow strip of territory by the sea, yet still apparently formidable, even Tyre forgetting her ancient friendship,—all are on the march, all, like hunters, are hemming in the lion who holds them at bay.

It is against this formidable confederacy that the Psalmist prays, He prays that it may be with them as with the other enemies of Israel, with Jabin and Sisera, in days of old. But he prays for more than deliverance or victory. He prays that the Name of Jehovah. may be magnified, and that all may seek that Name. Two expressions, in fact, give the key to the Psalm—show us the attitude of the Poet in presence of the danger: ver. 5, "They are confederate against Thee;" ver. 18, "Let them know that Thou art most high over all the earth."

The Psalm consists of two principal divisions:

I. The first describes the magnitude of the danger, and enumerates the foes who are gathering on all sides, hemming in Judah, and, intending by mere force of numbers utterly to crush and destroy it. Ver. 1-8.

II. The next contains the prayer for their complete overthrow, with an appeal to God's former mighty acts on behalf of His people when threatened by their enemies. Ver. 9-18.

[A SONG. A PSALM OF ASAPH.]

1. 0 GOD, keep not silence,
   Hold not Thy peace, and be not still, 0 God.
2 For lo, Thine enemies make a tumult,
   And they that hate Thee have lifted up (their) head.

1. KEEP NOT SILENCE, lit. "Let (there) not (be) silence to Thee;" as in Is. lxii. 7. In both places the LXX. have made the same blunder, rendering here τις ὁμοιώθησεται σοι, and there οὐκ ἐστιν ὄμοιος. On the general sense of this verse see note on xxviii. I.

2. THINE ENEMIES, in itself a ground of appeal and of consolation. MAKE A TUMULT, lit. "roar like the waves of the sea." See the same word in xlvi. 3 [41
   HAVE LIFTED UP (THEIR) HEAD. Comp. iii. 3 [4]; xxvii. 6; and Jud. viii. 28.
3 Against Thy people they plot craftily,\(^b\)

And take counsel together against Thy hidden ones.

4 They say, "Come, let us cut them off that they be no more a nation,

And that the name of Israel be no more in remembrance."

5 For they have taken counsel with (one) heart together,

Against Thee they are confederate.

6 The tents of Edom, and the Ishmaelites,

Moab and the Hagarenes;

7 Gebal and Ammon, and Amalek,

---

\(^b\) "Plot craftily," lit. "make crafty (their) plot, or secret consultation."

"Thy Hidden Ones," Or "treasured ones," those whom God holds in the hollow of His hand;
those to whom He is a wall of fire round about them, that none may do them hurt--those of whom He says, he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of Mine eye.

Comp. xvii. 8; xxvii. 5; xxxi. 20 [21].

4. That they be no more a nation.

Comp. Jer. xlviii. 2; Is. vii. 8; and similar phrases in xvii.
I: xxv. 2. They would in their fury blot out Israel from the map of the world, or, as Calvin says: "It is as if they had formed the design of subverting the counsel of God on which the continued existence of the Church had been founded."

5. With (one) heart together.

The adverb seems to be used almost as an adjective (LXX. \(\epsilon\nu\ \ο\μοιο\iota\ \ε\π\ι\τ\ο\μ\ι\o\u\r\o\ n\o\t\o\), so that the phrase would answer to that in I Chron. xii. 38. But perhaps it would be simpler and more certain, with Hupf. and Hengst., to render: "They have taken counsel in (their) heart together," (Jerome, corde pariter,) the heart being the source of their machinations. Comp. v. 9 [10]; lxiv. 6 [7].

Against Thee, as in ver. 3, "against Thy people." God and His people are one. So our Lord says to Saul, "Why persecutest thou Me?"

6-8. The enumeration of the confederate tribes. First, those on the south and east. Then, those on the west, Philistia and Tyre. Lastly, the Assyrians in the north, not yet regarded as a formidable power, but merely as allies of Moab and Ammon.

6. The tents, as properly descriptive of the nomad Arabian tribes.

EDOM. So in 2 Chron. xx. 2, "Edom" should be read instead of "Aram" (Syria), the confusion of the two words being discernible elsewhere.

THE ISHMAELITES, according to Gen. xxv. 18, were spread over the whole tract of country south of Palestine, lying between Egypt and the Persian Gulf. Part of this territory is occupied by Amalekites in I Sam. xv. 7.

THE HAGARENES dwelt to the east of Palestine in the land of Gilead. They were driven out by the tribe of Reuben in the time of Saul (I Chron. v. 10, 18-20).

7. Gebal, usually supposed to denote the mountainous country south of the Dead Sea, in the neighbourhood of Petra (Arab. Dgebel). Mr. Foulkes, indeed, in Smith's Dict. of the Bible, identifies
Philistia, with them that dwell at Tyre.
8 Asshur also is joined with them,
They have been an arm to the children of Lot.

9 Do Thou to them as unto Midian,
As unto Sisera, as unto Jabin at the torrent of Kishon,
10 Who were destroyed at En-dor,
Who became dung for the land.

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<td>8</td>
<td>ASSHUR. If the Psalm was written in Jehoshaphat's reign, this is the first mention of the Assyrians since the days of Nimrod, and here evidently they hold a subordinate place. We do not hear of the Assyrian kingdom as a great power formidable to Israel till the time of Menahem, who &quot;was reduced to the necessity of buying off an incursion of that people), under Pul.&quot; (2 Kings xv. 19.) THEY HAVE BEEN AN ARM. Comp. xlv. 4; Is. xxxiii. 2. This agrees with the statement in Chronicles that Moab and Ammon were the leaders of the confederacy. 9. MIDIAN, mentioned by anticipation with reference, not to the example which immediately follows, but to that in ver. 11. The victory of Gideon over the Midianites was one of the most glorious in the national history, one the memory of which was fondly cherished. When Isaiah would describe the victories which are to precede the peaceful reign of Messiah, he can compare the overthrow of the enemy to nothing so well as to that on &quot;the day of Midian.&quot; The allusion to it here may also have been suggested by the fact, that many of the enemies now arrayed against Israel were the same as on that occasion; for with the Midianites were the &quot;Amalekites and all the children of the East.&quot; Jud. vi. 36. See Is. ix. 4 [3]; x. 26; Hab. iii. 7. SISERA . . . . JABIN. See the history in Jud. iv. v. THE TORRENT OF KISHON, which swept away the corpses of the enemy, Jud. v. 21. Others, &quot;the valley or Wadi of Kishon:—the Hebrew word means both. 10. EN-DOR is not mentioned in Judges, but the Psalm shows us that tradition associated with that spot the death of the two chiefs. It is a considerable but now deserted village, 4 m. south of Tabor.</td>
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11 Make them, their nobles, like Oreb and like Zeeb;  
Yea, all their princes, like Zebah and like Zalmunna,  
12 Who said: "Let us take to ourselves  
The pastures of God in possession."
13 0 my God, make them as the whirling dust,  
As stubble before the wind.  
14 As a fire that burneth a forest,  
And as a flame that setteth the mountains in a blaze,

The name occurs besides, Josh.  
vii. 11; I Sam. xxviii. 7.  
11. OREB AND ZEEB, the two  
"princes," or probably "generals  
of the army," whilst Zebah and  
Zalmunna have the title of "kings."  
Jud. vii. 25; viii. 5, 6. The allu-
sions here and in Is. x. 26 help us  
to complete the narrative in Judges.  
Isaiah implies that the slaughter  
must have been awful beyond any-
thing that history records, for "he  
places it in the same rank with the  
two most tremendous disasters re-
corded in the whole of the history  
of Israel—the destruction of the  
Egyptians in the Red Sea, and of  
the army of Sennacherib." Here  
the discomfiture and flight of the  
Midianites is prominent. "In  
imagery both obvious and vivid to  
every native of the gusty hills and  
plains of Palestine, though to us  
comparatively unintelligible, the  
Psalmist describes them as driven  
over the uplands of Gilead like the  
clouds of chaff blown from the  
threshing-floors; chased away like  
the spherical masses of dry weeds  
which course over the plains of  
Esdraelon and Philistia -- flying  
with the dreadful hurry and confu-
sion of the flames, that rush and  
leap from tree to tree and hill to  
hill when the wooded mountains of  
a tropical country are by chance  
ignited." See the article OREB, by  
Mr. Grove, in Smith's Dict. of the  
Bible.  
12. PASTURES. Others, "habi-
tations," which Gesen. gives as the  
first meaning. But there is no  
reason to depart from the usual  
signification. See on lxxix. 7,  
Comp. xxiii. 2. Israel is God's  
flock lying down in His pastures.  
The figure accords with the usage  
of Psalms ascribed to Asaph. See  
96-98.  
13. AS THE WHIRLING DUST.  
The same word is rendered by the  
E.V. in the parallel passage, Is.  
vii. 11; xiii. 13, "a rolling thing."  
And (they) shall be chased as the  
chaff of the mountains before  
the wind,  
And like a rolling thing before  
the whirlwind.  
Here both the A.V. and P.B.V.  
have "as a wheel," and so all the  
Ancient Versions, and this Hupfeld  
maintains is the only correct ren-
dering. But the parallel rather sug-
gests "spherical masses of weeds "  
as (Mr. Grove renders), chaff, dust,  
anything driven in rolling masses  
by the wind. And so Gesenius,  
Ewald, Delitzsch, &c. Reuss :  
"Comme le tourbillon."  
14. The image in this verse is  
also found in Isaiah. See chap. ix.  
18 [17]; x. 17, 18 and comp. Zech.  
xii. 6.  
Hupfeld connects this with the  
preceding verse, and so supposes a  
confusion in the figure (such as he  
finds also in xxi. 9), the sense being,  
"O my God, make them as a forest  
which is burned with fire." But it  
is far better to take ver. 14 and ver.
15 So pursue them with Thy tempest,
And with Thy hurricane make them afraid.
16 Fill their face with confusion,
That they may seek Thy Name, 0 Jehovah.
17 Let them be ashamed, and afraid for evermore,
Yea, let them be confounded and perish,
18 And let them know that Thou, (even) Thy Name
Jehovah alone,
Art most high over all the earth.

| 15 as the two members of the comparison, and then there is no need to resort to such metonymy. |
| 15. With this verse and what follows comp. xxxv. 4-6. |
| 16. The object with which the Psalmist prays for the Divine judgement upon the foes who are gathering to swallow up his people is remarkable. It is "that they may seek the name of Jehovah, that they may know (ver. 18) that He is most High over all the earth." This is the nobler aspiration which mingleth with the prayer for vengeance. The man in danger, feeling his own and his country's peril, desires to see his enemies destroyed with a slaughter as terrible, a discomfiture as complete, as that on "the day of Midian." The man who loves and fears Jehovah desires to see others, even his enemies, love and fear Him too. A pious Englishman in Lucknow, or Delhi, or Cawnpore, during the Indian mutiny, might have understood how possible it was to reconcile the two parts of the prayer. |
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18. THOU, THY NAME, i.e. Thou who dost reveal Thyself as Jehovah. Calvin observes that the pronoun is emphatic, because there is implied a comparison between the true God, the God of Israel, and all false gods, "as though the prophet had said, Lord, make them feel that their idols which they have made for themselves are nothing." The end of all God's judgements, as of all history, is the same, that all should confess that Jehovah is One, and His Name One, Zech. xiv. 9.

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b דָּע, here used in a bad sense, as in lxiv. 3, is the object of the verb, the constr. being the same as in Iv. 14 [15], "to make counsel sweet;" so here, "to make counsel crafty." In other places, it is true, the Hiph. of this verb occurs intransitively, and so Hengst. would take it here, "they act craftily in reference to their counsel;" but this is unnecessary. See on xiv. 1. In the next clause the Hithp. יָנִּיף, which occurs only here, expresses the mutual deliberation.
IN its general character this Psalm very nearly resembles Psalm xlii.-xliii. Like that, it is the ardent outpouring of a man of no common depth and tenderness of feeling, the expression of a devoted love for the house and worship of Jehovah. Like that, it is written under circumstances of suffering and depression, at a time when the Psalmist was in exile, or at a distance from the Sanctuary. Like that, it touches, and even more fully, on the celebration of the national feast, and pictures the crowd of pilgrims on their way to the Holy City. In both Psalms there is the same deep pathos, the same "exquisite delicacy and tenderness of thought," in both the same strain of remembrance and of anticipation, half sad, half joyful. Certain turns of expression are the same in both. Compare ver. 2 here with xlii. 1, 2; ver. 4 [5] here, "they will still (or yet) praise Thee," with xlii. 5, "for I shall yet praise Him;" the name of God as "the Living God," ver. 2 here, and xlii. 2 (occurring nowhere else in the Psalter); the phrase, "appear before God," ver. 7 here, and xlii. 2; "Thy dwellings" or "tabernacles," ver. 1, here, and xliii. 3. But with all these resemblances, there is this difference, that here nothing is said to define exactly the locality in which the Psalm was written; nor is there any allusion to the taunts of enemies, to "men of deceit and wrong," such as meets us in xlii., xliii.

From the general likeness in structure, and sentiment, and colouring of language, and yet perfect distinctness and originality, of the two Poems, Ewald is doubtless right in concluding that both are by the same author. Whether he is right in inferring from ver. 9 [10] of this Psalm that the author was a king, has been questioned. The form of expression points that way, and scarcely admits of a different explanation (see note on the verse). Ewald supposes the king to have been Jehoiachin (or Jeconiah), "who, according to Jer. xxii. 28, &c. was no contemptible person, and who, after having been long in exile (and in confinement), was at last restored to a place of honour, 2 Kings xxv. 27-30." But see more in the Introduction to Psalm xlii.

The former part of this Psalm may also be compared with Psalm lxiii., and there are expressions which connect it with Psalms xxvii. and lxv.

Hengstenberg, who is a zealous upholder of the inscriptions, maintains that the Psalm was composed by some member of the
The Levitical family of the Korahites who accompanied David when he fled from Absalom to the east side of the Jordan. But his explanation of the fact is not very intelligible. He says: "The ninth verse renders it evident that the speaker is the Anointed of the Lord. This fact can be reconciled with the title, which ascribes the Psalm to the sons of Korah, only by the supposition that it was sung from the soul of the Anointed."

Mr. Plumptre, who gives reasons for concluding that all the Korahite Psalms were written during the reign of Hezekiah by members of that Levitical family, considers the Psalm to have been written on the same occasion as Psalm xlii., and supposes that "a devout Levite or company of Levites was hindered by the presence of Sennacherib's army from going up at the appointed seasons to take their turn in the ministrations of the Temple." He draws attention to "the touch which indicates the possible familiarity with the Temple precincts. The Levite minstrel remembers 'the sparrow and the swallow' that fluttered about the courts of the Sanctuary there, and built their nests upon its eaves, as they now love to haunt the enclosure of the Mosque of Omar." He observes what new force the Psalmists words acquire, "I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God," &c., if we regard them not as the vague indeterminate wish of any devout worshiper, but remember that they fell from the lips of one of those sons of Korah "whose special function it was to be 'keepers of the gate of the tabernacle' in the time of David (1 Chron. ix. 19), and sure to be appointed therefore to an analogous service in the Temple." And he concludes "that this Psalm, like Psalm xlii., was written by some Levite detained against his will 'in the land of Jordan' and 'on the slopes of Hermon,' somewhere, i.e., in the upland Gilead country, and that then the recollection of past journeys to Jerusalem would bring back the scenes of travel through the valley of the Jordan, which, with its deep depression and tropical climate, had from the earliest date been famous for its balsam-weeping trees. Some parched rock-ravine on the way would be that which the Psalmist would think of as having been watered by the tears of pilgrims." (Biblical Studies, pp. 163-166.)

The Psalm consists of two principal divisions; the first of which dwells on the blessedness of God's service in His House, the supreme happiness of those who are permitted to take their part in it, ver. 1—7: the second consists of a prayer that the Psalmist himself, though shut out from access to the Sanctuary, may nevertheless find God to be his sun and shield, ver. 8-12. Or we may divide the whole into three parts, thus: ver. 1-3 (or 4); ver. 4 (or 5) to 7; ver. 8-12. If we make the first strophe end with ver. 3, then the
first strophe and the last resemble one another in structure so far, that both begin and end with the same address to God, "0 Jehovah of Hosts" (slightly varied in ver. 8). On the other hand, ver. 4 completes the subject of the first strophe (see note on the verse).

Hupfeld, Delitzsch, De Wette, and others, follow the division suggested by the Selah, and arrange the strophes accordingly: ver. 1-4; ver. 5-8; ver. 9-12. But it is quite impossible to regard ver. 8 as the natural conclusion of the second strophe.*

[FOR THE PRECENTOR. UPON THE GITTITH. a A PSALM OF THE SONGS OF KORAH. b]  

1 How lovely are Thy dwellings, 0 Jehovah (of) Hosts!  
2 My soul longeth, yea even fainteth, for the courts of Jehovah;  
   My heart and my flesh cry aloud to the living God.

   I. THY DWELLINGS. The plural may either be used to denote the several parts of the sanctuary (see on lxviii. 35), or perhaps rather, poetically, instead of the singular. Comp. xliii. 3, xlv. 4, [5] cxxxii. 5, 8. And the same may be said of the plural "courts," in the next verse (which Mendelssohn renders by the singular, Vorhof.) But see General Introduction, Vol. I. p. 99,  
   2. By the COURTS, that part of the building is meant which was for the people at large. (So in Is. i. 12, "Who hath required this at your hand to tread my courts." Comp. lxv. 4 [5], cxvi. 19.) No inference can be drawn from the plural, that the reference is to the court of the people and the court of the priests in the Temple (as the Rabbis explain), and that consequently the Temple was already built.  
   On this intense expression of personal affection to God and His worship, see note on lxiii. 1.  
   SOUL . . . HEART . . . FLESH. Even more strongly than there (where "heart" is omitted) marking the whole man, with every faculty and affection. The verbs are also very expressive. The first, LONGETH, means literally, "hath grown pale," as with the intensity of the feeling; the second, FAINTETH, is more exactly "faileth," or "is consumed" (Job xix. 27).  
   CRY ALOUD. The verb in this conjugation is used elsewhere of a joyful utterance, and some would retain this meaning here, as even amidst the sadness of exile, there mingled with his longing a joy as he remembers, and anticipates, in spite of all that is adverse, communion with God in Zion. Mendelssohn, keeping to this meaning of the verb, renders: "My soul . . , fainteth for the court of the Eternal. (where) heart and flesh shout aloud (jauchzen) to the God of life." But this ignores the pronominal suffixes. However, the cry of prayer may be all that is meant. So the noun from the same root is frequently used, and so the verb (in the Qal conjug.) of the cry of distress, Lam. ii. 19.  
   LIVING GOD. See note on xlii. 2, the only other place in the Psalms where God is so named. This particular form of expression 'El Chay

All the Sephardim synagogues use this Psalm as introductory to the Afternoon Prayer.
118  PSALM LXXXIV.

3 Yea the sparrow hath found a house,
And the swallow a nest for herself where she hath
laid her young,
(Even) Thine altars, 0 Jehovah (of) Hosts,
My King and my God!

occurs but twice beside in the Bible, 
Josh. iii. 10, Hos. i.10. The similar 
name, Elohim Chayyim, is found, 
Deut. v. 26 (the first use of the 
epithet); I Sam. xvii. 26, 36; Jer. 
x. 10; xxiii. 36; and the correspond-
ing Chaldee, Dan. vi. 26. A third 
combination of the noun and ad-
jective, Elohim Chay, occurs in 
2 Kings xix. 4, 16, and the corre-
sponding passage in Is. xxxvii. 4, 17. 
In the New Testament the name 
"Living God" is found in St. 
Matthew's and St. John's Gospels, 
in the speech of Paul and Barnabas 
in the Acts (xiv. 15), in several of 
St. Paul's Epistles, four times in 
the Epistle to the Hebrews, and 
one in the Revelation.

3. MY KING AND MY GOD. Thus 
joined also in v. 2. It will be seen 
from my rendering of this verse, 
which coincides with that of the 
E.V., that I do not find in it that 
"insuperable difficulty" which has 
presented itself to some of the 
modern commentators. The Psalm-
list, at a distance from Zion, envies 
the birds who are free to build their 
nests in the immediate precincts of 
the Temple. They have a happiness 
which he cannot enjoy. They are 
nearer to God, so it seems to him 
in his despondency, than he is. 
This is all that is meant. Nor can 
I see anything "trivial" in such a 
thought. "Thine altars" is a poet-
ical way of saying "Thy house." 
It is manifestly a special term in-
stead of a general. Yet it has been 
seriously argued, that no birds 
could or would ever be suffered to 
buid their nests on the altar. 
Surely this sort of expression, which 
is hardly a figure, is common 

enough. A parte potiori fit deno-

minatio. We say, "There goes a 
sail." What should we think of a 

man who should argue that a sail 
cannot go? The altars mean the 
Temple. There was 
"No jutty frieze, 
Buttress, nor coigne of vantage, but 
these birds 
Had made their pendant bed," 
not to mention that trees grew 
within the sacred enclosure, where 
birds might have built their nests. 
The comparison between the lot of 
the birds, happy in their nearness 
to the house of God, and the Psalm-
list far removed and in exile, is sug-
gested rather than developed; but 
it is sufficiently obvious. Hence 
there is no need to adopt any of 
the different interpretations of the 
last clause of the verse which have 
been proposed, in order to escape a 
purely imaginary difficulty,—such 
as (1) "Oh for Thine altars, 0 
Jehovah," &c., as if the meaning 
were: "The birds have their nests, 
their homes, their shelter: Oh that 
I could find my place of refuge and 
shelter in Thy temple!" Or (2) 
supposing an ellipsis or omission of 
certain words, "The sparrow hath 
found an house, &c. . . . but I 
would find Thine altars," &c., or, 
"When shall I come (as in 6) to 
Thine altars?" Or (3) by a trans-
position (which Hupfeld proposes), 
so that the last two clauses of ver. 
3 [4] would stand after the first 
clause of ver. 4 [5] 
"Blessed are they that dwell in 
Thy house, 
(Even) Thine altars (or, by Thine 
altars), 0 Jehovah of Hosts, 
My King and my God; 
They will be alway praising Thee." 
(4) The most improbable view of 
all is that of Hengstenberg and 
Delitzsch--no doubt following the
4 Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house!  
They will be still praising Thee. [Selah.]
5 Blessed are the men whose strength is in Thee,  
In whose heart are (the) ways,

Rabbis, who say that "the bird" is Israel (a mere 'Agadah)—who suppose that the Psalmist speaks of himself under the figure of a bird. If that be so, what is the meaning of the allusion to the young ones? They are a pointless addition to the figure. Again, what is the force of the particle " yea" (כ) with which ver. 3 opens, unless it be to institute a comparison and a conclusion à minori. Lastly, how can the Psalmist express this longing for God's house in ver. 2, and in ver. 3 say that he has found (observe the perfect tense) a home and a rest there? This has been well argued by Hupfeld, who however himself misses the simple and obvious explanation of the verse.

4. It is doubtful whether this verse should be regarded as closing the first strophe, or commencing the second. The Selah has been urged in favour of the former view, but no stress can be laid upon this, as in the very next Psalm it is inserted in the middle of a strophe, and in some instances, as has been noticed elsewhere, even in the middle of a verse. The chief argument in favour of that division is that thus the thought of ver. 3 is completed. Even the birds are happy, who find shelter beneath that sacred roof; far more happy—truly blessed are they who dwell there, rendering the reasonable service of a thankful heart. The blessedness of God's house is that there men praise Him. This it was that made that house so precious to the Psalmist. And what Christian man can climb higher than this,—to find in the praise of God the greatest joy of his life?

THEY WILL BE STILL PRAISING THEE, i.e. "always, continually."

Others, who suppose that: a contrast is implied between the gloomy present and the more hopeful future, render, "They will yet praise Thee," taking the particle in the same sense as in xlii. 5 [6], to [11].

5-7. But not only blessed are they who dwell in the holy place in God's city, and near to His house; blessed are they who can visit it, with the caravan of pilgrims at the great national festivals. They cherish the remembrance of such seasons. Every spot of the familiar road, every station at which they have rested, lives in their heart. The path may be dry and dusty, through a lonely and sorrowful valley, but nevertheless they love it. The pilgrim band, rich in hope, forget the trials and difficulties of the way: hope changes the rugged and stony waste into living fountains. The vale blossoms as if the sweet rain of heaven had covered it with blessings. Hope sustains them at every step; from station to station they renew their strength as they draw nearer to the end of their journey, till at last they appear before God, present themselves as His worshippers, in His sanctuary in Zion.

Such appears to be the general scope of the passage, though the meaning of the second clause, "In whose heart are the ways," has been much questioned. (1) The Chaldee renders the verse: "Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thy word, who has confidence (in Thee, or in it, i.e. Thy word), in his heart." This preserves the parallelism, "strength" . . . "confidence." It probably rested on a figurative interpretation of the word "highways," roads carefully constructed being firm, strong, safe, and hence an image of confidence. (2) Others again, as Qimchi(Joseph), understand by "the ways," those of the knowledge "of God" (in
6 Who passing through the Vale of Weeping, make it a place of springs;
   Yea, the early rain covereth (it) with blessings.
7 They go from strength to strength,

which men are said to walk), and these are in their heart, because they love and meditate thereon.

(3) Hengstenberg explains the ways or roads constructed in the heart as the second condition of salvation (the first being that a man has his strength in God), and thinks that the expression designates zealous moral effort, righteousness, &c.; the heart of man being naturally like a pathless and rocky wilderness, in which roads are levelled by repentance. He quotes Ps. 1. 23; Prov. xvi. 17; Is. xl. 3, 4.

But these interpretations do not fall in with the general strain and tenour of verses 5-7. The WAYS (lit. "highways") are those traversed by the caravans of pilgrims—the ways to the sanctuary. No wonder that in all ages men have rejoiced to find in this beautiful picture an image of the Christian life. To what can that so aptly be compared as to a pilgrimage in a vale of tears? Is it not by the hope of appearing before God in the heavenly Jerusalem that the Christian is sustained? Does he not find fountains of refreshment in the wilderness of the world? Does not God's grace visit him like the sweet refreshing shower from heaven? Does he not advance from strength to strength, from grace to grace, from glory to glory, till he reaches his journey's end?

6. THE VALE OF WEEPING. The meaning of the word "Baca" is doubtful, but all the Ancient Versions render it by "weeping," and according to the Massoreth it is the same as "Bakhah," weeping; the word being written here only with א. Comp. xxiii. 4, "valley of the shadow of death." Burckhardt tells us that he found a valley in the neighbourhood of Sinai, which bore the name of "the valley of weeping."

Others, as Delitzsch and Ewald, take Baca to be the name of a tree, as it is in 2 Sam. v. 24; [Chron. xiv. 4; and either (as the E.V. there renders) "a mulberry-tree," or more probably some species of balsam-tree, dropping its tears of balm, and so taking its name from the Hebrew root which signifies "weeping." In this case some sandy valley is meant, where these trees grew, and which took its name from them.

"With the love for detecting allusive and, as it were, ominous meanings in proper names, which was characteristic of Hebrew thought at all times . . . . the Psalmist plays upon its etymological significance."—Plumptre, Biblical Studies, p. 165.

The meaning of the verse is, that the faith and hope and joy of the pilgrims make the sandy waste a place of fountains, and then (this is the Divine side of the picture) God from heaven sends down the rain of His grace. The word denotes the soft, gentle autumnal rain (Joel ii. 23) which fell after the crops were sown. Thus the Vale of Weeping becomes a Vale of Joy.

"Compare for the use of the same figure in a simpler form, Is. xxxv. 7; Hos. ii. 15 [17 Heb.]. The entrance into Palestine is, as a matter of fact, waste and arid."—Ewald.

A PLACE OF SPRINGS. This is the strict meaning of the word, rather than "a spring" or "fountain." Comp. cvii. 35.

7. FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH, ever renewing it, in spite of the toils of the way, and in view of the journey's end, as Is. xl. 31. Comp. Joh. i. 16, and 2 Cor.
(Every one of them) appeareth before God in Zion.

8 0 Jehovah, God (of) Hosts, hear my prayer,
Give ear, 0 God of Jacob. [Selah.]

9 See, 0 God our shield,
And look upon the face of Thine Anointed;

10 For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand
(elsewhere);
I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God,
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

11 For Jehovah God is a sun and a shield,
Jehovah giveth grace and glory,
No good thing doth He withhold from them that
walk uprightly.

iii. 18, and similarly Rom. i. 17, ἐκ πίστεως εἰς πίστιν, from "first to last of faith, and nothing but faith."
APEARETH. See note on xlii.
2. Comp. especially Exod. xxiii.
17, xxxiv. 23.
8. The Psalmist has pictured to himself the blessedness of those who dwell in the holy city, in immediate proximity to God's house, the blessedness of those who can join the pilgrim-caravans. Now, he pours out a prayer for himself that he, though distant, may share the same blessing.
9. SEE (absol. as in lxxx. 14 [15]).
OUR SHIELD, and again ver. 11; so God is called in iii. 3, where see note; xxviii. 7, &c.
LOOK UPON THE FACE OF THINE ANOINTED. This following immediately upon the words in ver. 8, "hear my prayer," favours the supposition that the Psalm was written by the king. So also does the use of the pronoun of the first person in ver. 10, introduced by the conjunction "for." Another might, however, offer the prayer on his behalf. See xx., xxi., lxi. 6 [7].
10. BE A DOOR-KEEPER, lit. "lie on the threshold" (LXX. παραπρότεινεις), or "busy oneself on the threshold;" the lowest place, the meanest office in God's house is a happiness and an honour beyond all that the world has to offer. De- litzsch sees in the comparison with "tents" rather than "palaces," an intimation that the Ark of God was still in a tent, and the Temple not yet built.

II. JEHOVAH GOD (Elohim).
This form of the Divine Name is characteristic, as is well known, of the section, Gen. ii. 14—iii. 24, where it first occurs. We find it again in Exod. ix. 30, and in David's prayer, 2 Sam. vii. 22. This is the only passage in the Psalter where it is employed. In lxviii. 18 [16] it is the shorter form "Jah Elohim."
In lxxxv. 8 the order of the two names is different, "The Elohim Jehovah." In lxvi. 5, and in a large number of passages in the Prophets where the E.V. has "the Lord God," this represents the Hebrew "Adonai Jehovah."

A SUN. This is the only place where God is directly so called. In other passages we have the more general name of "Light," as in xxvii. 1. Comp. however, Is. lx. 19, 20; Rev. xxi. 23; and the expression, "Sun of Righteousness," as applied to the Messiah, Mal. iii. 20 [iv. 2 in E.V.].

Instead of "Jehovah God is a sun and a shield," the LXX. and
120 Jehovah (of) Hosts,
   Blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee.

Theod. have, "The Lord God loveth mercy and truth."
   UPRIGHTLY, lit. "in perfect-ness;" see xv. 2. To such persons
God will show His salvation, all that is comprised in those two great
words, "grace" and "glory," whether they can enter His earthly
house or not.

And the Psalmist rises at last to the joyful conviction, not only that
they are blessed who dwell in God's house (ver. 4), or they who swell the
festal throng on their way to that house (ver. 5), but they who, whether
they worship in it or not, are one with Him by faith: "Blessed is the
man that trusteth in Thee."

a See on the Title of Psalm viii., and General Introduction, Vol. I.
p. 88.

b See on Title of xlii., and General Introduction, Vol. I. p. 98.

c רֵשָׁה where, as in xcv. 9, Num. xx. 13. The two names of birds here
mentioned are found together also in Prov. xxvi. 2. The Chald. render
"dove" and "turtle," but the rendering as above is preferable. See the
words in Ges. Thes.

d מִמְּשָׁל. The מִי may be as I have taken it, the sign of the accus. (in
appos.), or it may be a preposition, by, near. In this last sense it is taken
by the Syr., and so Ewald.

e מִשָּׁל. As the word stands, it can only mean highways, roads, and
here, the roads leading to the Sanctuary. So the LXX. seeing a reference
to the caravans going up to the yearly feast, render, אֶν τῇ
καρδίᾳ αὐτοῦ διέθετο. The Syro-hex. supplies the pronoun: "Thy path is
in their heart." The Chald., we have seen, gives the word a figurative
meaning, confidence. This meaning Hupfeld thinks is required by the
parallelism, and he proposes to read מִשָּׁלֶכֶה, the plur. of the noun מִשָּׁל, which occurs in this sense, Job iv. 6. The plur. of abstract nouns is
frequently used for the sing., and this plur. is found in a proper name,
Josh. xix. 22.

f מִרְמֹל. The same word occurs in Joel ii. 23 (bis), of the autumnal rain
(elsewhere מִרְמֹל); here, perhaps, any rain as softening and fertilizing.
The older Verss. generally took the word in the sense of teacher, lawgiver.
LXX. οῦκομοθετῶν. Sym. οὐ ὑποδείκτης. Ε'. οὐ φωτίζων. Σ'. οὐ διδάσκων.
Jer. doctor, and so the Rabbis, but Aquila has πρώιμος. Herder under-
stands by it the leader of the caravan.

גְּפָּר. Hiph. with double accus. (the nearer object being here omitted)
as in lxv. 13. Hengst. makes it Qal (as in Lev. xiii. 45, Jer. xiii. 12), and
insists that גְּפָר means teacher, as in 2 Kings xvii. 28, Is. xxx. 20, Prov.
v. 13, and so renders: "the teacher (i.e. David himself) shall even be
covered with blessings." In this he follows Jerome: Benedictionibus
amicietur doctor; but the whole beauty of the image is thus destroyed.
One with the change of a single vowel read τά ρέματα pools. Hence the E. V.: "The rain also filleth the pools." But the LXX. follow our present pointing: καὶ γὰρ εὐλογίας δώσει ὦ νομοθετῶν, and so does Sym. The accusative is placed first in the sentence as emphatic, whilst the part. ὠς, yea, also, shows that the rain produces its effect also in blessing, as well as the springs in the valley: "Yea with blessings doth the rain cover it."

The Chaldee paraphrase of this verse is singular enough to be worth quoting: "The sinners who pass through the depths of Gehenna, greatly weeping, make it a fountain; but [God] shall cover with blessings those that return to the doctrine of His law."

PSALM LXXXV.

THERE seems every reason to conclude that this Psalm was written after the return of the exiles from the Babylonish captivity. It opens with an acknowledgement of God's goodness and mercy in the national restoration, in terms which could hardly apply to any other event. But it passes immediately to earnest entreaty for deliverance from the pressure of existing evils, in language which almost contradicts the previous acknowledgement. First we hear the grateful confession, "Thou hast turned the captivity of Jacob" and then we have the prayer, "Turn us, O God of our salvation." If the third verse contains the joyful announcement, "Thou hast withdrawn all Thy wrath," &c., the fifth pleads as if no such assurance had been given: "Wilt Thou for ever be angry with us? Wilt thou draw out Thine anger to all generations?"

The most probable way of explaining this conflict of opposing feelings is by referring the Psalm to the circumstances mentioned by Nehemiah (chap. i. 3). The exiles on their return, he learnt, were "in great affliction and reproach." And when he obtained leave to go to Jerusalem himself, it was only in the midst of perpetual opposition and discouragement (chap. iv.) that he was able to carry on his work of restoration. The bright prospect which was opening before them had been quickly dashed. They had returned indeed, but it was to a desolate land and a forsaken city, whose walls were cast down, and her gates burned with fire; whilst jealous and hostile tribes were ever on the watch to assail and vex them. Hence it is that the entreaty for mercy follows so hard upon the acknowledgement that
mercy has been vouchsafed. The 126th Psalm is conceived in a some-
what similar strain. In the latter portion of this Psalm (from ver. 8) 
the present misery is forgotten in the dawning of a glorious future. 
The prayer has been uttered; the storm of the soul is hushed; in 
quietness and resignation the Psalmist sets himself to hear what God 
will say, and the Divine answer is given, not in form, but in substance 
in ver. 9-12. It is a glowing prophecy of Messianic times, most 
naturally connecting itself with the hopes which the return from 
Babylon had kindled afresh, and well fitted to enable those who 
heard it to triumph over the gloom and despondency of the present. 
Delitzsch traces in the Psalm the influence of the later portion of 
Isaiah's prophecy (chaps. xl.-xlvi.) It is one of the many Psalms 
which were inspired, he says, by the unsealing of that great book, and 
which in their flowing, graceful, transparent style, their figurative alle-
gorizing language, and their great prophetic thoughts of consolation, 
remind us of the common source whence they draw.

Mr. Plumptre, who holds that all the Korahite Psalms belong to 
the time of Hezekiah, thinks that this Psalm refers to the Assyrian 
invasion. He reminds us that the language of Isaiah in reference to 
that invasion is that "the cities shall be wasted without inhabitant," 
that "the Lord shall remove men far away" (Is. vi. 11, 12); that 
he speaks not only of "the remnant of Israel," "the remnant of 
Jacob" as returning (x. 29), but in terms hardly less strong, at the 
very crisis of Sennacherib's invasion, of "the remnant that is escaped 
of the house of Judah" (xxxvii. 32). After the overflow of Sen-
nercherib, and when the alliance of Hezekiah was courted by Babylon, 
there would be ample opportunities for many of those who had been 
carried into exile to return to the land of their fathers. "The vision 
of mercy and truth, righteousness and peace, is the same with the 
Psalmist as with the Prophet." It may be added, he remarks, that 
the prayer, "Turn us, O God of our salvation" (in ver. 4), is identical 
with the ever-recurring burden of Psalm lxxx., which clearly refers to 
the captivity of "Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh" i.e. of 
"Jacob" rather than of "Judah." (Biblical Studies, pp. 166-7.)

It is not surprising, considering the bright picture which the latter 
verses contain, that this Psalm should have been appointed by the 
Church for the services of Christmas Day.

According to Hupfeld, the Psalm falls into two nearly equal 
portions:--

(1) The Prayer of the people, or for the people, ver. 1-7; 
(2) the Divine Promise, ver. 8-13. Ewald and Olshausen suppose
that the first was intended to be sung by the congregation, the second by the Priest, who after prayer seeks and receives the Divine answer.

[FOR THE PRECENTOR. A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH.]

1 Thou art become favourable, O Jehovah, unto Thy land,
Thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.
2 Thou hast taken away the iniquity of Thy people,
Thou hast covered all their sin. [Selah.]
3 Thou hast withdrawn all Thy wrath,
Thou hast turned from the fierceness of Thine anger.
4 Turn us, 0 God of our salvation,
And cause Thine indignation towards us to cease.
5 Wilt Thou for ever be angry with us?
Wilt Thou draw out Thine anger to all generations?
6 Wilt not THOU quicken us again,
That Thy people may rejoice in Thee?
7 Show us Thy loving-kindness, O Jehovah,
And grant us Thy salvation.
8 I will hear what God Jehovah will speak,

1-3. The acknowledgement of God's goodness to His people in their restoration from the Babylonish captivity. It is not necessary to translate the tenses as aorists, "Thou didst become" (as Ewald and others); for though the restoration is a past event, we need not regard it as long past.

1. Thou HAST BROUGHT BACK, &c. See on xiv. 7, and on lxviii.
18. Others, "Thou hast returned to."
2. TAKEN AWAY . . . COVERED. Both words are used in xxxii. 1, where see notes.
5. FOR EVER. The emphatic word placed first, because there seemed to be no end to their calamities. Even the return to their own land had brought them apparently no rest, no consolation, no hope for the future.
6. THOU. The pronoun is emphatic; for God alone can thus revive the sad hearts and broken hopes of His people.
QUICKEN, &c. Comp. lxii. 20, lxxx. 19.
IN THEE. Not in any earthly blessings, even when they are vouchsafed; not in corn, or wine, or oil; not in the fatness of the earth or the dew of heaven; but in Him who giveth all these things, who giveth more than all these, Himself.
8. I WILL HEAR, or, "let me hear." Having uttered his sorrows and his prayer for better days, he would now place himself in the attitude of calm and quiet expecta-
For He will speak peace to His people and His beloved,
Only let them not turn again to folly.
9 Surely His salvation is nigh them that fear Him,
That glory may dwell in our land.
10 Loving-kindness and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed (each other).
11 Truth springeth out of the earth,
And righteousness hath looked down out of heaven.
12 Jehovah will give that which is good,
as of the only-begotten of the Father."

10. The four virtues here mentioned are, as Calvin remarks, the four cardinal virtues of Christ's kingdom. Where these reign amongst men, there must be true and perfect felicity. He adds, however, "If any one prefers to understand, by the loving-kindness and truth here mentioned, attributes of God, I have no objection to such a view." But the truth is, the last are the basis and source of the first.

11. The earth brings forth truth, as she brings forth the natural fruits, and righteousness looks down from heaven like some approving angel on the renewed and purified earth. Or, as Calvin more generally explains: "Tantumdem valet ac si dixisset utramque fore sursum et deorsum ubique diffusam, ut coelum et terram impleant. Neque enim seorsum illis aliquid diversum tribuere voluit." The figures are designed in both verses to show that these virtues are not regarded merely in their separate aspect, but as meeting, answering one another, conspiring in perfect harmony to one glorious end. For this mutual blessing from the heaven above and the earth beneath, comp. Is. xlv. 8, Hos.ii. 23-25.

12. The Psalmist passes from spiritual to temporal blessings. "If any one objects to this mixing of the two, the answer is easy: there
And our land will give her increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before Him,
And shall follow His footsteps in the way.\(^c\)

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<th>and our land will give her increase.</th>
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<td>13 Righteousness shall go before Him,</td>
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| is nothing to shock us, if God, whilst He blesses the faithful with spiritual blessings, should vouch-safe to them also some taste of His fatherly love in the good things of this world; for St. Paul assures us that godliness hath the promise of this life as well as of that which is to come”—Calvin. He adds an important remark: "This verse, moreover, shows us that the power of fruitfulness was not once for all bestowed on the earth (as men of no religion choose to imagine, that God at the creation gave to the several parts of His universe their several office, and then left them alone to pursue their own course), but that every year it is fertilized by the secret virtue of God, according as He sees fit to testify to us His goodness." |
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| a See above on the Title of Psalm xlii., and General Introduction, Vol. I. p. g8. |
| b בְּנַשְׁל. The Hiph., which elsewhere is used with the accus. (lxxviii. 38, cvi. 23, Job ix. 13, &c.), is here used like the intrans. Qal, with יְּהַבָּה, see Exod. xxxii. 12, Jon. 9. There is apparently here a confusion of the two constructions, the phrase being borrowed from the passage in Exod., with the substitution of Hiph. for Qal. See a similar case in Ezek. xviii 30, 32. |
| c The constr. is literally "and maketh His footsteps for a way," i.e. in which to follow Him. So apparently the LXX. καὶ θήσετι εἰς ὁδὸν τὰ διαβέβηματα αὐτοῦ, and Sym. κ. θ. εἰς ὁδ. τοῦς πόδας αὐτοῦ. Others, as Del. explain: "and (righteousness) setteth (her feet) in the way of His steps," a possible rendering, perhaps, but against the accents. Strictly speaking, יִשְׁמַע is the optat. form, and therefore the whole verse ought rather to be rendered, "Let righteousness go before Him," &c. So the Talmud, Berachoth 14\(^a\), though giving a different interpretation, "Let righteousness precede a man, and then let him put his footsteps in the way (i.e. go about his daily business)." |

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| PSALM LXXXVI. |
| THIS Psalm, which is inserted amongst a series of Korahite Psalms, is the only one in the Third Book ascribed to David. That it was written by him we can hardly suppose. Many of the expressions are, no doubt, such as we meet with in his Psalms, but there are also many which are borrowed from other passages of Scripture. Indeed, the numerous adaptations of phrases employed |
by other writers may reasonably be taken as evidence of a much
later date. Further, the style is, as Delitzsch remarks, liturgical
rather than poetical, and is wholly wanting in that force, animation,
and originality for which David's poems are remarkable. The Psalm
is stamped by the use of the Divine Name, Adonai, which occurs in
it seven times.

There is no regular strophical division, nor is it always easy to
trace clearly the connexion between the several parts of the Psalm.
Hupfeld denies that there is any. Tholuck has traced it far more
carefully than any commentator I am acquainted with, and in the
notes I have given the substance of his remarks.

The introductory portion (ver. 1-5) consists of a number of
earnest petitions, based on several distinct pleas—the suffering
(ver. 1), the faith (ver. 2), the continued and earnest supplication
(ver. 3, 4) of the Psalmist, and the mercy and goodness of God
(ver. 5).

In the next part (ver. 6-13) he resumes his petition; expresses
his confidence that God will hear him, comforting himself with the
majesty and greatness of God, who is able to do all that he asks
(ver. 8-10); prays for guidance and a united heart, mixing with
his prayer resolves as to his conduct, and thanksgiving for deliverance
(ver. 11-13).

Finally (ver. 14-17) he speaks of the peril by which he has been
threatened, turns to God with affectionate confidence as to a gracious
God, and casts himself fearlessly upon His mercy.

[A PSALM OF DAVID.]

1 Bow down Thine ear, 0 Jehovah, answer me!
For I am afflicted and poor.
2 Keep my soul, for I am one whom Thou lovest
0 THOU my God, save Thy servant,
Who putteth his trust in Thee.

2. AFFLICTED AND POOR: alleged
in the same way as a reason, xl. 17 [18]. This is not the highest ground
which can be taken in pressing for
an answer to our prayer, but it is
a ground which God suffers us to
take, both because He declares
Himself to be the helper of the
needy (comp. xii. 5 [6]), and because
it is the sense of their need and
misery which drives men to God.
Comp. for the same epithets xxxv.
10, xxxvii. 14, lxxiv. 21.
2. ONE WHOM THOU LOVEST,
or, who has been graciously dealt
with by Thee. The first plea was
his need; now he pleads his own
covenant relation to God; for this
is implied in the adjective here
used, chasid. Comp. iv. 3 [4] note b,
and the note on xvi. 10. It is un-
fortunate that the E.V. renders:
3 Be gracious unto me, 0 Lord,  
For upon Thee do I call all the day long.
4 Rejoice the soul of Thy servant,  
For unto Thee, 0 Lord, do I lift up my soul.
5 For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive,  
And plenteous in loving-kindness to all them that  
call upon Thee.
6 Give ear, 0 Jehovah, unto my prayer,  
And hearken unto the voice of my supplications.
7 In the day of my distress, I will call upon Thee,  
For Thou wilt answer me.
8 There is none like unto Thee among the gods, 0 Lord,  
Neither are there (any works) like unto Thy works.

"for I am holy." (The margin  
gives the true rendering.) The  
appeal is not to anything in him-  
self, but to God's goodness. This  
is clear from ver. 5. At the same  
time he does not hesitate to say  
what the attitude of his heart is  
towards God, and to urge his simple  
absolute confidence in God, as well  
as his unceasing earnest prayer, as  
reasons why he should be heard.  
This is the language of honest  
straightforward simplicity, not of  
self-righteousness.

4. I LIFT UP MY SOUL, as in xxv.  
l. Comp. cxxx. 6.
5. READY TO FORGIVE. The  
adjective occurs nowhere else. The  
general sentiment of the verse (re-  
peated in 15) is borrowed from such  
passages as Exod. xx. 6; xxxiv. 6,  
9; Num. xiv. 18, 19.

It is on the broad ground of  
God's mercy, and of that mercy as  
freely bestowed on all who seek it,  
that he rests. He applies the  
general truth (ver. 5) to his own  
case (ver. 6). In ver. 7 be pleads  
again the need, under the pressure  
of which he cries to God: it is no  
unmanly, petulant, peevish com-  
plaint that he utters. The calamity  
is real, and there is but One who  
has power to deliver him.

6. Comp. v. 2, xxviii. 2, cxxx. 2.

The peculiar form of the word SUP-  
PLICATIONS occurs only here.
7. Comp. xx. 1; 1. 16; lxxvii. 2  
[3]; xvii. 6.

8-10. There are two kinds of  
doubt which are wont in the hour  
of temptation to assail the soul;  
the doubt as to God's willingness,  
and the doubt as to God's power,  
to succour. The first of these the  
Psalmist has already put from him:  
he now shows that he has overcome  
the second. God is able as well as  
willing to help, and every being on  
the face of the earth who receives  
help, receives it from the hand of  
Him who is the only God, and who  
shall one day be recognized (so  
speaks the strong prophetic hope  
within him, ver. 9) as the only God.  
This hope rests on the fact that  
God has created all men ("all na-  
tions whom Thou hast made"), and  
nothing can be imagined more self-  
contradictory than that the spirit  
which has come from God should  
remain for ever unmindful of its  
source. In Ver. 8 it might seem as  
if God were merely compared with  
the gods of the nations. In ver.  
10 they are plainly said to be "no  
gods," though they "be called  
gods." There is but one God:  
"Thou art God alone."
8. The first half of the verse is
9 All nations whom Thou hast made
    Shall come and bow themselves down before Thee,
    0 Lord,
     And shall give glory to Thy Name.
10 For Thou art great, and doest wondrous things;
    Thou art God alone.
11 Teach me, 0 Jehovah, Thy way,
    I will walk in Thy truth:
    Unite my heart to fear Thy Name;
12 I will give thanks unto Thee, 0 Lord my God, with my
        whole heart,
    And I will glorify Thy Name for ever,

borrowed from Exod. xv. 11. Comp.
  lxxix. 8 [9], 1xxi. 19, &c. With
the second half comp. Deut. iii,
24.
    9. Nearly as in xxii. 27 [28].
Comp. lxvi. 4; Is. lxvi. 18, 23;
Zech. xiv. 9, 16.
    10. Comp. lxxvii. 13, 14 [14, 15]
    with Exod. xv. 11. See also lxxxiii.
18 [19]; 2 Kings xix. 15, 19; Neh.
ix. 6.
    11. The first clause is word for
word as in xxvii. 11. Comp. xxv.
4.
    WALK IN THY TRUTH, xxvi. 3.
Although in a great strait, and in
fear of his enemies, the Psalmist,
like all who pray aright, offers first
the petition, "Hallowed be Thy
Name," before he asks, "Give us
this day our daily bread," and "de-
deliver us from evil." He confesses
that his spiritual eye is not yet
perfectly enlightened, his heart not
yet perfect with God. And while
he rejects every other way, every
other rule of life, but the eternal
rule of God's truth, he prays first
that he may more clearly discern
that way, and then that all the
various desires, interests, passions,
that agitate the human heart, may
have no hold upon him, compared
with the one thing needful—"to
fear God's name."
UNITE MY HEART—suffer it no
longer to scatter itself upon a mul-
типlicity of objects, to be drawn
hither and thither by a thousand
different aims, but turn all its
powers, all its affections in one di-
rection, collect them in one focus,
make them all one in Thee. The
prayer derives a special force from.
the resolve immediately preceding:
"I will walk in Thy truth." The
same integrity of heart which made
the resolve could alone utter the
prayer. The nearest Old Testa-
ment parallels are: the "one heart,"
Jer. xxxii. 39; "And I will give
them one heart and one way, that
they may fear Me for ever;" and the
"whole heart "of love to God, Deut.
vi. 5, x. 12. Our Lord teaches us
how needful the prayer of this verse
is. Comp. what He says of "the
single eye," the impossibility of
serving two masters, the folly and
the wearisomeness of those anxious
cares by which men suffer them-
selves to be hampered and dis-
tracted, and in contrast with all this
the exhortation, "Seek ye first the
19-34.) See also the history of
Martha and Mary, Luke x. 38-42.

12. Why does he offer this prayer
for a "united heart"? That he may
then with his "whole heart:" give
thanks to God for all His infinite
loving-kindness. God's mercies
13 For Thy loving-kindness is great toward me,
   And Thou hast delivered my soul from the unseen
   world beneath,

14 0 God, proud men are risen up against me,
   And an assembly of violent men have sought after
   my soul,
   And have not set Thee before them.

15 But Thou, 0 Lord, art a God full of compassion and
   gracious,
   Long-suffering and plenteous in loving-kindness and
   truth.

16 0 turn unto me, and be gracious to me,
   Give Thy strength unto Thy servant,
   And save the son of Thy handmaid.

17 Show me a sign for good,
   That they who hate me may see and be ashamed,
   Because Thou, Jehovah, hast holpen me, and com-
   forted me.

are a motive to greater thankful-
ness, and to a more whole-hearted
undivided service. Briefly, the
connexion in ver. 11, 12, is this
"Teach me Thy way, (and then)
I will walk, &c. Unite my heart,
(and then) I will give thanks."
   13. Comp. lvii. 10 [11]; lvi. 13
   [14]; cxvi. 8.

14. THE UNSEEN WORLD BENEATH,
   i.e. under the earth. Comp. Exod.
   xx. 4 with Phil. ii. 10. For similar
   phrases see Ezek. xxxii. 14, 16, 18;
   Ps. lxiii. 9 [10]; exxxix. 15; Ezek.
   xxvi. 20; xxxii. 18, 24; Is. xliv.
   23, and Ps. lxxxviii. 6 [7]; Lam.
   iii. 55.

   15. Now at last he comes to the
   peril, and now (ver. 15) his appeal
   lies even more fully than in ver. 5
to God's glorious Name by which
   He made Himself known to Moses,
   Exod. xxxiv. 6. This verse explains
   what the peril was, and what he

means by the deliverance from
Hades. The words are borrowed,
with a slight variation ("proud
men" instead of "strangers"), from
liv. 3 [5].

   VIOLENT, or rather "overbear-
ing." Aq. κατισχυεωμενων.

16. SON OF THY HANDMAID, as
   in cxvi. 16.

   17. A SIGN, i.e. not a miraculous
   sign, but an evident proof of Thy
   good-will towards me, such as shall
   force even my haters to acknow-
   ledge that Thou art on my side.

   "Is it not the fact," says Tholuck,
   "that the more we recognize in
   every daily occurrence God's secret
   inspiration guiding and controlling
   us, the more will all which to others
   wears a common every-day aspect,
   to us prove a sign and a wondrous
   work?"

   FOR GOOD. Comp. Neh. v. 19,
   xiii. 31, and often in Jeremiah.
THIS Psalm presents us with one of those startling contrasts to the general tone of Jewish sentiment and belief which meet us in various passages of the Prophetical writings. The Jewish nation was, even by its original constitution, and still more by the provisions of the Law of Moses, an isolated nation. Shut in by the mountains, the sea, the desert, it was to a great extent cut off from the world. And the narrowness of its spirit corresponded to the narrowness of its geographical position. It was pervaded by a jealous exclusiveness which was remarkable even among the nations of antiquity, and which derived its force and sanction from the precepts of its religion. The Jews were constantly reminded that they were a separate people, distinct, and intended to be distinct, from all others. Their land, was given them as a special gift from Heaven. Both they and their country belonged to God, in a sense in which no other people and country belonged to Him. It was a holy Ark which no profane hands might dare to touch; or if they did, they must perish in the attempt. As a natural consequence of this belief, the Jewish people, for the most part, regarded their neighbours as enemies. Judaism held out no hope of a brotherhood of nations. The Jewish Church was not a missionary church. So far as the Jews looked upon the world around them, it was with feelings of antipathy, and with the hope, which was never quenched in the midst of the most terrible reverses, that finally they, as the chosen race, should subdue their enemies far and wide, and that, by the grace of Heaven, one sitting on David's throne should be king of the world. Psalmists and Prophets shared the feeling. They exulted in the thought that the king who ruled from Zion would dash the nations in pieces like a potter's vessel, fill the places with dead bodies, and lead rival kings in the long array of his triumph.

But mingling with these anticipations, and correcting them, there were others of a nobler kind. The Prophets speak not only of victories, but of voluntary submission. The vision which rises before them is not only of a forced unity of nations, such as that which was achieved by the iron hand of Roman dominion, but of a unity of faith and love. They see the mountain of the Lord's house exalted above the hills, and all nations flowing to it with one impulse, not led thither in the conqueror's train, but attracted by its
glory, longing to taste its peace (Is. ii. 2-4). They see Gentiles coming to the light of Jerusalem, and kings to the brightness of her rising. They foretell a time when all wars and all national antipathies shall cease, when "the root of Jesse" shall be as a standard round which all nations shall flock, and the temple of Jehovah the centre of a common faith and worship.

It is this last hope which expresses itself in this Psalm, but which expresses itself in a form that has no exact parallel in other passages. Foreign nations are here described, not as captives or tributaries, not even as doing voluntary homage to the greatness and glory of Zion, but as actually incorporated and enrolled, by a new birth, among her sons. Even the worst enemies of their race, the tyrants and oppressors of the Jews, Egypt and Babylon; are threatened with no curse, no shout of joy is raised in the prospect of their overthrow, but the privileges of citizenship are extended to them, and they are welcomed as brothers. Nay more, God Himself receives each one as a child newly born into His family, acknowledges each as His son, and enrols him with His own hand in the sacred register of His children.

It is this mode of anticipating a future union and brotherhood of all the nations of the earth, not by conquest, but by incorporation into one state, and by a birthright so acquired, which is so remarkable. In some of the Prophets, more especially in Isaiah, we observe the same liberal, conciliatory, comprehensive language toward foreign states, as Tyre and Ethiopia, and still more strikingly toward Egypt and Assyria (chap. xix. 22-25). But the Psalm stands alone amongst the writings of the Old Testament, in representing this union of nations as a new birth into the city of God.

This idea gives it a singular interest, and clearly stamps it as Messianic. It is the Old Testament expression of the truth which St. Paul declares, when he tells us that in Jesus Christ "there is neither Greek nor Jew, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free;" or when he writes to the Gentile Church at Ephesus, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God."

It is the first announcement of that great amity of nations, or rather of that universal common citizenship of which heathen philosophers dreamt, which was "in the mind of Socrates when he called himself a citizen of the world," which had "become a commonplace of the Stoic philosophy," which Judaism tried finally to realize by the admission of proselytes, through baptism, into the Jewish community; which Rome accomplished, so far as the external semblance went, first by subduing the nations, and then by
admitting them to the rights of Roman citizenship. But the true
fulfilment of this hope is to be found only in that kingdom which
Christ has set up. He has gathered into His commonwealth all the
kingdoms of the earth. He has made men one, members of the
same family, by teaching them to feel that they are all children of
the same Father. He has made it evident that the hope of the
Jewish singer is no false hope; that there is a Father in heaven who
cares for all, whatever name they bear. Thus the Psalm has received
a better and higher fulfilment than that which lies on the surface of
its words. It was fulfilled in Christ. When He came, "the city of
God, of which the Stoics doubtfully and feebly spoke, was set up
before the eyes of men. It was no insubstantial city, such as we
fancy in the clouds, no invisible pattern, such as Plato thought
might be laid up in heaven, but a visible corporation, whose
members met together to eat bread and drink wine, and into
which they were initiated by bodily immersion in water. Here
the Gentile met the Jew, whom he had been accustomed to regard
as an enemy of the human race; the Roman met the lying Greek
sophist, the Syrian slave the gladiator born beside the Danube. In
brotherhood they met, the natural birth and kindred of each for-
gotten, the baptism alone remembered, in which they had been born
again to God and to each other." *

There are two principal epochs to which the Psalm may be re-
ferred:--

I. Its tone, as has been already observed, falls in with that of
some of the prophecies of Isaiah. Hence it has been referred,
not without reason, to the reign of Hezekiah. Some have sup-
pposed that it was a song of triumph, written, like Psalms xlvi. and
xlviii., after the defeat of Sennacherib; others, more probably, that it
was a hymn composed for some solemn reception of proselytes into
the Church, "the Psalmist and his brother Levites exulting in this
admission of converts as they would do in a national victory." Mr.
Plumptre gives several reasons in favour of this view. He refers
(1) to the similarity between the opening verse and the language
of Psalm xlviii. 2 (written, as we have seen, in Hezekiah's reign),
compared with is. xxv. 6, 7, and ii. 3. (2) He thinks the use of the
name "Rahab" as designating Egypt is almost sufficient to fix the
date of the Psalm. For the use of the word in this sense is
characteristic of Isaiah, as in li. 9, "Art thou not it that hash cut
Rahab (i.e. smitten Egypt) and wounded the dragon?" And again,
Is. xxx. 7, "The Egyptians shall help in vain. . . . They are Rahab

* Ecce Homo, p. 136.
(proud, mighty, ferocious as the monstrous forms of their own river), and yet they sit still." (3) The hope thus expressed, that Egypt and Babylon shall be enrolled among the worshipers of Jehovah, is a hope identical with that in Isaiah xix.: "In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land," &c. And Babylon is substituted for Assyria in the Psalm, because of the greater intercourse with the former kingdom, and the seeming overthrow of the latter towards the close of Hezekiah's reign. Babylonish ambassadors came to Hezekiah, and Isaiah's prophecies in chaps. xiii., xiv., xxxix., are evidence that Babylon was prominent at this time. (4) The mention of Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia also synchronizes with Hezekiah's reign. As Isaiah had foretold (xiv. 29), he subdued the Philistines (2 Kings xviii. 3). This was a token that the Lord "had founded Zion." His reign witnessed a renewal of the intercourse with Tyre, and this was accompanied by a partial conversion, and by gifts and tribute in token of it. Ethiopia, too, had come at the same time into fresh prominence in connexion with Judah (see Isaiah xxxvii. 9, and comp. Zeph. iii. 10). (5) Hezekiah was conspicuous for his catholic spirit. He not only seeks to effect the re-union of Israel and Judah (2 Chron. xxx.), but also brings with them into fellowship, "the strangers that came out of the land of Israel," as distinct from the "congregation" (ver. 26). In 2 Chron. xxxii. 23, other nations are said to have brought gifts for the Temple. (6) Traces of this admission of proselytes meet us in the latter history of the kingdom of Judah. Isaiah pronounced a solemn blessing on "the sons of the strangers that join themselves to the lord," who are to be made joyful in the "holy mountain" (Is. lvi. 7). Comp. also Is. lv. 1, and Jerem. xxxviii. 7.--Biblical Studies, pp. 167--171.

II. Calvin and others refer the Psalm to a time subsequent to the return from the captivity. It was designed, as Calvin thinks, to console the exiles, whose hearts must have died down within them as they thought of the present enfeebled, impoverished, defenceless state of the city; who sighed as they looked at their temple, so far inferior in beauty and stateliness, as well as in the imposing splendour of its worship, to the house which their fathers remembered; and who, dispirited and girt by enemies, needed every encouragement for the future. A study of the earlier chapters of Zechariah, and the later chapters of Isaiah, in connexion with this Psalm, may lead us to adopt this view. But our conclusion must depend to a great extent on the date which we are disposed to assign to the later chapters of Isaiah (xl.-lxvi.).
The outline of the Psalm is as follows:--

It opens with an outburst of intensely national feeling, celebrating the glory of Zion as the city of God. Ver. 1-3.

But the patriotic sentiment is too large and too grand to suffer any narrow jealousy to interfere with it, and therefore all nations are said to be gathered to her as children to one mother. It lends more force and dignity to this idea, that God Himself appears as the speaker, declaring of one and another, foreign and hostile nations, that their true birthplace is there, in Zion. Finally, one brief, obscure verse tells of the joy and happiness of the holy city, welcoming new children on all sides, and making them partakers in her joy. Ver. 7.

[OF THE SONS OF KORAN. A PSALM. A SONG.]

1. HIS foundation upon the holy mountains doth Jehovah love,
2 (He loveth) the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
3 Glorious things are spoken of thee, 0 city of God! [Selah.]
4 " I will mention Rahab and Babylon among them that know Me;

1-3. The same deep affection and admiration for the holy city are expressed here which are expressed' in Psalm xlviii. But there is nothing in the language employed to lead us to suppose that the city had just escaped from the horrors of war. The "gates" are mentioned, not as a part of the fortifications, but as one of the most prominent features of the city—the place of concourse, of judgement, &c.

Every word is emphatic. His FOUNDATION, the city and the temple which He, Jehovah Himself, hath built; UPON THE HOLY MOUNTAINS, consecrated by His immediate and manifested Presence; which Jehovah LOVETH with a special and distinguishing affection, as compared not only with other nations, but even with other parts of the Holy Land itself.

UPON THE HOLY MOUNTAINS.
The plural is used with reference to the mountainous character of the whole country. "Jerusalem was on the ridge, the broadest and most strongly marked ridge of the backbone of the complicated hills which extend through the whole country from the Desert to the plain of Esdraelon." — STANLEY, Sinai and Palestine, chap. iii. p. 176. He compares its position in this respect to that of Rome, that "each was situated on its own cluster of steep hills" (p. 175).

3. GLORIOUS THINGS: not earthly splendour or victories, but such a gathering of nations into her bosom as follows in the next verse.

4. I WILL MENTION. The words are the words of God. We have the same abrupt introduction of the Divine Speaker in other Psalms. Comp. xiv. 4; perhaps xxxii. 8;
Lo Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia:
'This one is born there.'

5 And of Zion it is said:
"One after another is born in her,
And the Most High Himself shall establish her."

RAHAB. Originally the word denotes pride, ferocity. So in Job ix. 13, "the helpers of pride (Rahab) do stoop under him." Possibly even there, and certainly in Job xxvi. 12, it is the name of some fierce monster of the deep, probably the crocodile: "He divideth the sea by His power, And by His understanding He smiteth the proud monster (Rahab)," where the LXX. have κηλιτος. In Ps. lxxxix. 10 [11], there can be no doubt of the reference to Egypt: "Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces," the crocodile of the Nile being there taken as the symbol of that kingdom. So too in Is. li. 9, "Art thou not that hast cut Rahab (i.e. smitten Egypt) and wounded the dragon?" and xxx. 7, "The Egyptians shall help in vain, &c... they are Rahab i.e. proud, mighty, &c." The name, then, is applied to Egypt as a vast and formidable power, of which the crocodile might naturally be regarded as the symbol. Ewald supposes it to be connected with the Egyptian name Rif, and refers to Burckhardt's Nubia, p. 457.

AMONG THEM THAT KNOW ME, lit. "as belonging to (the number of) them that know Me." See Critical Note. The verb to know is here used in that deeper and wider sense in which it frequently occurs in Scripture, both of God and of man. Comp. i. 6 (where see note), and xxxvi. to [11]; John x. 14, 15. It is the knowledge of friendship, the knowledge which springs of intimate acquaintance, the knowledge of parent and child.

PHILISTIA, TYRE, ETHIOPIA. Of all these nations it shall he said, that one and another of them ("this one," as if pointing to them) has become a worshiper of Jehovah, and an adopted citizen of Zion, "born there." With regard to these nations, see the prophecies of Isaiah quoted in the Introduction, and comp. lxviii. 31 [32]. THERE, so Zion is designated even before she is named. Others refer THERE to the countries mentioned before, and explain: "Only a few are to be found there; great numbers, many a one (see next ver.) in Zion."

5. AND OF ZION, or "to Zion," it is said, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, lit. "man and man," i.e. vast multitudes are born in her, as the nations one after another become incorporated as her children. The LXX. here render, not "it shall be said to Zion," but "Mother Zion shall say" (Μήτηρ Σιών ἐφεί), and Zion is spoken of as a mother. Is. lxvi. 7; liv. 1-3; lx. 4, 5; but the sense here is different (other copies of the LXX: read μή τῇ Σιών; and so the Syro-hex. and the Psalt. Gall. Numquid Sion). It is remarkable that the figure of a new birth is used to express the admission of the different nations to the rights of citizenship in Zion. So Cicero speaks of his restoration to his privileges and honours on his return from banishment as "a regeneration:" "Amicorum literam nostras ad triumphum vocant, rem a nobis, ut ego arbitror, propter hanc paliggeneri<an>, non neglegendam" (EA. ad Att. vi. 6, § 4).

"Clearly Zion stands in opposition to the countries mentioned before, the one city to the whole of the different countries, the one city of God to all the kingdoms of the world." —Delitzsch. These kingdoms one after another lose their
6 Jehovah shall reckon when He writeth the peoples,
"This one is born there." [Selah.]
7 Both they that sing and they that dance, \(f\)
   All my fountains, are in thee. \(g\)

population, cease to be kingdoms,
whilst their inhabitants all contribute to swell the population of that
city which God's own right hand establishes and makes glorious.
6. WHEN HE WRITETH, i.e. takes a census of the nations
(\(\Gamma \varepsilon \nu \delta \pi ρ\gamma\) τ\(\rho\)\(\nu\)\(\varsigma\) \(τ\)\(\lambda\)\(\omega\)\(\nu\)\(\nu\), comp. the
figure of Ezek. xiii. 9, Is. iv. 3, and
see note on Ps. lxix. 28), the most
glorious thing that He can say of
each of them, the crown of all their
history, shall be this, not the record
of their separate national existence
or polity or dominion, but the fact
that they have become members
by adoption of the city of God.
Zion shall be the metropolis of the
world.

THIS ONE IS BORN THERE. The
words are repeated, as by God
Himself, as He enters one after
another in the register of His city.
7. Great shall be the joy, great
the pomp of festival and music,
when Zion welcomes her new in-
habitants. This is doubtless the
sense; but the compressed brevity
of this verse makes it extremely
obscure. It has been rendered:
(I) "Both they that sing and
they that dance (or, as others, play
the flute) say: 'All my fountains (of
salvation, or of delight) are in thee
(0 city of God)."
(2) "Both they that sing and
they that dance, All my fountains
of (delight), are in thee;" meaning
that every source of pleasure, music,
singing, &c., was to be found in
Zion.
(3) By a change in the reading
"They both sing and dance, all
who dwell in thee (or, all my dwel-
lers in thee)."

Of these, (2) is clearly preferable. The verse might be arranged
thus:--

(In thee) are they that sing and they
that dance.
In thee are all my living springs.

This is abrupt, but still a natural
touch of genuine poetic feeling.
Milton, in his Paraphrase, gives
a similar interpretation
"Both they who sing and they who
dance
With sacred songs are there;
In thee fresh brooks and soft
streams glance,
And all my fountains clear."

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b הַנֵּֽעָשָׂה. This is not the part. pass. (as Hengst. and others maintain),
"the founded city," but a subst., as is clear from the use of the stiff.; and
although the word occurs nowhere else, it is fully supported by the
analogy of הָנֵֽעָשָׂה, הָנֵֽעָשָׂה, &c. Comp. דַּעַשְׂמ, of Zion, Is. xxviii. 16. So
the LXX. οἱ θεμέλιαι οὐτοῦ. Sym. θεμελίωσις οὐτοῦ. The suff. evidently
refers, not to Zion, but to God. Rashi refers the suff. apparently to the
Psalm itself: "its theme (the foundation on which it rests) is on the holy
mountains." This clause would thus be a sort of prelude describing the
nature of the Psalm. But it seems to me better, instead of taking ver. I
as a separate clause, " His (or its) foundation is upon the holy mountains,"
to connect this clause with ver. 2, and to consider the words יִתְנָךְ as belonging to the first member. The verb can then readily be repeated with the second. If we follow the accents, ver. 1, 2 will be arranged as follows:—I. His foundation is on the holy mountains. 2. Jehovah loveth the gates of Zion, More than all the dwellings of Jacob.

c תַּחֲנוֹן, not an adv., as נַחֲנוֹן in cxxxix. 14, nor an accus. as in lxv. 5 (see note f there), as Ewald, Hengst., and others explain, taking רְדָּבֶּהוּ as an impersonal: "it is said of thee = men say of thee glorious things;" but fem. plur. = neut. (as in xlvi. 5), joined irregularly with the masc. sing. part., not however to be defended by such passages as those quoted by Hupf., Gen. xxvii. 29; Is. iii. 12; Prov. iii. 18, where the sing. part. is used distributively; better on the principle which he suggests, that the part. is regarded as a kind of neuter noun: "that which is spoken of thee, is glorious," lit. glorious things. He quotes, as similar., lxxiii. 28; Prov. xi. 23; Gen. xlix. 15, where the masc. בֹּטֵל is used as the predicate of a fem. noun, and Is. xvi. 8, אֱמֹדֶה אַתֹּם. The last is an exact parallel. But the simplest way is to regard all such instances as covered by the general principle that the predicate is frequently in the masc. sing. (not only when it stands first), whilst the subject is fem. or plural, or both, as here. (Gesen. § 144.) Comp. Is. viii. 22, דָּאָנַם הָאלָם.

d רֶשׁ. The ה is here used in the sense of belonging to, not as marking merely apposition, as Hupf. and others explain. The constr. cannot be compared with that of ה in such phrases as ה חָיָה, to become. ה בֻּשָׁה, to reckon as, nor with such a usage as that in Exod. xxi. 2, or Ps. vii. 14, מִלְכָּה, "he maketh his arrows (for, as) fiery arrows," where the verb determines the sense in which the ה occurs.

The LXX. render μινησθείσωμαι Ρααμ καὶ Βαβυλώνος τοῖς γινώσκουσί με. Neither Aq. nor Sym. takes Rahab as a proper name, and they understand the construction differently. Aq. άναμνήσασα ὅρμηματος καὶ Βαβυλώνος τοῦς γινώσκουσί τός. Sym. αὐτούς ὑπερηφανίαν καὶ Βαβ. τοῖς εἰδόσι με. Sym. εἴσκοι, lit. "man and man," i.e., every man (Gesen. § 106. 4), as in Lev. xvii. 10, Esth. i. 8, or perhaps more exactly, one man after another, as it were in a series extended indefinitely. Hofmann compares the phrases ρόδιναι ρόδιναι, one generation after another, and ἡμῖν ἡμῖν, Exod. x. 8.

f νιθανήλατ for νιθανήλατ, dancers engaged in the sacred solemnities, as maidens who celebrated a victory, and as David himself danced before the Ark, 2 Sam. vi. 16. The prefixed ב must be supplied also before מ, "as well singers as dancers." Or better, as Hupf. (following Is. and Dathe), who takes the participles as finite verbs, "They shall sing and leap for joy," viz. all they that dwell in thee (see next note). Gesen. and others regard מ as a denom. from מ, flute-layers. Aq. has, καὶ ἄσπιτες ὡς χαροί, πάσαι πηγαί μου ἐν σοί. Sym. καὶ αἰνεσουσιν ὡς ἐν αύλοις πάσαι αἴ πηγαί ἐν σοί. Jerome and the LXX. read מ, and connect it with the preceding verse, καὶ ἀρχύτων τοῦτων τῶν γεγεννημένων ἐν αὐτῇ, and then render the last clause ὡς εὐφραινομένων πάντων ἐν κατοίκια ἐν σοί. See next note, and Hupfeld's rendering based on this.
According to the existing punctuation this can only mean, "all my fountains are in thee" (and so Aq. and Sym. among the ancients), which has been variously explained. Many interpreters suppose these to be the words of the nations keeping festival with songs and dances, and saying, in the joy of their new birth into the city of God: "All my fountains of salvation (comp. Is. xii. 3) are in thee." But there is nothing in the context to favour this paraphrase of the word "fountains." Hence Ewald would connect it with a root נַפְּלָה cognate with similar Arab. and Syr. roots, meaning to help, to be of service, and take נָפְלָה in the sense of place of refuge, or something useful, and hence an art. Accordingly he renders, "singers as well as flute-players, all My arts are in thee." Hupfeld, on the other hand, follows the guidance of the LXX., who have Karooda. He would read נַפְּלָה, Hiph. part. constr. of נַפְּלָה, to dwell, or rather נַפְּלָה, "My dwellers, i.e. those who dwell with Me" (as spoken by God). Hofmann also (Schriftb. II. 2. 526) supposes the words to be spoken by God, and renders: "all My fountains are in thee," and explains this by reference to such passages as lxviii. 27, "the fountain of Israel" (comp. F'rov. v. 18), or Is. xlviii. i, "the waters of Judah," and Zech. ix. t, "the fountain of Adam (the source of man) is Jehovah." Hence, according to this view, Jehovah here says that all His fountains are in Zion, that is, all His children are born there. Hofmann connects this with the previous words thus: singers as they join in the dance repeat these words, as the words of a song in which Jehovah says of Zion, "all My fountains," &c.

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**PSALM LXXXVIII.**

THIS is the darkest, saddest Psalm in all the Psalter. It is one wail of sorrow from beginning to end. It is the only Psalm in which the expression of feeling, the pouring out of the burdened heart before God, fails to bring relief and consolation. In every other instance, however heavy the gloom, however oppressed and dejected the spirit of the sufferer, prayer and supplication are mingled with thanksgiving, the accents of lamentation are changed into the notes of triumph, the darkness of midnight gives way to the brightness of faith's morning-dawn. The deeper the sorrow at the opening, the greater the joy at the close. But here the darkness continues to the end. There is no confidence expressed that prayer will be heard no hope uttered, much less any triumph. The Psalm ends with complaint, as it began. Its last word is "darkness." One ray of light only struggles through the gloom, one star pieces that thick midnight blackness; it is the name by which the Psalmist addresses
God: "O God of my salvation." That he can address God by that name is a proof that faith and hope are not dead within him: it is the pledge of his deliverance, though he cannot yet taste its comfort. There is but one such Psalm, as if to teach us that our Father's will concerning us is not to leave us in our dejection, but, in answer to the prayer of faith, to lift us out of it; there is one, that we may remember that even His truest servants may be called upon "to walk in darkness and have no light," that thus they may be the better trained, like a child holding his father's hand in the dark, "to trust in the name of the Lord, to stay themselves upon their God."

The older expositors commonly interpreted the Psalm of Christ and of His Passion either in Gethsemane or on the Cross. And our Church has, in a measure, sanctioned this application by appointing this as one of the Psalms for Good Friday.

As to the author, and the circumstances under which the Psalm was written, various conjectures have been made, but they are really worth nothing. One thing only is clear, that it is not a national Psalm, and that it does not deplore the Babylonish captivity, or any other national calamity. It is, throughout, personal and individual. Uzziah when smitten with leprosy, Jeremiah in the dungeon, Hezekiah in his sickness, Job in his sufferings—to all these in turn has the authorship of the Psalm been assigned. But neither the thoughts nor the expression of the thoughts favour one of these hypotheses more than another, except that, in one or two instances, the language has some affinity with that of the Book of Job, whereas the language of ver. 15, "I am afflicted from my youth up," is, to say the least of it, very exaggerated language in the mouth of any of these persons, and hardly to be justified by any pressure of sorrow.

Delitzsch goes so far as to draw hence the inference, that Heman the Ezrahite was the author of the Book of Job; but the words which he quotes as common to this Psalm and Job are to be found in other places of Scripture: they cannot be called characteristic words, and therefore the argument built upon them falls to the ground.

[A SONG. A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH. FOR THE PRECENTOR. "AFTER MACHALATH L'ANNOTH." A MASKIL OF HEMAN THE EZRAHITE.]

I O JEHOVAH, God of my salvation, I have cried day b and night before Thee.
2 Let my prayer come before Thee,  
Incline Thine ear to my cry.

3 For my soul is full of troubles,  
And my life draweth nigh to the unseen world.

4 I am counted with them that go down into the pit,  
I am become as a man that hath no strength,

5. Among the dead, cast away,  
Like the slain, lying in the grave,  
Whom Thou rememberest no more,  
But they are cut off from Thy hand.

6 Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit,  
In darkness, in the deeps.

7 Upon me Thy fury lieth hard,  
And Thou hast afflicted (me) with all Thy waves.  

[Selah.]

3. The greatness of his affliction, which has brought him to the very edge of the grave, is urged as a reason why God should hear him. Comp. vi. 4, 5 [5, 6]; xxx. 3 [4]; Is. xxxviii. 10, II.

4. IS FULL OF TROUBLES, lit. "is satiated with evils." Comp. cxxiii. 4; Lam. iii. 15, 30.

4. THAT HATH NO STRENGTH, i.e. not merely as worn out with pain and suffering, which would be an anti-climax, but, as the parallelism shows, like the unsubstantial shadowy phantoms which people the unseen world.

5. CAST AWAY, Or as the E.V. "free," i.e. left alone, with none to care for me, in that unseen world whence even God's Presence seemed to be withdrawn. Calvin suggests that such a mode of expression may be accounted for, either "ex vulgi sensu . . . quia ad futuram vitam, qum abscondita est, nonnisi gradatim conscendimus," or rather on the principle that the Prophet spoke "ex turbulento afflicti hominis sensu." "Nec minim est," he adds, "hominem Spiritu Dei praeditum, ubi praevaluit moeror, quasi attoni-

6. IN THE LOWEST PIT. See on lxiii. 9 [10]; lxxxvi. 13. Comp. Lam. iii. 55, and Ezek. xxvi. 20.

IN DARKNESS, lit. "in dark places," as in lxiv. 20; Lam. iii. 6.

IN THE DEEPS, usually said of the sea, as in lxviii. 22 [23]; Exod. xv. 5; here of Hades.

7. WITH ALL THY WAVES. On this Calvin beautifully remarks:
8 Thou hast removed my familiar friends far from me,
   Thou hast made me an abomination unto them;
   I am shut up, so that I cannot go forth.
9 Mine eye wasteth away because of affliction;
   I have called upon Thee, 0 Jehovah, every day,
   I have stretched forth my hands unto Thee.
10 Wilt Thou show wonders unto the dead?
    Shall the shades below arise and give Thee thanks?
        [Selah.]
11 Shall Thy loving-kindness be told in the grave,
    Thy faithfulness in destruction?
12 Shall Thy wonders be known in the dark?
    And Thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?
13 But as for me—unto Thee, 0 Jehovah, have I cried,

"Jam quum tam horribile diluvium
Prophetam non impedierit quominus cor suum et vota ad Deum
extolleret, discamus, ejus exemplo,
in omnibus naufragiis nostris anchora fidei et precum in coelos
jacere."

8. THOU HAST REMOVED, as before, "Thou hast laid," &c., thus
directly tracing all to God's will
and fatherly hand.

MY FAMILIAR FRIENDS. The
word expresses close intimate
friendship, more than the mere
"acquaintance" of the E.V. He
is like one shut up in prison—
these cannot come in to him, nor
he go forth to them. Delitzsch
thinks that, according to Levit. xiii.,
is like one shut up in prison—
these cannot come in to him, nor
he go forth to them. Delitzsch
thinks that, according to Levit. xiii.,
this sounds like the complaint of a
leper, the leprosy moreover being
just that death in life (Num. xii. 12)
which is so pathetically described
as the Psalmist's condition.

The cry here is repeated in ver. 18.

AN ABOMINATION, lit. "abomina-
ions," the plural intensifying and
enlarging the idea. Comp. note on
lx viii. 35.

10. Ewald takes this and the two
following verses as the words of the
prayer implied in saying, "I have

stretched forth my hands unto
Thee," and cited from some former
Psalm.

ARISE, i.e. "rise up," not "rise
again from the dead " (comp. lxxviii.
5 [6]). The language refers to what
takes place in the unseen world,
not at the resurrection. Comp. Is.
xiv. 9.

The expostulation is like that of
Job: "If a man die, shall he live
again?" There is no question of
the general resurrection, but only
the improbability that God should
restore to life one who was already
dead. Calvin observes that this
state of feeling "cannot be excused,
inasmuch as it is not for us to pre-
scribe to God when He shall give
us succour; for we wrong His
power, if we are not assured that it
is as easy for Him to restore life to
the dead, as to prevent and avert
the last extremity. And of a truth
the constancy of the saints has
ever shown some traces of the
weakness of the flesh, so that
God's fatherly indulgence has had
to make allowance for the defects
which are mingled even with their
very virtues."

13. BUT AS FOR ME, emphatic;
though thus at the very edge of
And in the morning my prayer cometh to meet Thee.

14 Why, 0 Jehovah, castest Thou off my soul?
   (Why) hidest Thou Thy face from me?

15 I am afflicted, and ready to die from my youth up,
   I have suffered Thy terrors (till) I am distracted.

16 Over me Thy fierce wrath hath passed;
   Thy horrors have cut me off.

17 They have compassed me like waters all the day long,
   They have come round about me together.

18 Thou hast removed lover and friend far from me,
   My familiar friends—are darkness.

death, though bowed down with the heavy load of affliction, still I look to Thee. This unwearied "continuing instant in prayer" is the victory of faith in the midst of trials which, but for this, would end in despair. It had been one life-long suffering from his youth up, yet still his earnest pleading had never ceased. Such prayers are those "unutterable groanings" of which St. Paul speaks.

COMETH TO MEET, or as E.V. "preventeth." Sym. προφθάνει σε. 16. THY HORRORS: a frequent expression in the Book of Job, vi. 4; ix. 34; xiii. 21, &c.

18. DARKNESS, lit. "the place of darkness," the dark kingdom of the dead, is now all I have to look to, instead of friends, or, as we might say, The grave is now my only friend. Similar expressions occur in Prov. vii. 4, and in Job xvi. 14, "I have said to the grave, Thou art my father," &c. Or perhaps the sense is rather, "I have no friends. When I look for them, I see nothing but darkness." "The Psalm ends with an energetic expression of its main thought—the immediate vicinity of death. The darkness is thickest at the end, just as it is in the morning before the rising of the sun."—Hengstenberg. But here, at least, the sun does not rise.

a הַמָּחָל: see on liii. note a.

ץָהִים has been interpreted either (I) for chastisement; or (2) for singing (as in Exod. xxxii. 18; Is. xxvii. 2).

Heman the Ezrahite, celebrated, together with Ethan (to whom the next Psalm is ascribed), for his wisdom, I Kings iv. 31 [v. 11], including reputation as a writer and a poet. In I Chron. vi. 18, 29 (33, 42 in E. V.), both are mentioned as Levitical singers.

The Inscription is a double one, and is evidently derived from two different sources. This is plain, because the Psalm is ascribed to different authors; in the one instance to the Korahites, in the other to Heman; and is differently described, in the first as "a song, a Psalm," and in the second as "a Maskil." Besides, לָמֶנָה always stands at the beginning of the Title. Hence one Title was "A song, a Psalm of the sons of Korah;" the other, "For the Precentor. After 'Machalath l'annoth.' A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite."
Grammatically, this can only be explained, "in the day (when) I cry," and the next clause must then be rendered, "in the night is my crying before Thee, or I am before Thee." But this would be placing a peculiar emphasis on the night, and the whole sentence is lame. (Unless, indeed, we could take מֵימֶרֶה as merely equivalent to "when I cry," and carry on the construction into the next verse, "when I cry in the night before Thee, let my prayer, &c.") But, it would seem that "day" and "night" are used as marking the unceasing character of the cry, as we find often elsewhere; xxii. 3, lv. 18, lxvii. 3, &c. Hence it is probable that we ought to read מֵימֶרֶה, in the daytime.

c a מַעֲבָד כַּכּוֹנּוֹ, a mixed constr. compounded of two expressions, to be considered as (ך, as xlv. 23), and to be made equal with, as in xxviii. I, cxliii. 7.

d מְשֵׁל. This may be either (1) a noun with pron. stiff. from מָשֵׁל (Ezk. xxvii. 20), my bed, my couch; or (2) an adj. free, let loose, which occurs usually in a good sense, of freedom from chains, wounds, burdens, and the like, or freedom as of a slave from a master, Ex. xxi. 3, 26, &c.; so of one set free by death, Job iii. 19. The LXX. and Aq. both have ἐλευθερος. Symm. ἄφεις ἐλευθερος. Here in a bad sense: either (a) forsaken, neglected, uncared for; or (b) separated, cut off, i.e. from human companionship.

Comp. מְשֵׁל. מְשֵׁל. "a separate house," 2 Kings xv. 5, a hospital or asylum for lepers, &c.; or (c) set free, discharged, from the cares and duties of life, from communion with God and intercourse with men (Chald., Rashi, Ibn 'Ezra., Calv., Del., Hengst.). Others, again, would connect the word with the Arab., to be weak, prostrate, which would accord with מְשֵׁל, v. 11.

e מְשֵׁל. Against the common explanation of the constr. that the accus. of the pers. pron. is understood, and that מְשֵׁל is the accus. of the instrument, "Thou hast afflicted (me) (with) all Thy waves," Hupf. objects first, that such a constr. is unheard of with מְשֵׁל, and next, that the accent forbids it. He accordingly supplies the verb from the first clause, and inserts the relative, "And all Thy waves (lie upon rile) with which Thou hast afflicted me," referring to the constr. in li. 10, "the bones which Thou hast broken," where the accent is the same. Others (as Ew. and Del.), "Thou hast hurled down (lit. bowed down) upon me (like a cataract) all Thy waves." So the LXX., πάντας τοὺς μετεωρισμοὺς σου ἐπήγαγες ἐπ' μέ. But Symm., ταῖς καταγίσισι σου ἐκάκωσάς με. And Jerome, fluctibus tuis afixisti me; and in answer to Hupf. it may be said that the use of the accus. instrum. is common with all verbs, as well as the omission of the personal object, and that the accent is not an infallible guide.

f מְשֵׁל: here "the spirits of the departed" (Ἑώδωλα καμιόντων). Comp. Is. xxvi. 14, Prov. xxi. 16, &c., but in other places used of "the race of giants." Many attempts have been made to connect the two significations (see Ges. Thes. in v.), but perhaps Hupfeld's is the most plausible. He connects the word, as the Jewish interpreters had done before him, with the root מְשֵׁל, to be relaxed, and so (a) weak, feeble, as "the shades," and
on the other (b) extended, at. a vast length, immania corpora, like "the giants." Jerome here has gigantes. The LXX. ἵπποι (as also in Is. xxvi.), connecting it curiously with the root ἁμαρ, to heal.

g ἱβάνον, abstr. from ἱβάνος, youth, as Prov. xxix. 21, Job xxxiii. 25; and not from ἵβαν, excutere, expellere, which derivation has led some to explain it propter concussionem.

h ἱβάνον, only here, and both the root and the form occasion difficulty. Usually connected with the Arab., infirma mente et consilii inops fuit. LXX. ἐξηπαρτόθηναν. Jer. conturbatus sum. Hupf. would read ἱβάνον, in the sense of growing cold (spoken of the cessation of physical and spiritual life). The paragog. form is to be explained of an inner necessity, as in lv. 2; see note c, there.

i ἱβάνον. Such a reduplication of the termination is unexampled. The dagesh in the 2d rad. makes it look like a Piel (as in exix. 139, where the 3d fern sing. occurs), whereas the reduplication of the last rad. points to a Pilel form. Besides, the Qibbutz instead of Sh'va defies all grammar, and the form cannot be compared with יֹחַ֫נֵי, Lev. xxv. 23, 30 (as Kost. and Hengst. suppose), or that it is the mistake of a copyist for יֹחַ֫נֵי (see Hupfeld), or that the original יֹחַ֫נֵי was emended into יֹחַ֫נֵי, and both afterwards remained.

PSALM LXXXIX.

THERE can be little doubt that this Psalm was written in the latter days of the Jewish monarchy, when the throne of David had fallen or was already tottering to its fall, and when the prospect for the future was so dark that it seemed as if God had forgotten His covenant and His promise. Tholuck's conjecture is not improbable that the king of whom the Psalm speaks (ver. 45) [46] is the youthful Jehoiachin, who after a reign of three months was deposed and imprisoned by Nebuchadnezzar, and of whom it was said, that no man of his seed should "prosper, sitting on the throne of David." The lamentation over him in Jeremiah xxii. 24-29, may be taken as evidence that he was beloved by his subjects, and the Prophet and the Psalmist indulge in a similar strain as they behold the last hope of David's house perish.
There is no reason to conclude from ver. 47 [48], that the king himself is the author of the Psalm (see note there); and from ver. 18 [19] indeed, the contrary perhaps may be inferred.

The Psalm opens by a reference to the Promise given to David, 2 Sam. vii. 8, &c. This Promise, and the attributes of God on which the Promise rests, and which are the great pledge of its fulfilment, form the subject of the Poet's grateful acknowledgement, before he passes to the mournful contrast presented by the ruin of the house of David, and the blighting of his people's hopes. He turns to the glorious past, that by its aid he may rise out of the grief and discouragement of the present. He takes the Promise, and turns it into a song. He dwells upon it, and lingers over it. He dwells on that which is the ground and pillar of the Promise—the faithfulness of God—and then he first lifts his loud lament over the disasters which have befallen his king and people, speaking out his disappointment, till his words sound like a reproach; and next pleads earnestly with God that He would not suffer his enemies to triumph. Certain words and thoughts run through the Psalm, and give it a marked character. Such are, especially, the constant reference to the "faithfulness of God," in confirming His covenant and promise, ver. 1, 2, 5, 8, 14, 24, 33, 49 (comp. also the use of the participle "faithful," ver. 28, 37); the phrase "I will not lie," ver. 33, 35, "I have sworn," ver. 3, 35, 49; and the "covenant," ver. 3, 28, 34, 39.

[A MASCHIL OF ETHAN THE EZRAHITE.\textsuperscript{a}]

I \textbf{I WILL} for ever sing of the loving-kindnesses\textsuperscript{b} of Jehovah, I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth to all generations.

2 For I have said, for ever shall loving-kindness be built up,

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\textsuperscript{a} A Maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

\textsuperscript{b} Loving-kindnesses, as in Is. lv. 3, "The sure mercies [faithful loving-kindnesses] of David."

1. FOR EVER. The position of these words before the verb has been supposed to indicate that the Psalmist is not speaking in his own name, but in the name of the Church which abideth "ever." But they may refer to the everlasting continuance of God's love and faithfulness, as pledged to David and his seed.

2. FOR I HAVE SAID, i.e. this is the conviction whence springs the resolve in ver. 1.
In the heavens shalt Thou establish Thy faithfulness.

3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn unto David My servant;
4 For ever will I establish thy seed, And build up thy throne to all generations." [Selah.]

5 And the heavens shall praise Thy wondrousness, 0 Jehovah, Thy faithfulness also, in the assembly of the holy ones.
6 For who in the sky can be compared with Jehovah, (Who) is like unto Jehovah among the sons of the mighty?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>palace, rising ever greater and fairer, stone by stone, before the wondering eyes of men, knowing no decay, never destined to fall into ruin. Gratz: &quot;The world is built (created) in love.&quot; Koheleth, Gloss. p. 193.</th>
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<td>3. 4. These are the words of God, the sum of His promise as given in 2 Sam. vii. They are introduced with remarkable abruptness, standing alone in their forcible brevity, while the Psalmist passes on to celebrate at length the might and faithfulness of the Promiser. In the 19th verse, he returns to the promise, and then expands and dwells upon it. Most of the expressions, &quot;David My servant,&quot; &quot;establish,&quot; &quot;for ever,&quot; &quot;build,&quot; the parallelism of &quot;seed&quot; and &quot;throne,&quot; &quot;My chosen,&quot; are taken, either directly or indirectly, from the original passage in 2 Sam.</td>
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<td>5. At first sight the passage which follows to ver. 18 appears to break the train of thought. But the object of the Psalmist is to place in the strongest light those attributes of God on which the fulfilment of His promise depends, for &quot;in a promise everything depends upon the person who promises.&quot; The question therefore occurs, &quot;Has he the will and the power to fulfil the promise?&quot;--Hengstenberg. Hence the Psalmist dwells first upon God's power as exhibited and confessed in creation, then upon his righteousness, goodness, and truth, as manifested especially to His people, of whom and whose king He is the protector.</td>
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<td>THY WONDROUSNESS (lit. wonder): either (1) &quot;Thy wondrous works,&quot; as in lxxxviii. 10, 12 [11, 13]; or (2) &quot;Thy wonderful mysterious nature and being,&quot; as separate and distinct from that of all created beings. The word occurs in Is. ix. 6 [5], as one of the names of Messiah (comp. also Jud. xiii. 18).</td>
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<td>ASSEMBLY OF THE HOLY ONES, i.e. the angels, to which corresponds in the next verse, &quot;the sons of the mighty,&quot; comp. xxix. 1. They are called an &quot;assembly&quot; or &quot;congregation,&quot; as the church above, which, like the church below, worships and praises God. In this second clause the verb must be repeated from the</td>
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</table>
7 A God very terrible in the council of the holy ones,
And to be feared above all them that are round about
Him?
8 0 Jehovah, God of Hosts,
Who is mighty c as Thou, 0 Jah!
And Thy faithfulness is round about Thee.
9 THOU rulest the pride of the sea;
When the waves thereof arise, d THOU stillest them.
10 THOU hast crushed Rahab, as one that is slain;
With Thy mighty arm Thou hast scattered Thine enemies.
11 Thine are the heavens, Thine also is the earth;
THOU hast founded the world and the fulness thereof.
12 THOU hast created the north and the south;
Tabor and Hermon shout for joy in Thy Name.

7. A GOD. It is more forcible to regard this as a predicate, or as standing in a kind of free apposition with "Jehovah," than to take it as the subject of a fresh sentence: "God is very terrible," &c.

8. WHO IS MIGHTY, Or, "Who is like unto Thee, a mighty one, O Jah." AND THY FAITHFULNESS, . Or as Ewald: "And what faithfulness is like Thy faithfulness," &c.

ROUND ABOUT THEE, God's attributes being personified, as in ver. 14 and lxxxv. 13 [14]. They, follow proofs and instances, first, of God's might, ver. 9-13, and next of His faithfulness, ver. 14-18.

10. RAHAB: here probably, as in lxxxvii. 4 (where see note), a name of Egypt. God's power as ruling the sea would naturally be connected in the Psalmist's mind with that great manifestation of His power in the deliverance from Egypt. Compare the same association of ideas in lxxiv. 13-17. Others take the word in the more general sense of pride (i.e. our proud foes), as in Job ix. 13, xxvi.

12. In the context of both passages in Job, God's power over the sea is magnified, but the Book is too far removed from the circle of Israel-itish history to allow of our seeing any reference there to the passage of the Red Sea.

AS ONE THAT IS SLAIN. The particle of comparison must not be pressed. The sense is: "Thou hast crushed Egypt, so that it lies fallen, like one who has received a deadly wound."

11. THOU HAST FOUNDED, &c.; lit. "The world and the fulness. thereof, Thou hast founded them." And so in the next verse: "The north and the south, Thou hast created them."

12. TABOR AND HERMON do not denote merely the West and East, as most interpreters explain. They are mentioned rather as conspicuous mountains in a mountain land. Tabor, "remarkable for the verdure, which climbs—a rare sight in Eastern scenery—to its very summit" (STANLEY, Sinai and Palestine, p. 350): Hermon, as its name imports, "The lofty prominent peak," crowned with snow, the most striking of all the mountains of
13 Thine is an arm clothed with might;  
    Strong is Thy hand, exalted is Thy right hand.
14 Righteousness and judgment are the foundation of Thy throne;  
    Loving-kindness and Truth go to meet Thy face.
15 Blessed are the people that know the joyful sound,  
    That walk, 0 Jehovah, in the light of Thy countenance.
16 In Thy name do they exult all the day,  
    And in Thy righteousness are they exalted.
17 For THOU art the excellency of their strength,  
    And in Thy favour dost Thou exalt our horn:
18 For our shield belongeth to Jehovah,  
    And to the Holy One of Israel our king.
19 Then Thou spakest in vision to Thy beloved, and saidst,

Palestine, are fit representatives of the whole country; open, as it were, the loud hymn of praise. See lxxii. 3; xcviii. 8.
FOUNDATION. Others render "pillar," but Aq. has ἐκθρόνω and Sym. εάσις. The LXX. ἐποίημα. The same word occurs in xxxiii. 14, where the renderings are similar. The E.V. has "place" there (in 1 Kings viii. 13, "settled place,"), and "habitation" here, but in the margin "establishment."
Go TO MEET. See on lxxviii. 13.
15-18. Such is the God, so full of majesty and power, who has given the promise. Blessed, therefore, are the people who have Jehovah for their God. They may well rejoice in their privilege. These verses are recited in the Jewish synagogues on New Year's Day after the sounding of the trumpet (shophar). The Ashkenazim recite only ver. 15.
15. THE JOYFUL SOUND, i.e. the loud music of trumpets, &c., in the festivals, especially on the New Year's Day, Lev. xxiii. 24, or on extraordinary occasions, Num. x. 1-10; xxix. 1; Josh. vi. 5, 20, &c. See on xxvii. 6; lxxxiii. 1 [2]. This Israel only knows, because Israel only is the people of God. They are blessed, because they, and they only, of all nations, can keep these solemn feasts to His praise.
UP. The Midrash says: Because Israel only understands how to move their God by the sound to go up from the throne of judgement to the throne of mercy, as it is written, God is gone up, &c.
18. OUR SHIELD, i.e. as is evident from the parallelism, the king. Comp. xlvi. 9 [10]. The rendering "Jehovah is our shield," is against grammar. Some would render the second member of the verse, Even to the Holy One of Israel our King (i.e. who is our king).
19. The mention of the king in the preceding verse leads now to the resumption and expansion of the promise given to David. The two aspects of God's relation to David and his house and kingdom are herein presented to us, an outward and an inward, corresponding to the two great attributes of God which are praised in ver. 1-18, His omnipotence and His faithfulness. To the first of these belong: (a) David's exaltation to the throne, ver. 19; (b) God's constant aid, and hence his victory over his foes, ver. 21-23, and extended dominion,
"I have laid help upon a mighty man,
I have exalted one chosen out of the people.
20 I have found David My servant,
    With My holy oil have I anointed him;
21 With whom My hand shall be established;
    Mine arm also shall strengthen him.
22 No enemy shall exact upon him,
    No son of wickedness shall afflict him.
23 And I will beat down his adversaries before his face,
    And plague them that hate him.
24 My faithfulness also and My loving-kindness shall be with him,
    And in My Name shall his horn be exalted.
25 And I will set his hand on the sea,
    And his right hand on the rivers.
26 He shall call Me, 'THOU art my Father,
    My God, and the Rock of my salvation.'
27 Also I will make him My first-born,

ver. 21, 25. To the second, which is the most prominent, God's fatherly relation to David's seed, which is shown in (a) the exaltation to the dignity of a son, who is also the first-born, and therefore holds the pre-eminence above all kings, ver. 26, 27; accordingly (b) an everlasting covenant made with him and his seed, and an everlasting kingdom, ver. 28, 29; hence, too, (c) the transgressions of his sons do not make the covenant void, ver. 33, 34; (d) and the assurance is finally repeated, that this covenant, which God has once confirmed by an oath, cannot lie, and that therefore the seed as well as the throne of David must endure as the very heavens. For this outline of the connection I am indebted to Hupfeld.

THEN, referring to the time when the promise was given.
THY BELOVED. On this word see note on xvi. 13. David is evidently meant, though the revelation was made in vision, not to him, but to Nathan (2 Sam. vii. 4, 17). If we adopt the plural, which is the reading of many MSS., then the revelation is made to the nation at large.

A MIGHTY MAN. Comp. 2 Sam. xvii. io.

22. SON OF WICKEDNESS. This clause is taken verbatim from the words of the promise in 2 Sam. vii. 10.

25. THE SEA . . . THE RIVERS, i.e. the Mediterranean Sea and the Euphrates, with reference, no doubt, to the extent of Solomon's dominion. See above on lxxx. 11. Or the range of hope may be wider, as in lxxii. 8. The plural "rivers" is in accordance with poetic usage, and need not be explained of the Euphrates and its separate channels, or the Euphrates and Tigris, &c.

27. MY FIRST-BORN. As he calls Me "Father," so I not only acknowledged him as My son, but as
Highest of the kings of the earth.
28 For ever will I keep for him My loving-kindness,
   And My covenant shall stand fast with him.
29 And I will make his seed (to endure) for ever,
   And his throne as the days of heaven.
30 If his children forsake My law,
   And walk not in My judgements,
31 If they profane My statutes,
   And keep not My commandments,
32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod,
   And their iniquity with stripes.
33 But My loving-kindness will I not break off from him,
   Nor suffer My faithfulness to fail:
34 I will not profane My covenant,
   Nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips;
35 Once have I sworn by My holiness;
   I will not lie unto David:
36 His seed shall be for ever,
   And his throne as the sun before Me:
37 He shall be established for ever as the sun.

My first-born, and therefore My heir. (So Israel is called the first-born, Ex. iv, 22, and Ephraim, Jer. xxxi. 9.)

28. SHALL STAND FAST, lit. "is faithful," the word being the same as in ver. 37, "the faithful witness."

30. There follows a paraphrase of 2 Sam. vii. 14. The chastisement is a necessary part of the paternal relationship, Heb. xii. The sins of individuals will be punished by God's fatherly correction, but the covenant cannot cease, the promises made to the seed as a whole cannot be withdrawn. Their unfaithfulness cannot make the faithfulness of God of none effect (Rom. iii. 3). But see, as presenting a different view, I Kings viii. 25.

32. THE ROD . . . STRIPES. In 2 Sam. vii. qualifying expressions are added: "rod of men," "stripes of the children of men:" not meaning "such punishments as all men because all are sinners, are exposed to" (Hengstenberg); but either (i) chastisements such as men (comp. for similar phraseology Hos. vi. 7, Job. xxxi. 33), human fathers, employ, for the correction, not the destruction of their children; "for what son is there whom his father chastiseth not?" or (2) chastisements fitted to the measure of man's endurance (comp. I Cor. x. 13).

35. ONCE, i.e. "once for all" (LXX. οὖν ἐξαποτήσατο). Or, as others, "one thing."

BY MY HOLINESS, as in Amos iv. 2. Other formulae are "by Myself," Is. xliv. 23; "by My name." Jer. xliv. 26. For the general sentiment of the verse comp Rom. xi. 29; "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

37. THE FAITHFUL WITNESS. This according to the parallelism,
And (as the) faithful witness in the sky."

38 But THOU hast cast off and rejected,
   Thou hast been wroth with Thine anointed.
39 Thou hast made void the covenant of Thy servant,
   Thou hast profaned his crown (even) to the ground.
40 Thou hast broken down all his hedges,
   Thou hast made his strongholds a ruin.
41 All they that pass by the way have spoiled him,
   He is become a reproach to his neighbours.
42 Thou hast exalted the right hand of his adversaries,
   Thou hast made all his enemies to rejoice.
43 Yea, Thou hast turned back the edge of his sword,
   And hast not made him to stand in battle.
44 Thou hast made his splendour to cease,
   And hast cast his throne down to the ground;

must be "the moon." Luther and others have supposed the rainbow to be meant. Others, again, think that the witness is God Himself, and render, "And a faithful witness is in heaven." But the moon is more for certain seasons than any other orb: in all countries she has been the arbiter of festivals, and the Jewish festivals were regulated by her.

38. But now comes the mournful contrast. This covenant, made by the Almighty and all-faithful God, confirmed and ratified by an oath, eternal as the heavens are eternal, sure as the order of the Universe is sure—what has become of it? Has it not failed, or is it not in danger of failing? Appearances are against its perpetuity, against the truth of God. The expostulation of the Psalmist is nothing less than a reproach. God has with His own hand cast down the throne of David, and annulled the covenant: so it seems to one who measures promise and performance by a human standard.

The boldness of the expostulation has scandalized the Jewish interpreters. Ibn 'Ezra (on. v. I) tells the story of a learned and pious Jew in Spain, who would never read nor listen to this Psalm. He (Ibn 'Ezra) and others would get rid of the offence by taking ver. 38-45 as expressing the scoff of enemies, not the reproach of the Psalmist. But see the exactly similar language in xliv. 9-22, and notes there.

40. HIS HEDGES. The pronouns in this and the next verse refer grammatically to the king, but in sense to the people, who are regarded as one with their monarch. The expressions are borrowed from lxxx. 12 (13).

43. HAST TURNED. Although there is a change here to the present tense in the Heb. which is probably due to the poetic imagination vividly bringing the past before the eye, it is better, perhaps, to render it as a perfect. See on xviii. note.

44. SPLENDOUR, lit. "purity," and thus "brightness," "lustre," and the like. The literal rendering of the clause is, "Thou hast made (him) to cease from his brightness, or splendour." See Critical Note.
45 Thou hast shortened the days of his youth,  
    Thou hast covered him with shame. [Selah.]  
46 How long, 0 Jehovah, wilt Thou hide Thyself for ever?  
    Shall Thy fury burn like fire?  
47 0 remember how short a time I have to live!  
    For what vanity hast Thou created all the sons of men!  
48 What man is he that liveth and shall not see death,  
    That can deliver his soul from the hand of the unseen world? [Selah.]  
49 Lord, where are Thy former loving-kindnesses,  
    Which Thou swarest unto David in Thy faithfulness?  
50 Remember, Lord, the reproach of Thy servants,  
    How I bear in my bosom [the reproach of] many peoples,"

45. THOU HAST SHORTENED, &c.  
This has been explained by Grotius and others of the short reigns of the later sovereigns of Judaea. But if spoken of an individual monarch, the expression would naturally mean that he had grown old before his time; comp. Hos. vii. 9: if of the family of David, it would be a figure denoting its failing strength before it attained to the glory and dominion promised. In this latter sense the clause is understood by Hupfeld and Hengstenberg; and so Rosenm: "Quum regnum Judle vix ad maturitatem aliquam per-ductum, et quasi in ipso fiore extinctum sit, neque enim ad quin-gentos an-nos pervenit Davidicae stirpis regnum."

46. The transition from expostulation to pleading, which of itself shows how the expostulation is to be understood. It is human weakness discovering to God its inmost heart. There is a sense of wrong, and the true man says that he feels it, speaks it out, and asks God to set it right. It is an example of the perpetual clash between convictions and facts. See Hab. i.

2, 3.

The pleading consists of two parts, each comprised in three verses. The argument of the first is the shortness of human life; that of the second, the dishonour cast upon God by the triumph of His enemies.

47. HOW LONG ... FOR EVER. See note on xiii. 1, and comp. lxxix. 5.

48. HOW SHORT A TIME: a frequent ground of appeal to God's forbearing mercy, xxxix. 5; Job. vii. 6, xiv. 1, &c.

For the sentiment in this and the two following verses, see note on lxxxviii. 10. The occurrence of the pronoun of the first person singular can only be explained by its being intended to describe a fact of common experience, for in ver. 17, 18 the people speak in the first person plural, and the Anointed is always spoken of in the third person. The "I" is the expression of personal feeling, measuring others by itself. Or ver. 47-49 may mean, "Let me, even me, see Thy restoring love."

49. FORMER LOVING-KINDNESSES; not the promise itself, but the manifold proofs of its fulfilment in past times.

50. I BEAR IN MY BOSOM. The phrase elsewhere signifies "cherish-
51 Wherewith Thine enemies have reproached, 0 Jehovah,
Wherewith they have reproached the footsteps of Thine
anointed.
52 Blessed be Jehovah for evermore.
    Amen and Amen.

The Targum interprets this as a reproach, because of the tarrying
of the footsteps of the Messiah.
And so Qimchi: "He delays so long in coming, that they say He
will never come."

Thus ends the Third Book of the
Psalter, like the First and Second,
with a Messianic Psalm.

52. The Doxology is no part of
the original Psalm, but was added
subsequently, to mark the close of
the Book.

51. FOOTSTEPS, i.e. as we might
say "every step he takes." Comp.
xvii. 11; xxii. 16 [17]; xlix. 5 [6].

ing with tender care and affection,"
Num. xi. 12; Deut. i. 31; Is. xl.
11; xlii. 3, a signification which is
here, of course, quite out of the
question. See more in the Critical
Note. It is rather the expression
of an intense sympathy with the
Anointed as the representative of
Jehovah, and is urged as a plea
why God's faithfulness should be
vindicated.

51. The Greek Verss. differ, the LXX. rendering
τῷ Ἰσραὴλιτῷ, another τῷ Ζαραίτῃ, and another, τῷ Ἐζραίτῃ. (See note a
on lxxxviii.) Compare I Kings iv. 31 [v. 11]; I Chron. ii. 6. An Ethan
or Jeduthun, a Levite, is also mentioned 1 Chron. vi. 29 (44 in E. V.), xv.
17, 19, whom some hold to be the same person. He and Heman, accord-
ing to Hengst., are called Ezrahites as belonging to the family of Serah,
the Χ being Aleph prosthetic. At the same time, as they were Levites, he
thinks they were incorporated into the family of Serah, the son of Judah.
So Elkanah the Levite, I Sam. i. 1, is called an Ephramite. Comp. Jud.
xvii. 7.

κυράς, with Dagesh lene, contrary to the rule, here and in Lam. iii. 22.
κυρα, not constr., but like the forms דֹּ֣בֶּר, דֹּ֣בֶּר, יָוִּ֣ל, יָוִּ֣ל. Perhaps נָּ֣י may be a special designation, as it occurs only here, "the strong Jah."

בָּּּֽנְּשׁ, either infin. = בָּּּנְּשׁ, xxviii. 2, Is. 1. 14 (instead of נָּּֽשָּׁׁי) or
infitival noun, like נָּּֽשָּׁי, Job xx. 6.

e נְּשׁ. The sing. refers clearly to David, but many of De-Rossi's
and Kenn.'s MSS., 16 Edd., and all the Greek Verss. (LXX. τοῖς υἱῶις
σου, the others τοῖς ὁσίοις σου, except S'. which has τοῖς προφηταῖς σου),
the Chald., Syr., and Jerome, sanctis tuis, the Bab. and Jerus. Talmud
(perhaps, though not certainly, as the * with them may be only a mater
lectionis), and the Rabbis have the plur., which would refer to the people.
See the same various reading in xvi. 10, and the double reference below
in ver. 41.
f כֶּרֶן, Hupf. objects to the word as inapplicable, and would read either כָּרֶן, a crown (comp. ver. 40), or נַע, majesty. But the ancient Verss. vouch for the present reading.

g כֶּרֶן, the Hiph. usually means to deceive, lead astray, vex (and so here Symm. עֹשֶׁה מֶשֶׁךְ, J. H. Mich. Maur., Del.), but, construed with ב, it is better to take it in the sense in which it occurs in Qal, to act as a creditor, to exact.

h כָּרֶן. Both the form and the meaning of this word occasion some difficulty. כָּרֶן, to which it is commonly referred, means properly to break, violate, a covenant, &c., and hence could only be used improperly here; and besides, the fut. Hiph. of that verb would be כָּרֶן. Hence we must either refer it to a root כָּרֶן, as Gesenius does (Thes. v. כָּרֶן), or read כָּרֶן, I will take away, from the parallel passages, 2 Sam. vii. 15, 1 Chron. xvii. 13.

i כָּרֶן. The word occurs only here (LXX. κατέστρεψας) and Lam. ii: 7 (LXX. αInterpolator). It seems to be cognate with כָּרֶן).

j כָּרֶן. The only place where it occurs in this sense, "edge of a sword," but the sense is amply justified by the cogn. Arab. כָּרֶן, an onomatopoetic root, used of sharp, shrill, grinding, grating noises, &c., as Fleischer has elaborately shown in a note to Delitzsch's commentary; as well as by the use of כָּרֶן, Exod. iv. 25, denoting a sharp stone, or some sharp instrument. Hence it is quite unnecessary to translate, "0 Thou Rock" (Olsh.), or, "the rock of his sword" (Hengst.), in a metaphorical sense, "the strength, &c., of his sword." LXX. τὴν βοήθειάν τῆς ῥουφαίας αὐτοῦ.

k כָּרֶן. This is the reading of Norcia, Heidenheim, and the best Christian editors. The Jewish interpreters (as Ib. 'Ez., Qimchi, &c.) assume a noun כָּרֶן, with euphonic Dagesh, as in כָּרֶן, Ex. xv. 17.

The anomalous compound Sh'va is defended by such a form as כָּרֶן, 2 Kings ii. 1. But it is better to take the as the prep. from, "Thou hast made (him) to cease from his splendour." Nor is it necessary to have recourse to a form כָּרֶן or כָּרֶן (if we read with some MSS. כָּרֶן), like כָּרֶן, כָּרֶן, &c. It may be a heteroclite from כָּרֶן, instead of כָּרֶן, with rejection of the first syllable instead of כָּרֶן, with Schiller-Szinessy, however, in his Catalogue of Hebrew MSS. in the University Library at Cambridge (I. pp. 22, 26, &c.), draws attention to the fact that in olden times (in Ashkenazic MSS. mostly) the Qametz Chatuph was always represented by a Chateph Qametz; so that כָּרֶן only represents כָּרֶן.

l כָּרֶן. MSS. vary considerably (see in Davidson's Hebrew Text), and editors have troubled themselves with explanations, but there is really no difficulty. The pronoun stands emphatically first instead of כָּרֶן כָּרֶן; ego quantilli sim aevi. See on xxxix. 4 [5], note c. The LXX. κατάστασις μου. Sym. (Syro-hex.) μν. τι εἰμι ζων πρὸς ἥμεραν (s. ἔφυμερος) εἰμί. Jerome, memento mei de profundo (Aq. καταδύσεως).
The whole of the latter clause of ver. 50 [51] presents difficulties such as render the correctness of the existing text questionable: (I) the singular number, when the plural has just preceded (for the reading יבֹרַסְל of some MSS., and the Syr., looks as if altered on purpose to meet the difficulty); (2) the sense in which the phrase to bear in the bosom is here used, contrary to that in which it elsewhere occurs; (3) the strange collocation of כל רבים, all many, which cannot be defended by Ez. xxxi. 6, where כָּל גָּאִים stands in appos. with 'גָּאִים יִרְאֶה, following; (4) the position of the adj. רבים before its noun, which in a common phrase of this kind is indefensible, and derives no support from Jer. xvi. 16, to which Maurer refers, as רבים is there emphatically placed first. It seems necessary to repeat the word reproach from the first member of the verse, as the object of the verb in the second, either making this second clause a relative one, as the LXX. οὐ ὑπέσχον ἐν τῷ κόλπῳ μου πολλῶν ἐθνῶν (Symm. without the relative or the personal pron., ἐβαστάσασα εἰς τ. κ. παμμπολλάν ἐθό.), "which I bear from [the whole of ] many nations;" or supplying πάρῃ after כָּל, "all the reproach of many nations." Aquila may have had some other word instead of רבים, for he renders αὐροντὸς μου ἐν κόλπῳ πάσας ἀδικίας λαῶν, and so Jerome, portavi in sinu meo omnes iniquitates populorum. This would remove all difficulty.

Delitzsch gives a different interpretation. He renders, "That I carry in my bosom all the many nations," and supposes the Psalmist to complain, as a member of the body politic, that his land is full of strangers, Egyptians and their allies (he assigns the Psalm to the time of Shishak's invasion), whose outrages and taunts fill his heart with sorrow.

The literal rendering of the present text can only be: "How I bear in my bosom all the many nations."
THE PSALMS.

BOOK IV.

PSALMS XC.-CVI.
"THE 90th Psalm," says Isaac Taylor, "might be cited as perhaps the most sublime of human compositions, the deepest in feeling, the loftiest in theological conception, the most magnificent in its imagery. True is it in its report of human life as troubled, transitory, and sinful. True in its conception of the Eternal,—the Sovereign and the Judge, and yet the refuge and the hope of men who, notwithstanding the most severe trials of their faith, lose not their confidence in Him; but who, in the firmness of faith, pray for, as if they were predicting, a near-at-hand season of refreshment. Wrapped, one might say, in mystery, until the distant day of revelation should come, there is here conveyed the doctrine of Immortality: for in this very plaint of the brevity of the life of man, and of the sadness of these his few years of trouble, and their brevity and their gloom, there is brought into contrast the Divine immutability; and yet it is in terms of a submissive piety; the thought of a life eternal is here in embryo. No taint is there in this Psalm of the pride and petulance, the half-uttered blasphemy, the malign disputing or arraignment of the justice or goodness of God, which have so often shed a venomous colour upon the language of those who have writhed in anguish personal or relative. There are few, probably, among those who have passed through times of bitter and distracting woe, or who have stood the helpless spectators of the miseries of others, that have not fallen into moods of mind violently in contrast with the devout and hopeful melancholy which breathes throughout this Ode. Rightly attributed to the Hebrew Lawgiver or not, it bespeaks its remote antiquity, not merely by the majestic simplicity of its style, but negatively, by the entire avoidance of those sophisticated turns of thought which belong to a late—a lost age, in a people's intellectual and moral history. This Psalm, undoubtedly, is centuries older than the moralizing of that time, when the Jewish mind had listened to what it could never bring into a true assimilation with its own mind—the abstractions of the Greek Philosophy, "—Spirit of the Hebrew Poetry, pp. 161-3.
Two objections have been urged by Hupfeld against the Mosaic authorship of the Psalm, neither of which can be regarded as very weighty. (1) The first of these is, that the Psalm contains no clear and distinct reference to the circumstances of the Israelites in the wilderness. (2) The next is, that the span of human life is limited to threescore and ten or fourscore years, whereas not only Moses himself, but Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb, are all said to have reached a period of life considerably beyond this (Deut. xxxiv. 7; Num. xxxiii. 39; Josh. xxiv. 29; xiv. 10).

As regards the first objection, it is sufficient to reply that the language of the Psalms is in almost every case general, not special, and that all that can be reasonably demanded is that there be nothing in the language at variance with the supposed circumstances, or unsuitable to the person, the time, the place, to which a particular Psalm is alleged to belong. Hupfeld himself admits that the general strain of thought and feeling is in every respect worthy of a man like Moses, as well as in perfect accordance with the circumstances under which this Psalm is commonly believed to have been written, viz. towards the close of the forty years' wandering in the wilderness.

The second objection seems at first sight of more force. Yet there is no evidence that the average duration of human life at that period was as extended as that of the few individuals who are named. On the contrary, if we may judge from the language of Caleb, who speaks of his strength at eighty-five as if it were quite beyond the common lot (Josh. xiv. 10), the instances mentioned must rather be regarded as exceptional instances of longevity. The life of the majority of those who died in the wilderness must have fallen short of fourscore; and there is no reason to suppose that their lives were prematurely cut short. Not this (as Hupfeld asserts), but the forty years' wandering in the wilderness was their punishment; and this limit seems to have been placed to their desert sojourn, because thus all the generation who left Egypt, having reached man's estate, would, not exceptionally, but in the natural course of things, have died out.

All the ablest critics, even those who, like Ewald and Hupfeld, deny the Mosaic authorship of the Psalm, nevertheless admit, that in depth and loftiness of thought, in solemnity of feeling, and in majesty of diction, it is worthy of the great Lawgiver and Prophet. "The Psalm," writes Ewald, "has something uncommonly striking, solemn, sinking into the depths of the Godhead. In subject-matter and style it is original, and powerful in its originality, and would be rightly attributed to Moses, the man of God (as the later collector calls him, comp. Deut. xxxiii. 1; Ezra in. 2), if we knew more
exactly the historical grounds which led the collector to this view."
It is strange that Ewald's one reason for bringing down the Psalm to
a later time, the ninth or eighth century B.C., is the deep sense of
human infirmity and transitoriness which pervades it, and which
he imagines could not have been felt at an earlier period of the
history.

"There are important internal reasons," says Hengstenberg, "which
may be urged in favour of the composition of the Psalm by Moses,
as announced in the title. The poem bears throughout the stamp of
high antiquity; * there is no other Psalm which so decidedly conveys
the impression of being the original expression of the feelings to
which it gives utterance. There is, moreover, no other Psalm which
stands so much by itself and for which parallel passages furnish so
little kindred matter in its characteristic peculiarities. On the other
hand, there occurs a series of striking allusions to the Pentateuch,
especially to the poetical passages, and above all others to Deut.
xxxii., allusions which are of a different kind from those which occur
in other passages in the Psalms, and which do not appear, like them,
to be borrowed. Luther remarks in the Psalm another peculiarity;
just as Moses acts in teaching the law, so does he in this prayer.
For he preaches death, sin, and condemnation, in order that he may
alarm the proud who are secure in their sins, and that he may set
before their eyes their sin and evil, concealing, hiding nothing.' The
strong prominence given to the doctrine of death as the wages of sin,
is characteristic of the Psalm, a doctrine of not frequent occurrence
in Holy Scripture, and especially not in the Psalms, and which is
proclaimed as distinctly and impressively as it is here only in the
Pentateuch, Gen. ii. iii., and in those ordinances of the ceremonial
law which threaten death."

The points of resemblance between the language of the Psalm
and expressions occurring in parts of the Pentateuch, and more
particularly in Deuteronomy, will be found mentioned in the notes.
To those who believe, as I do, that Deuteronomy was written by
Moses, they furnish an argument for the Mosaic authorship of the
Psalm.

"This Psalm, then, is one of the oldest of the inspired utterances.
It is the prayer which is read over the mortal dust of some hundreds
of the children of men, every week, in London alone. And so used,
none of us finds it antiquated. The lapse of 3,000 years has not
made it necessary to discard this clause and that. Words that
described the relation of the children of Israel to the eternal God,

* So Herder calls it "that ancient Psalm, that hymn of eternity."
serve still to express the devotion of English hearts turning to God in their sorrow. As these grand words are uttered, the curtain that hangs round our life seems to draw back, and we see, beyond, depths that we dreamt not of. From time and the slow succession of events, from the minutes and the hours that seem so long and so many, we turn to God, whose eternal nature was as it now is even when the world was formed, and to whom a thousand years are no more than the middle watch of the night is to a sound sleeper. Nations that seem established for ever are carried off down the roaring cataract of time; men full of pride, and glory, and power, grow and perish like grass; and God alone remains unchangeable, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever."—ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S Sermons preached at Lincoln's Inn, p. 2.

The Psalm has no strophical division, nor even any regular rhythmical arrangement. It consists of two principal parts:—

I. The first is a meditation on the eternity of God, as it stands in contrast with the weakness and transitoriness of man (ver. 1-12); and here we have, first, the contrast stated (ver. 1-6), and then the reason of this transitoriness, viz. man's sin, and God's wrath as following thereon, together with the prayer for wisdom to turn to a practical account these facts of human life (ver. 7-12).

II. The second (ver. 13-17) is a prayer that God—who, notwithstanding Israel's sin, and notwithstanding the chastisement that sin has provoked, is still Israel's Hope and Refuge—would now at last have compassion upon His people, give them joy for sorrow (ver. 13-15), and crown all their labours with success (ver. 16, 17),

[A PRAYER OF MOSES, THE MAN OF GOD.]

1 LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling-place In all generations.

Ver. 1-6. The eternity and unchangeableness of God contrasted with the transitoriness of man.

THOU HAST BEEN, or "hast proved Thyself to be." It is the record of a past experience, not merely the statement of what God is in His own nature. It is the acknowledgement of what God had been to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, when they had no fixed dwelling-place, but "confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims," of what He had been both to their fathers and to themselves.

OUR DWELLING-PLACE, or "a place of refuge for us." The word, which occurs Deut. xxxiii. 27, combines both ideas, and would have a peculiar force of meaning for the Israelites in the wilderness. For Israel was without a country and
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
   Or ever Thou gavest birth to the earth and the world,
   Yea from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.
3 Thou turnest frail man to dust,
   And Thou sayest: Return, ye children of men.
4 For a thousand years in Thy sight
   Are (but) as yesterday, when it passeth,
   And as a watch in the night.

without a home, finding here and there only a brief resting-place beside the well and under the palms of the desert. And Israel was without a refuge, exposed to enemies and a thousand perils.

IN ALL GENERATIONS, lit. "in generation and generation," a phrase which occurs Deut. xxxii. 7

2. THOU GAVEST BIRTH TO. Perhaps the passive rendering, which involves only a very slight change in a single vowel-point (see Critical Note), is to be preferred: "Or ever the earth and the world were formed."

EARTH ... WORLD. The former is the more common and general word; the latter, which is exclusively used in poetry, denotes, according to its etymology, the fruitful earth (comp. Prov. viii. 31; Job xxxvii. 12).

3. To DUST: lit. "to the state of one who is crushed, reduced to dust," with allusion, no doubt, to Gen. iii. 19.

RETURN. As men perish by the breath of God, so by His word He calls others into being: "one generation goeth, and another cometh."

This is the sense given in the P.B.V. "again Thou sayest: Come again, ye children of men." Others suppose the second clause of the verse to be merely a repetition of the first:

"Thou turnest men to destruction,
   And sayest, Turn (i.e. to destruction), ye children of men."

But if an emphatic repetition were designed, the form of the sentence would rather have been:

"Thou sayest, Turn to destruction,
   ye children of men,
   And they are turned."

Besides, the fut. consec. "and sayest," would indicate that the act in the second clause of the verse is to be regarded as a consequence of that in the first, or at least as subsequent to, and not merely as parallel with it. Others, again, interpret the word "return" of a moral returning or conversion; or of the return of the spirit to God who gave it; or even of the resurrection. But none of these explanations harmonizes with the context.

4. YESTERDAY. To a Hebrew, the new day began in the evening... . A WATCH IN THE NIGHT. The night was anciently divided into three, later into four watches. There is a climax; for the past day, short as it seems, was, whilst it was passing, capable of measurement: it had its hours and its minutes, its thoughts and its acts, and its memories. But the night-. watch "is for us as though it were not; we sleep through the watch of the night, living, but observing nothing." "In those words, 'a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday,' &c. the Psalmist has thrown a light upon the nature of God such as a volume of reasoning could not have kindled. With God there are no measures of time. With us time is the name we give to the duration of a certain succes-
5 Thou sweepest them away (as with a flood); they are (as) a sleep:
   In the morning they are as grass which springeth afresh,
6 In the morning it flourisheth and springeth afresh,
   In the evening it is cut down and withereth.
7 For we have been consumed by Thine anger,
   And by Thy fury have we been terrified;
8 Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee,

The sentiment of the verse is repeated by S. Peter, who gives also the converse, 2 Pet. iii. 8.
5. THOU SWEPEEST, &c. Or the two clauses may be dependent upon one another, as in the P.B.V.: "As soon as Thou hast swept them away, they are (or, become) as a sleep."
   IN THE MORNING. This can hardly mean "in early youth," as some of the Rabbis explain. The words, strictly speaking, are a part of the comparison ("they are as grass which springeth afresh in the morning"), and are only thus placed first to give emphasis to the figure. In the East, one night's rain works a change as if by magic. The field at evening was brown, parched, arid as a desert; in the morning it is green with the blades of grass. The scorching hot wind (James i. 11) blows upon it, and again before evening it is withered.
6. IT IS CUT DOWN, Or, "it is dried up." The P.B.V. gives both meanings: "it is cut down, dried up, and withered." Ewald observes that the beauty of the comparison consists in the fact that the flower which was so lovely in the morning fades away of itself the same day in the scorching heat of the sun. But "cut down" may have this sense, not "cut down by the scythe," but "cut down by the hot blast, or by the fierceness of the sun's heat."
7. FOR: explanatory, not argumentative. The reason of all this transitoriness is to be found in Israel's sin, which has provoked God's heavy displeasure against His people. The statement is not a general one of human sinfulness and frailty. The use of the first person, and the past tenses, shows that the writer is dealing with the facts of his own history and that of his people.
   HAVE BEEN TERRIFIED, or, "utterly confounded." See the same word xlviii. 5 (note), "driven away in panic terror."
8. OUR SECRET SINS (this is
Our secret (sins) in the light of Thy countenance.

9 For all our days are passed away in Thy wrath,
We have spent our years as a thought:
10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten,
Or (perchance) by reason of much strength,^{5} four-score years;
And their pride is (but) labour and vanity,
For it passeth swiftly,^{6} and we have fled away.

favoured by the parallelism) or, "our secret (heart);" for the word is singular. The whole inner being, that which is in man (John ii. 25), the pollution and sinfulness of which is hidden from a man himself, till it is set in the light of God's countenance.

LIGHT, or more properly, "luminary," the same word which is found in Gen. i., used of the heavenly bodies, but nowhere else used in this particular phrase. (It is always or not m'or.) There seems, however, to be a special reason for this. The light of God's countenance is everywhere else spoken of as a light of love and approbation. (Hence, the Syriac renders the second clause "make us grow young again in the light of Thy countenance.") Here it is a revealing light. The "light" or rather "sun" of God's countenance shines down into the dark abysses of the human heart, bringing out its hidden evils into strong and painful relief. The nearest parallel expression occurs in Prov. xv. 30, where the same word is used, rendered in the E.V. "the light of the eyes." It means "that which contains and gives the light, as the sun, a lamp, &c."

9. ARE PASSED AWAY, lit. "are turned," or "have declined," cf. Jer. vi. 4, "the day turns," i.e. declines. The same word is used in Ps. xlvi. 5 [6], of the turning, i.e. dawn of the morning.

As A THOUGHT. The same comparison is found in Homer, as an emblem of speed: ὠσεὶ πτερὸν ἥν νόημα. And Theognis speaks of the

years of youth as fleeing like a thought: αἵμα γαρ ῥόστε νόημα παρέρχεται ἔγλαος ἡβη. But perhaps we ought to render, "as a sigh or sound," a meaning which the word has in the two other passages where it occurs, Job xxxvii. 2 (E.V. sound) Ezek. ii. to (E.V. mourning). Referring to this passage in Ezek., Kay renders here: "sad reverie."

But the root idea of πάνιν is rather to think aloud. Hence the word may mean "a brief passing utterance," "a fleeting sound." Others again, "as a breath." So the Chald., "as the breath of the mouth in winter." (Comp. xxxix. 5, 6 [6, 7], where, however, the word is different.) The LXX. and the Syr. have "as a spider." On this rendering and its probable origin, information will be found in Rosenmuller's note.

10. THE DAYS OF OUR YEARS (a common expression in Genesis). The literal rendering of this clause is, "The days of our years (nom. absol.)—in them are seventy years."

OR (PERCHANCE). More literally, "or if they (the years) be with much strength."

THERE PRIDE, i.e. the pride of the years, meaning all in which men make their boast, as health, strength, honour, riches, &c.

FOR IT PASSETH, &c. Words which come with double force from the lips of one now standing himself on the extreme verge of life, and looking back on the past. Comp. the language of S. John, "The world passeth away and the lust thereof," &c.
11 Who knoweth the power of Thine anger, 
   And Thy wrath, according to the fear that is due 
   unto Thee?

12 So teach us to number our days, 
   That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

13 Return, 0 Jehovah?—how long? 
   And let it repent Thee concerning Thy servants.
14 Oh satisfy us in the morning with Thy loving-kindness,
That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
15 Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us,
The years wherein we have seen evil.
16 Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants,
And Thy majesty upon their children.
17 And let the graciousness of Jehovah our God be upon us;
And the work of our hands do Thou establish upon us;
Yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.

14. IN THE MORNING, when the night of sorrow is spent. Comp. xlvi. 5 (note), cxliii. 8.
15. AFFLICTED US, or, "humbled us," the same word which is used in, Deut. viii. 2, where this "humbling" is said to have been God's purpose in those forty years' wandering.
16. THY WORK. The word is used both of God's judgements and of His acts of grace. Some Edd. have the plural, "Thy works," but the sing. is most common in the Psalms when the reference is to God. Comp. lxxvii. 12 [13], xcii. 4 [5], xcv. 9, and Hab. iii. 2. Here, the bringing of Israel into his inheritance is meant. The noun occurs nowhere in the Pentateuch, except in Deuteronomy. See, for instance, Deut. xxxiii. 4.

"Quia Deus Ecclesiam suam deserens, quodammodo alienam personam induit, scite Moses proprium ejus opus nominat protectionis gratiam quam pollicitus fuerat, filii Abraham. . . . Hac ratione Paulus (Rom. ix. 23) I)ei bonitatem gloriae titulo specialiter insignit."—CALVIN.

THY MAJESTY. "Notandum est," says Calvin, "decoris et pulchritudinis nomen, uncle colligimus quam incomparabilis sit erga nos Dei amor. Quamvis enim suis donis nos ornans, nihil sibi acquirat, liberaliter tamen nobiscum agendo splendere vult, et decorem suum palam facere; ac si forma ejus obscura esset, ubi nos sua benefici entia prosequi cessat."

UPON, as coming down out of heaven, and so descending upon. Comp. Is. xl. 1, 2; but this, is not certain, as the prepositions 7x and 7y are often interchanged.

17. GRACIOUSNESS, or "favour." This is perhaps a better rendering here than "beauty," which I have retained in xxvii. 4, where see note; but see Prov. iii. 17, Zach. xi. 7.

THE WORK OF OUR HANDS, another expression which runs all through Deuteronomy.

The order deserves notice. God's work is first to appear, His Majesty to be revealed; then man's work, which is God's work carried out by human instruments, may look for His blessing. Referring to the use of this Psalm in the office for the Burial of the Dead, Mr. Housman observes: "It is remarkable how not only this but the 39th Psalm, as well as the Lesson (I Cor. xv.) all close with the same thought,—work; as though the one great use of the shortness of life, and the coming on of death, were to stir us up to use the very utmost of the time that is left."—Readings on the Psalms, p. 189.
a. "According to the existing punctuation, this is active (Pilel); but it may be either 2 pers. masc., as in the E.V., or it may be 3 fem., as the Syr. takes it: "or ever it" (i.e. the earth) "was in travail" or "brought forth," viz. plants, animals, &c. (comp. Gen. i. i, 24). So Ewald: eh 'kreiste Erd' und Land. Hupf., Del. and Bunsen adopt the former rendering, which makes God the subject of the verb, appealing to Deut. xxxii. 18, where the same verb is used of God in reference to Israel. The act of creation, says Del., is compared to the pangs of travail. There is, however, greater harshness in the application of such a figure to the origin of the material universe, than in its application to describe the relation of His people to God. But (2) a very slight change of punctuation will give us the passive, לָמלָות, which accords with the pass. לָמלָות before, and which is the rendering of the Chald., LXX. πολλά στιγματα, Aq. and Symm. וּם יָשְׂרָבְתּוּ, and Jerome, who says that this is what the Hebrew had in his time, and all the Versions, "illud autem, quod et Hebraicum habet et omnes alii interpret'es: Antequam montes nascerentur, et parturiretur terra." Then the rendering will be: "Or ever the earth and the world were formed," lit. "born."

b. אָכֶד, according to Ewald, fem. subst., for אֶכֶד, the termination in א being found early, Num. xi. 20. (Comp. Deut. xxiii. 2, where the reading varies between the form in א and that in ד.) The form, however, is rather that of the adj. (xxxiv. 19, Is. lvi. 15), either in a neuter sense, con-tritum, cominunitum, i.e. dust (comp. Gen. iii. 19), or as a predicate, eo ut fiat contribus, "to the condition of one who is crushed" (comp. for the constr. Num. xxiv. 24). LXX. εἰς ταπεινωσθησθεν. Sym. (Syro-hex.) ad condemnationem contritionis. Chald. "Unto death." And so the Tal., &c., לאבדה שֶל נְפֶשׁ.

c. כָּפָרֲךָ. This can neither be rendered "when it is past" (as the E.V.), nor "when it shall have past" (as De Wette): grammatically it can only be "when it passeth" or "is passing" (so Ewald, who observes, "it is at evening when the day is just passing away that it seems the shortest," but?), or "because it passeth; "but neither of these yields a satisfactory sense: we want the rendering of the E.V., "when it is past." Hupfeld therefore would take כָּפָר as the subject of בָּרָך, "For a thousand years are in Thy sight when they pass (or, because they pass) but as yesterday." We have בָּרָך with the sing. verb in xci. 7, but there the verb stands first in the sentence (and the verb may be in the sing. when it precedes a plur. subject), and כָּפָר is without a substantive.

d. בָּרָך. The verb occurs only here and lxxvii. 18, formed from the noun בָּר. The preterite may stand in the protasis as the condition of what follows: "(When) Thou hast swept them away with a flood, they become as a sleep," &c., like the shadowy image of a dream which leaves no trace behind. Hupfeld connects בָּר with this clause: "they become as a sleep in the morning" (comparing lxxiii. 20, Is. xxix. 7). No doubt this gives a good sense, and there is a difficulty in explaining the
Masoretic text, "In the morning they are as grass," &c., for "the morning" cannot mean the morning of human life, or youth, as Qimchi and others understand. But on the other hand, Hupfeld's arrangement of the clauses leaves the second miserably lame: "As the grass passeth away." [On the question whether מ can thus be construed with the verb, see on xl. note b (3).] On the whole, it is better to assume an incorrectness of expression, and to take "in the morning they are," &c. as: = "they are as grass which withereth [or springeth afresh, see below] in the morning."

e מָ֯לְחוּן. Two exactly opposite interpretations have been given of this verb, both proceeding from the same radical idea, that of change, transition from one place or condition to another; but the one implying the change of new life, growth, &c., the other that of decay and death. The first meaning is common in the Hiph. of this verb (comp. Is. ix. 9; xl. 31; xli. 1; and of plants, Job xiv. 7; xxix. 20), but is nowhere else found in the Qal (though Gesen. gives this sense in Hab. but wrongly). Hence Ewald, Hupf., Bunsen, and others, adopt the second meaning of passing away, in the sense of perishing (so the LXX. has παρέκλοενθα, and Jerome, quasi herba pertransiens). According to this view, the first member of ver. 6 contains the whole figure, the latter part of which is then repeated and expanded in the second member:--

In the morning it flourisheth, and (then) perisheth,
In the evening it is dried up and withered.

Gesenius, on the other hand (Thes. in v.), gives to מָ֯לְחוּ in this passage, the sense of viret, revirescit. Zunz's Bible has sprosset, Delitzsch schosset wieder. And amongst the older interpreters, the Chald. and Syr. render similarly. Hupf. and others object to the repetition involved in this rendering, but that exists on either interpretation, and the repetition is merely emphatic, as for instance in xcii. 10.

f מִיָּמִים. According to the punctuation, Palel, act., which is usually taken as an impers. instead of the passive: "one cuts down," instead of "it is cut down." Ewald, Hupfeld, and others give to the verb מָ֯לְחוּ the sense of withering, here and in xxxvii. 2; and this sense of the root may be defended by reference to Deut. xxviii. 26, where מִיָּמִים is "the ripe, sun-dried, ears of corn." But perhaps here the pass., with the same slight change of the vowel as in note a, is preferable.

g עַבָּדֵר. "Poet. plur. for sing. The word, an abstract from עַבָּדֵר, occurs nowhere else in this sense, but always of physical strength as exercised, put forth, as for instance in warlike prowess: so of the war-horse, cxlvii. to, Job xxxix. 19 (comp. מִיָּמִים, Ps. xxxiii. 16), of the sun at his rising, Judg. v. 31 (comp. Ps. xix. 6). The plural in particular is always used of deeds of valour, of the mighty acts of God or of men. The notion of physical strength, natural vigour, &c., is usually expressed by עַבָּדֵר, and the like."—Hupfeld
b הָנֶּ, not from הָנֶ, in a pass. sense, is cut off; as Symm., ἐκκατορέσσες, but to be connected with הָנֶ, Aram. and Syr., to pass by. See on lxxi. note b, where, however, הָנֶ is spoken of as the part. It is better, as the Vau consec. follows, to take it as the pret.

i חָקְמַ, only here and Deut. xxxii. 7, instead of חָקָ; the following חָקְמַ, poet. plur. for חָקְמַ occurs first in the same passage of Deut. Both, are in construct. with the verbal clauses following, Ges. § 114, 3.

PSALM XCI.

THIS Psalm, which in the Hebrew has no inscription, is by the LXX, apparently without sufficient reason, ascribed to David. It celebrates, with considerable variety and beauty of expression, God's loving and watchful care, and the perfect peace and security of those who make Him their refuge. "Can the Providence of God," asks Herder, "be taught in a more trustful or a more tender spirit? The language is the language of a father, growing ever more fatherly as it proceeds, till at last the Great Father Himself takes it up and declares His truth and faithfulness."

Mr. Plumptre speaks of it as "an echo, verse by verse almost, of the words in which Eliphaz the Temanite (Job v. 17-23) describes the good man's life."—Biblical Studies, p. 184.

There is no reason to suppose that the Psalm was written during the prevalence of a pestilence (such for instance as that mentioned in 2 Sam. xxiv. 15),* for the variety of figures employed shows that the Psalmist is thinking of peril of every kind, coming from whatever source, and that he paints all dangers and fears vividly to the eye of his mind, in order to express the more joyfully his confidence that none of these things can move him, that over all he is more than conqueror. It is St. Paul's fervid exclamation, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" expressed in rich and varied poetry.

The structure of the Psalm is in some respects peculiar. The writer speaks at one time of or from, at another to, himself; he is both subject and object; now he utters his own experience, and now he seeks to encourage himself with Divine promises; and the transitions are so abrupt, that various attempts have been made to soften

* Stier mentions that some years ago an eminent physician in St. Petersburg recommended this Psalm as the best preservative against the cholera.
or explain them. A full account of these will be found in the Critical
Note on verse 2.

There is no strophical arrangement, but the general structure of
the Psalm rests on the common principle of pairs of verses, except
that the two concluding groups consist of three verses each, thus: I,
2; 3, 4; 5, 6; 7, 8; 9, 10; 11-13; 14-16.

1 HE that sitteth in the secret place of the Most High,
That resteth under the shadow of the Almighty,
2 Saith of Jehovah, He is my refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust.
3 For HE shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter,
From the devouring pestilence.
4 With His feathers shall He cover thee,
And under His wings shalt thou find refuge,
His truth shall be a shield and a buckler.
5 Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night,

1. In the first edition this verse
was rendered as if it were complete
in itself:
"He that sitteth in the secret place
of the Most High
Resteth under the shadow of the
Almighty."

But it cannot be denied that such a
rendering is open to the charge of
tautology. It is better to take the
second clause, as only a variation
of the first, in accordance with the
common principle of Hebrew parel-
lelism. There is no reason for
affirming that the verb RESTETH
(lit. " lodgeth, passeth the night "),
is used in any emphatic sense, such
as is implied by the rendering of
the E.V., "He that dwelleth, &c.
. . . shall abide, i.e. constantly and
permanently continue. Hence the
reading of the LXX., who in ver. 2
have the 3rd per. ἐρεί, he shall say,
instead of the 1st, I will say, has
much to commend it, and I have
now adopted it.

In each clause of verses 1, 2.
God is spoken of by a different
name.

God is "Most High," far above
all the rage and malice of enemies;
"Almighty," so that none can stand
before His power; "Jehovah," the
God of covenant and grace, who
has revealed Himself to His people;
and it is of such a God that the
Psalmist says in holy confidence,
He is "my God," in whom I trust.
2. SAITH, or "will say." In the
Hebrew text the 1st person stands,
"I will say." See more in Critical
Note.

3. FOR. Well may such a man
thus speak of Jehovah, for He, &c.
SNARE OF THE HUNTER. Comp.
xviii. 5 [6], cxxiv. 7, Hos. ix. 8.
DEVOURING PESTILENCE. For
the epithet, see Critical Note on ver.
9 [10 j.

4. WITH HIS FEATHERS or
"pinion." See the beautiful pas-
sage, Deut. xxxii. 11, I, and note on
Ps. xvii. 8; lxiii. 7.
5. TERROR BY NIGHT (comp.
Song of Sol. iii. 8, Prov. iii. 23-
26), in allusion, probably, to night-
attacks like those of Gideon (Judg-
vii.), a favourite artifice of Oriental
warfare; or perhaps to a destruc-
tion like that of Sennacherib.
(Nor) for the arrow that flieth by day,
6 For the pestilence that walketh in darkness,
(Nor) for the sickness that wasteth b at noon-day.
7 A thousand shall fall at thy side,
And ten thousand at thy right hand;
(But) it shall not come nigh thee.
8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold
And shalt see the reward of the wicked.
9 For Thou, 0 Jehovah, art my refuge:
Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation;
10 (Therefore) there shall no evil befall thee,
Neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent;
11 For He will give His angels charge over thee,
To keep thee in all thy ways;

7. IT SHALL NOT COME NIGH THEE. The singular refers to any
and every one of the evils men-
tioned in ver. 5, 6. "As the general
who carries within him the conviction that he is called to a great
work, whilst the bullets fall thick as
hail about him, stands with calm
eye and firm foot, and says: I
know that the bullet is not yet cast
which can strike me, so stands the
man of prophetic faith in the hour
of danger, with the conviction that
the thunderbolt will turn aside from
his head, and the torrent dry up at
his feet, and the arrows fall blunted
from his breast, because the Lord
wills it."—Tholuck.

9. The change of persons is
again perplexing. The Psalmist
suddenly interrupts the address to
himself which had been continued
in one strain from ver. 3 (and which
is resumed again in the second
clause of this verse, "Thou hast
made," &c.), to express his own
trust in God. This difficulty is not
lessened by the rendering of the
E.V. "Because thou hast made
the Lord which is my refuge, even
the Most High thy habitation." In
such a construction (which is very
harsh), the natural form of expres-
sion would have been, "Thy re-

fuge." It is better to look upon the
first member of this verse, "For
Thou, 0 Jehovah, art my refuge."
as parenthetical, with a reference to
the words of ver. 2. But whether
we suppose the address in ver. 3-8,
and again that which, beginning
with the second member of ver. 9,
extends to the end of ver: 13, to be
the words of the Psalmist himself,
or whether they are put into some
other mouth with a view to musical
effect—in either case the words are
really a voice from Heaven, the
promise of God uttered to and
appropriated by the soul.

10. TENT. An instance of the
way in which the Patriarchal life
became stereotyped, so to speak, in
the language; cf. Mal. ii. 12. There
is an allusion, perhaps, to Israel's
exemption from the plagues of
Egypt, Exod. xii. 23.

11. ANGELS: not as "guardian
angels," but as God's ministers in
the government of the world, and
especially as "sent forth to minister
for them that shall be heirs of sal-
vation." Comp. xxxiv. 7. By the
"lion and adder" there is no need
to understand exclusively, or chiefly,
the powers of darkness, the evil
spirits (as Del. thinks). As by "a
stone" all hindrances, so by "the
12 On (their) hands they shall bear thee (up),
   Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
13 Upon the lion and adder shalt thou tread,
   Thou shalt trample the young lion and serpent under
   thy feet.
14 "Because he hath set his love upon Me,
   Therefore will I deliver him;
   I will set him on high, because he knoweth My Name.
15 When he calleth upon Me, I will answer him.
   I will be with him in trouble,
   I will deliver him and honour him;
16 With long life will I satisfy him,
   And show him My salvation."

lion and dragon" all hostile powers,
are denoted, more particularly in
the natural world. This may be
illustrated from histories like those
of Samson, David, Daniel, &c., and
especially in the N. T. by the his-
tory of the Temptation, Mark i. 13.
What a prophecy of the victory
of faith over the material as well as
over the spiritual world, and that
not only by miraculous, but by non-
miraculous means! Comp. Mark
xvi. 18; Luke x. 19; John xiv. 12.
The LXX. render ver. 11, 12, ὅτι
tοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ ἐντελεῖται περὶ
σοῦ, τὸ διαφυλάζαι σε ἐν πάσαις
ταῖς ὀδοῖς σου. Ἐπὶ χειρῶν ἁροῦσίν
σε, μήποτε προσκύνησις πρὸς λίθον τῶν
πόδα σου. The quotation both in
Matt. iv. 6, and Luke iv. 10, 11, is
made from the LXX., but the former
omits the whole of the clause "to
keep thee," &c., and the latter the
words "in all thy ways," so that it
would seem that the omission of
this last was designed in the mouth
of the tempter. The "ways"
spoken of in the Psalm are the
"ways" of obedience and duty, not
the "ways" of presumption or self-
seeking. S. Bernard, speaking of
the temptation, says: "Non est via
hoc, sed ruina, et si via, tua est,
non illius."

"Quanquam autem de singulis
Ecclesae membris agit Proph eta,
non temere hoe diabolus aptavit
ad personam Christi. Nam ut-
cunque semper ei sit propositum
pervertere et corrumpere veritatem
Dei, in generalibus tamen principiis
speciosum colorem adhibet, satisque
acutus est theologus."—Calvin.

14-16. God's answer to the soul
which trusts in Him. "God Him-
self comes forward to establish the
faith of His servant, writes deeper
in the soul so great a consolation,
and confirms the testimony to His
servant. 'He hath set his love
upon Me—he knoweth My Name
—he calleth upon Me'—these are
the marks of a true servant of God.
God draws nigh to one who so
draws nigh to Him." Compare
with this passage 1. 15, 23.

16. LONG LIFE, lit. "length of
days."
The special promise of long life
at the close, as a temporal blessing,
is in accordance with the general
character of the Old Testament.
Still it is possible that men like the
Psalmist, full of faith in God, at-
tached a deeper and more spiritual
meaning to promises and hopes like
these, than was attached to them by
the majority of their countrymen.
This, as it stands, can only be the 1st pers. fut., which is embarrassing as the 3rd pers. precedes. This and other abrupt changes of person in the Psalm have given rise to every variety of explanation. Delitzsch thinks that the Psalm is dramatic in character, and that it must be distributed between three voices, and may have been possibly sung in Divine service. The first voice utters ver. 1, "He that sitteth in the secret place, That abideth in the shadow of the Almighty," and is taken up by the second voice, which sings ver. 2, "I will say," &c. The first voice resumes at the beginning of ver. 3, and continues to the end of ver. 8. The second voice then utters the first clause of ver. 9, "For Thou, 0 Jehovah, art my refuge." And the first voice begins with "Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation," and goes on to the end of ver. 13. The third voice, which utters the words of God Himself, is heard in ver. 14-16.

Perhaps this on the whole is the simplest explanation of the change of speakers in the Psalm, but ver. 1 may have been sung by the choir rather than by a single voice.

Tholuck's arrangement is the same, except that he makes ver. 1 complete in itself, and that he gives ver. 1, ver. 3-8, and 9b-13 to the Precentor; ver. 2 and 9a to the Choir, and supposes 14-16 (the Divine words) to be sung by the Precentor and Choir together.

Herder in like manner distributes the Psalm between two voices, but gives ver. 1, 2, and 9a to the first voice, and the rest of the Psalm to the second.

Ewald has a different conception of the structure of the Psalm. Partly, he thinks, the Poet expresses his own feelings as from himself, and partly as if they were uttered by another. He seems to listen to the thoughts of his own spirit, till they become clear and distinct, like some prophetic words, or some Divine oracle speaking to him from without, and giving him thus the assurance and the consolation afresh which had already sprung up in his heart.

Hupfeld, who is followed by Bunsen, alters the text. He would supply רָמֵץ instead of רָמָץ in ver. 2. He renders ver. 1, 2:

"[Blessed is he] who sitteth in the hiding-place of the Most High,
Who passeth the night in the shadow of the Almighty,
Who saith to Jehovah, my refuge," &c.

Again in ver. 9 he supplies בְּרֵאשִׁי:

Because [thou hast said] "Thou Jehovah art my refuge,"
(And) hast made the Most High thy habitation.

(So S. Pagnini, "Quoniam to dixisti, Domine, spes mea.")

Such alterations may no doubt "get rid of all difficulty at a stroke," but they are purely conjectural, and have no support from MSS. or Verss. The difficulty is older than any of the existing versions. The LXX. either had a different text, or felt the awkwardness of the change from the 3rd pers. in ver. 1 to the 1st in ver. 2, and hence they have the 3rd pers., ἐρεί, in ver. 2. Jerome likewise has dicens in ver. 2, as if he read בְּרֵאשִׁי. The Syr. also has the
3rd pers. instead of the 1st. The Chald. distributes the Psalm between three speakers. On any view there is much difficulty in determining the relation of the first verse to what follows. Taken by itself it is tautological—the second clause is merely a repetition of the first, for the verb נלך is not, as Mich. and others suppose, emphatic. It would seem better, therefore, with the Syr., LXX., and Jerome, to retain the 3rd perse in ver. 2, and to read either רמכו or רמה, the change in either case being very slight. The latter is preferable, as in the former both the subject and predicate would be participial. Ewald, however, thinks the Poet is himself the subject in both verses, first, as looking at himself (hence 3rd pers.), then, as speaking of himself (1st pers.): "The man who sitteth . . . who resteth, &c. . . . even I say," &c. He refers to Job xii. 4. See also Is. xxviii. 16.

b רוש for דרוש from דורה. Comp. for similar forms Prov. xxix. 6, Is. xlii. 4. The LXX. καὶ δαίμονιον, from a false reading רוש.

PSALM XCII.

THIS Psalm is called a Psalm for the Sabbath-day, and, as we learn from the Mishnah, Tamid vii. 4, was appointed to be used in the Temple service on that day. It was sung in the morning when, on the offering of the first lamb, the wine was poured out as a drink-offering unto the Lord (Num. xxxviii. 9). At the evening sacrifice one of the three passages, Ex. xv. 1-10, 11—19, Num. xxi. 17-20, was sung. From the T. B. Rosh hash-Shasta 31a we learn that the following was the selection of Psalms for the service, each day of the week, in the second Temple. On the first day, Ps. xxiv.; on the second, Ps. xxviii.; on the third, Ps. lxxxii.; on the fourth, Ps. xciv.; on the fifth, Ps. lxxxi.; on the sixth, Ps. xciii.; on the seventh "A Psalm or song for the Sabbath-day, i.e. A Psalm or song for the future age (the age of the Messiah), all of which will be Sabbath." In Rosh hash-Shasta, however, the question is raised whether the Psalm refers to the Sabbath of Creation (R. Nehemia), or the final Sabbath of the world (R. Akiba). The title in the Targum, "Of the first Adam," favours the former, as does also the opinion of the older Rabbis (see Midrash Rabbah, on Gen. cap. 22, on Eccles. i. ver. i and 2; Pir'qe de Rabbi Eliezer, cap. 19, Shocker Tob on Ps. xcii.), who tell us that this Psalm "was said by the First Man, who was created on the eve of the sabbath, and when he awoke early in the morning of the Sabbath, uttered this Psalm. Athanasius supposes the latter to be intended, αἰνεῖ ἐκείνην τὴν γεννησμένην ἀνάπαυσιν. Better Augustine, "Dicit unde solent perturbari homines, et docet to agere sabbatum.
in corde tuo." It cannot be said, however, that there is anything in the contents of the Psalm which, as pointing either to the future or the present rest, would account for its selection as the Sabbatical Psalm.*

It celebrates in joyful strain the greatness of God's works, and especially His righteous government of the world, as manifested in the overthrow of the wicked, and the prosperity and final triumph of the righteous. The apparent success of the ungodly for a time is admitted, but this is a mystery which worldly men, whose understanding has become darkened, cannot penetrate (ver. 6). The Psalm therefore touches upon the same great principles of the Divine government which are laid down in such Psalms as the first, the thirty-seventh, the forty-ninth, and the seventy-third. But here there is no struggle with doubt and perplexity, as in the seventy-third; the Poet is beyond all doubt, above all perplexity; he had not fallen down to the low level of the brutish man (comp. lxxiii. 22 with ver. 6 of this Psalm); he is rejoicing in the full and perfect conviction of the righteousness of God.

The strophical arrangement of the Psalm is doubtful. Hupfeld groups the first three verses and the last four together, and disposes the intermediate verses in pairs. Delitzsch is clearly wrong when he distributes the Psalm into five groups, each of three verses. I believe that we have two principal divisions, ver. 1-7, and ver. 9-15, each division consisting of seven verses, separated by a verse (the eighth), which, unlike all the rest, is comprised in a single line. Each seven is again subdivided into a three and four. The whole scheme, therefore, stands thus 1-3, 4-7, (8) 9-11, 12-15. All the joy of the Psalmist culminates in that great fact, that Jehovah is throned on high for evermore; from that flows the overthrow of the wicked and the triumph of the righteous.

[A PSALM. A SONG FOR THE SABBATH DAY.]

1 IT is a good thing to give thanks unto Jehovah,

1--3. Introduction, expressive of IT IS A GOOD THING, i.e. a
real delight in God's service. delightful thing, not merely

* Now both on Sabbath eve (Friday night) and Sabbath morning
the next Psalm (xciii.), which is the proper Psalm for Friday is used;
and they were perhaps early sung together, i.e. first xci, and then
xciii. This and all the Psalms which follow, as far as the 100th, are
liturgical in character, and were evidently intended for use in the Temple
service. They bear also some resemblance to one another in point of
style, especially in the anadiplosis, xcii. 9 [10]; xciv. 1, 3; xcvi. 13.
Compare also xcii. i with xcvi. 10, and the recurrence of the same
expression in xcvi. 3; xcvi. 4; xciii. 9.
And to sing psalms unto Thy Name, 0 Most High,
2 To declare Thy loving-kindness in the morning,
And Thy faithfulness every night,
3 With a ten-stringed instrument and with the lute,
With sound of music upon the harp.

4 For Thou hast made me glad, 0 Jehovah, because of
   that Thou hast done,
   I will sing for joy because of the works of Thy hands.
5 How great, 0 Jehovah, are Thy works!
   Very deep are Thy thoughts.
6 A brutish man knoweth not,
   And a fool doth not consider this.
7 When the wicked spring as the green herb,
   And all the workers of iniquity do flourish,
   It is that they may be destroyed for ever.

8 And Thou, 0 Jehovah, art (throned) on high for evermore.

acceptable to God, but a real joy to the heart.
4. The great reason of all this joy. The Psalmist has witnessed
   the manifestation and the triumph of the eternal righteousness of God.
   THAT THOU HAST DONE, or
   "Thy doing ;" not here God's power in creation (a misunder-
   standing which may have led to this Psalm being associated with
   the Sabbatical rest of creation), but God's moral government of the
   world. So also in the next clause
   THE WORKS OF THY HANDS, as in
   cxliii. 5. The Rabbis, however, understand it both of the appoint-
   ment of the earthly Sabbath, and also of the future Sabbatical rest in
   the Kingdom of the Messiah (Mishnah, Tamid vii. 4).
   5. How GREAT; not as in lxxiii.,
   "it was a trouble in mine eyes." Faith wonders and adores. Men's
   thoughts on such subjects are but folly. It is as though they con-
   sidered not (vet. 6). Faith is the true interpreter of the world
   (ver. 7).

   VERY DEEP. Comp. xxxvi. 6 [7]; xl. 5 [6]; cxxxix. 17; Rom. xi.
   6. A FOOL; in the same sense as in xiv. I. "Stultos autem vocat
   omnes incredulos, ac tacite eos fidelifiis opposit, quibus Deus per
   Verbum suuni et Spiritum illucet.
   Nam pereaque omnium mentes
   occupat haec inscitia et caeitas,
   donec coelesti gratia oculati red-
   damur."—Calvin.
   8. This verse, consisting of but one line, expresses the great central
   fact on which all the doctrine of the Psalm rests. This is the great pil-
   lar of the universe and of our faith.
   "Hoc elogium non tantum honoris
   causa ad Dei essentiam refertur,
   sed ad fidei nostrx fulturam: ac si
   dictum esset, quamvis in terra anxie
   gemant fideles ac trepident, Deum
   tamen, qui custos est vitae ipsorum,
   in sublimi manere et eos protegere
   virtute aeterna."—Calvin.
   ON HIGH. The word only occurs here as a predicate of God. Lit.
   "height," or "in the height" (accusative). Comp. the adverbial use
9 For lo, Thine enemies, 0 Jehovah,
    For lo, Thine enemies shall perish,
    All the workers of iniquity shall melt away.
10 But Thou hast exalted my horn like (the horn of) a
    wild ox;
    I am anointed d with fresh oil.
11 Mine eye also hath seen (its desire) upon them that lie
    in wait for me, e
    And my ear hath heard (its desire) of the evil-doers
    who rise against me.
12 The righteous shall spring as the palm,
    He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
13 They that are planted in the house of Jehovah
    Shall spring in the courts of our God;

of the same word in lvi. 2 [3],
where see note. Elsewhere God is
said "to inhabit the height," Is.
1vi. 15, to be "glorious in the
height," xciii. 4, and in Mic. vi. 6
we have "God of height," i.e. "God
on high," or "God in heaven."

9. SHALL MELT AWAY, lit. "shall
separate themselves, disperse,"
breaking up as it were without the
application of any external force.
10. FRESH OIL, or "green oil,"
as in Latin, oleum viride, said of
the best oil.
11. MINE EYE, &c. See for this
expression liv. 7 [9], lix. 10, &c.;
the one which follows in the next
clause, of the ear hearing with sat-
tisfaction of the overthrow of his
enemies, seems to have been ex-
pressly framed to correspond to the
other: it occurs nowhere else in
this sense.

THEM THAT LIE IN WAIT FOR
ME; the same whom in ver. 9 he
calls "Thine enemies." Sure of
the triumph of the kingdom of
God, he is sure also of his own
triumph.

12-15. What is true of the
Psalmist is true of all who are
partakers of the same faith. The
date-palm and the cedar are se-
lected as the loveliest images of
verdure, fruitfulness, undecaying
vigour and perpetuity. "Through-
out the year, in the winter's cold,
as in the summer's heat, the palm
continues green: not by years,
but by centuries is the cedar's
age reckoned."—Tholuck. There
is also a contrast: "The wicked
spring as the green herb, or,
grass" (ver. 7), which soon withers
away, "The righteous spring as
the palm," which is ever green and
ever fruitful.

Besides this, there are only two
passages in the Old Testament
where the palm is used in com-
parison,—Song of Sol. vii. 7, where
it is said of the bride, "Thy stature
is like to a palm-tree;" Jer. x. 5,
where the idols are said to be "up-
right as a palm-tree;" and one in
the Apocrypha, Ecclus. xxiv. 14, "I
was exalted like a palm-tree in
Engaddi." This, as Dr. Howson
(Smith's Dict. of the Bible, art.
PALM-TREE) has noticed, is re-
markable, considering the beauty
of the tree, and its frequent recur-
rence in the scenery of Palestine.

13. The figure need not be so
far pressed as to imply that such
trees actually grew in the Temple-
court (see on lii. 8). Still it is
by no means improbable that the
14 They shall still bear fruit in old age,
    They shall be full of sap and green,
15 To declare that Jehovah is upright,
    My rock in whom there is no unrighteousness.  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hebrew Text</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
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<tr>
<td>בַּרְשֵׁי הָאָדָם</td>
<td>They shall still bear fruit in old age,</td>
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<tr>
<td>יַעֲבֹרֵם</td>
<td>They shall be full of sap and green,</td>
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precincts of the temple, like the
Haran es-Sherif, contained trees.
14. THEY SHALL BEAR FRUIT, in allusion probably to the great fruitfulness of the date-palm, which, when it reaches maturity, produces three or four hundred pounds' weight of fruit, and has been known even to produce six hundred pounds' weight.
15. To DECLARE, &c. Thus in the end God's righteous government of the world will be manifested. The flourishing of the workers of iniquity has been but for a moment (ver. 7, 9, 11); the joy and prosperity of the righteous is for ever. This is the signal proof of God's righteousness: this is the justification of the Psalmist's confidence resting ever on that unshaken "Rock."

a אַזְנֵי. As this word occurs in the midst of others signifying musical instruments, it seems most natural to suppose that it also means an instrument of some kind. But usage and the derivation of the word are rather in favour of Gesenius's interpretation, noise, sound (ad strepitum cithara factum; comp. ix. 16 [17]); nor does the prep. יְָּלָּשׁ militate against this. It may mean not only upon but accompanying. Hupf. renders "zum Spiel mit der Harfe," and Del., "auf sinnigem Spiel mit Cither."

b שֵׂה לְאָמוֹר, "a brute-man," a compound expression, like אלְָּמוֹר אַרְָּשָׁב, Gen. xvi. 12, Ezek. xxxvi. 38.

c לִשְׁפַּחַת מַעֲרָם. An instance of the periphrastic use of the infin. with ל for the future (see on lxii. note g); but perhaps the apodosis begins with לַעֲבֹרֵם, "then all the workers of iniquity flourish to their everlasting destruction."

d רָּאְתִּי. 1 Perf. sing. anomalously with the accent on the last syllable (as cxiv. 6, Is. xliv. 16). The former is rather that of the inf. with suffix, and so it was taken, against the context, by the older translators. LXX. τὸ γεύματι μου. Symm. ἡ παλαιστία μου. Jerome, senecta mea. But this requires a verb to be supplied, on the principle of zeugma, from the first clause. "Thou hast exalted (= refreshed) my old age with fresh oil."
It is preferable therefore to take the word as 1 perf. sing., here apparently intrans., though elsewhere trans. (cf. Gen. xi. 7, 9); and it may be trans. here, if we supply the object, the horn, or, the head. Qimchi leaves it an open question whether the verb is trans. or intrans.

e הַעֲבֹרֵם, similar participial forms occur Num. xxxv. 32, Jer. xvii. 13 (Q'ri סֵוַר), Mic. ii. 8. שֵׂר שֵׂרָּה = שֵׂר שֵׂרָּה, v. 9, and the construction with the suffix may be compared with קָפַר, xviii. 40, but שֵׂרָּה takes the acc. in Num. xxiii. 9.

f אֶלֶף, to be read אֶלֶף אֶלֶף, as in Job v. 16, from אֶלֶף אֶלֶף, Is. lxi. 8, fem. of אֶלֶף (contraction of the original diphthong au into o), instead of the more common אֶלֶף אֶלֶף, which the Q'ri prefers (אֶלֶף אֶלֶף, as cxxv. 3).
THE sum and substance of this Psalm is contained, as Hitzig has remarked, in the eighth verse of the preceding Psalm. It celebrates the Majesty of Jehovah as Ruler of the Universe. He is Creator of the world. He has been its King from everlasting; it rests upon Him, and is stayed by His might. All the powers of nature obey Him, however lawless they may seem, as all the swelling and rage of men, of which those are but a figure, must obey Him. But His Majesty and His Glory are seen, not only in controlling the powers of nature, and whatsoever exalteth and opposeth itself against Him, but in the faithfulness of His word, and in the holiness of His house.

As the Psalm speaks of a particular manifestation of Jehovah's kingly rule, of a time when He has taken to Himself His great power and reigned (see note on ver. 1), it may in this sense be termed Messianic. For, as Delitzsch has pointed out, the Old Testament prophecy concerning the kingdom of God consists of two series of predictions, the one of which speaks of the reign of the anointed of Jehovah out of Zion, the other of the reign of Jehovah Himself as the great King over all the earth. These two lines of prophecy converge in the Old Testament, but never meet. Only here and there do we discern an intimation (as in xlv. 7) that the two are one.

The LXX. (Codex B) have the Inscription, εἰς τὴν ἡμέραν τοῦ προσαββάτου, ὦτε κατύκισται ἡ γῆ, αἵνεος ὑδής τῷ Δαυίδ. The latter part of this title is probably merely conjectural. The former agrees with the Jewish tradition (Mishnah, Tamid vii. 4), according to which this is the Friday Psalm, and as is said in T. B. Rosh ha-Shana, 31a, “because God on the sixth day had finished His work, and begun to reign over His creatures." Perhaps this is what is meant also by the ὦτε κατύκισται (or κατύκιστο), "when the earth was peopled with living creatures," of the LXX.

I JEHOVAH is King, He hath clothed Himself with majesty;

182 PSALM XCIII.

1. Is KING. More exactly, “hath become King," as if by a solemn coronation (comp. the same expression of a new monarch ascending the throne, 2 Sam. xv. 10; I Kings i. 11; 2 Kings ix. 13). He has been
Jehovah hath clothed, He hath girded, Himself with strength.
Yea, the world is established that it cannot be moved.

2 Thy throne is established of old;
Thou art from everlasting.

3 The floods have lifted up, 0 Jehovah,
The floods have lifted up their voice,
The floods lift up their roaring.

4 More than the voices of many waters,
The glorious breakers of the sea,
Jehovah on high is glorious.

King from everlasting, but now
His kingdom is visibly set up, His power and His majesty fully displayed and acknowledged; as it is said in the Apocalypse of the final manifestation, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ."

HATH CLOTHED . . . HIMSELF.
Comp. civ. 2, Is. li. 9, Job xl. 10.
In the second member of the verse the verb is rhythmically repeated, and the noun "strength" really belongs to both verbs. (So the LXX.)
For the further description of this girding with strength, see Is. lix. 17, lxiii. 1; Dan. vii. 9.

YEA, THE WORLD, &c. The effect of the Divine rule and power, as in xcvi. 10. The reference is apparently not merely to the creation of the world and its providential administration, but to these as representing in a figure the moral government of God. For the throne of God in ver. 2 denotes, as Calvin says, His righteous sway and government, and the language of ver. 3 is to be understood figuratively as well as literally.

3. THE FLOODS. The word commonly signifies streams, rivers, but occasionally also is used of the sea in poetic parallelism, as in xxiv. 2; Jon. ii. 3 [4]; Jer. xlvi. 7, 8.

HAVE LIFTED UP. The use of the past tense had led some commentators to see a reference to some historic event, some gathering of hostile powers who are described under the figure of the sea and the waves roaring. But the change in the last clause of the verse to the present tense renders this doubtful.

Hupfeld infers from the use of the word "floods" (comp. Hab. iii. 8), the epithet of "glorious," or "mighty" in next verse, which is used of waters besides only in Exod. xv. 10, and the "lifting up the voice," as in Hab. iii. 10 (comp. lxxvii. 17, 18), that there is an allusion to the passage of the Red Sea.

THEIR ROARING, lit. "their blow," or "beating," said of the dashing of the surf in thunders upon the shore. The word occurs only here; in the next verse the plural "voices" is used here only of the sea, elsewhere always of the thunder. Hence some have supposed a comparison, "Louder than the thunders."

4. This verse is the answer to ver. 3, and may have been sung antiphonally. The construction is not very clear. For the different renderings see Critical Note.

GLORIOUS, or "mighty." An epithet of the waves in Ex. xv. 10, of God in Is. xxxiii. 21.

JEHOVAH ON HIGH. Comp. xci. 8 [9], xxix. 10.
5 Thy testimonies are very faithful.
Holiness becometh Thy house, 0 Jehovah, for ever.

5. The transition is abrupt, from the Majesty of God as seen in His dominion in the world of nature, to His revelation of Himself in His word. At the same time there is a connection between the two, as in xix. God who rules the world, He whose are the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, has given His testimonies to His people, a sure and faithful word, and has Himself come to dwell among them, making His house and His people holy.

FOR EVER, lit. "for length of days," as in xxiii. 6.

a מֶשֶׁבְרִי יָם. According to the common accentuation, this adj., though standing before its noun, is not a predicate, but an attribute, "the glorious, or mighty breakers of the sea," and Hupf. would defend this by xcii. 12, where, however, the case is not parallel, the participle, with the pron. and noun following, being so closely connected as to form as it were one word, בָּכִים יָם, or where at least the latter word might be regarded as in appos. with the former. Perhaps, however, as it has been suggested that there מֶשֶׁבְרִי יָם may have crept into the text. There is a similar ambiguity arising from the place of the adj. in Is. xxviii. 21, מַעֲשֶׂה יְהוָה מַעֲשֶׂה יְהוָה, commonly rendered as in E. V. "His strange work . . . His strange act," although many there insist on retaining the predicate: "His work is strange . . .
His act is strange," &c. So in Is. xxxiii. 21, the adj. (and it is the same adj. as here in the Psalm, מֶשֶׁבְרִי יָם) may be a predicate, "Jehovah in His glory"; though Del. takes the two words in apposition, "a glorious one, even Jehovah," referring to Is. x. 34. The adj. however stands first as an attribute apparently, מַעֲשֶׂה יְהוָה מַעֲשֶׂה יְהוָה, "My righteous servant." But instead of Merca with מַעֲשֶׂה יְהוָה, or Tarcha, as Ben-Asher reads, Ben-Naphtali has Dechi, and according to this we may take both adjectives as qualifying מַעֲשֶׂה יְהוָה, and then repeat the prep. from the first clause before מ. "More than the voices of many mighty waters, (even) the breakers of the sea; Jehovah on high is mighty" [and this is supported by the LXX., except that perhaps they intended δῖνος πονοων υποστευν πολλων to be joined with the previous verse]: or (b) "By reason of the voices of many mighty waters, even the breakers of the sea, Jehovah is mighty;" i.e. these great phenomena of nature show forth His glory and His majesty.

There is yet another explanation of the construction possible. The Psalmist may have begun with a comparison and then have broken it off in order to bring the 2d and 3d members into more forcible juxtaposition. Above the voices of many waters,—Glorious are the breakers of the sea, Jehovah on high is glorious.
By the LXX. this is called "A lyric Psalm of David, for the fourth day of the week" (τετράδι σαββάτου). It is probably not a Psalm of David, but the latter part of the Inscription accords with the Talmudic tradition (see Introduction to Ps. xcii.).

The Psalm opens with an appeal to God to execute righteous vengeance on wicked rulers or judges who oppress and crush the helpless, whilst in their folly they dream that His long-suffering is but the supineness of indifference. It concludes with the expression of a calm confidence that God's righteousness will be finally manifested. The righteous, taught by God's fatherly discipline, and upheld by Him, can wait for the end, when the wicked shall reap the reward of their wickedness, and shall be utterly destroyed.

The conviction thus expressed of the righteousness of God's government is similar to that in Ps. xcii., except that here this conviction is grounded more directly on personal experience. The Psalm may be thus divided:--

1. An Introduction, consisting of an appeal to God. Ver. 1, 2.
2. The reason for this appeal, namely, the insolence and oppression of the wicked. Ver. 3-7.
3. The blindness and folly of such conduct, as a virtual contempt of God. Ver. 8-11.
4. In contrast with this the blessedness of those who are taught of God, and who can therefore in their confidence possess their souls. Ver. 12-15.
5. The strong personal conviction of Jehovah's righteousness, based upon past experience. Ver. 16-19.
6. A conviction which extends also to the future, and by virtue of which the Psalmist sees righteous retribution already accomplished upon the wicked. Ver. 20-23.

I O JEHOVAH, Thou God to whom vengeance belongeth, Thou God to whom vengeance belongeth, shine forth. 

I. GOD TO WHOM, &C.: lit. "God of vengeances." Comp. ix. 12 [13]; Jer. li. 56. For the anadiplosis, see again ver. 3, 23, and xciii. 1, 3.
2 Lift up Thyself, Thou judge of the earth,
    Render a reward to the proud.

3 How long shall the wicked, 0 Jehovah,
    How long shall the wicked triumph?
4 They belch out (and) speak arrogant things,
    All the workers of iniquity carry themselves proudly.

5 Thy people, 0 Jehovah, they crush,
    And Thine inheritance do they afflict.
6 They slay the widow and the stranger,
    And they murder the fatherless;
7 And they say: "Jah seeth not,
    Neither doth the God of Jacob consider."

8 Consider, 0 ye brutish among the people!
    And ye fools, when will ye be wise?

3. With this verse begins the complaint, the expostulation with God, and therefore clearly the first strophe. Delitzsch and others wrongly join this with the two preceding verses as forming part of the Introduction. So far from that, it is quite possible, with the E. V, to regard ver. 4 as continuing the question of ver. 3: "(How long) shall they pour forth," &c.

4. THEY BELCH OUT (AND) SPEAK, two verbs having one noun as the object (as in xciii. I)="they our forth hard, or, proud (xxxii. 18 [19], I Sam. ii. 3) speeches." The first verb is rendered "they belch out" in lix. 7.

5. CRUSH: Prov. xxii. 22; Is. iii. 5.

6. The LXX. has transposed the words "fatherless" and "stranger," and rendered the last "proselyte" (προσήλυτον). The widow and the fatherless are mentioned, as often, as particular instances of those whose misery ought to excite compassion, but whose defencelessness makes them the easy prey of the wicked. There is no abbreviated comparison, as Hengstenberg maintains—"Thy people who are helpless as the widow," &c. But the language shows that domestic tyrants, not foreign enemies, are aimed at.

7. JAH SEETH NOT. Comp. X. 11, lix. 7 [8]. Not that they deliberately utter such blasphemy, but their conduct amounts to this, it is a practical atheism. See on xiv. I.

8. The utter folly of this denial of a Divine Providence, because judgement is not executed speedily. The argument which follows is from the perfections of the creature to those of the Creator. The very nature of God and of man convicts these fools of their folly. "Can anything," says Herder, "more to the point be urged, even in our time, against the tribe of philosophers who deny a purpose and design in Nature? All that they allege of the dead abstraction which they term 'nature,' the heathen ascribed to their gods: and what the Prophets say against the one, holds against the other."

AMONG THE PEOPLE, i.e. of Israel. "Gravius est autem vocare stultos in populo, quam simpliciter stultos: eo quod minus excusabilis sit talis amentia in filiis Abrahae, de quibus dictum fuerat a Mose, Quis popu-
PSALM XCIV.

9 He that planteth the ear, shall He not hear?
   Or He that formeth the eye, shall He not see?

10 He that instructeth the nations, shall not He reprove,
   (Even) He that teacheth man knowledge?

11 Jehovah knoweth the thoughts of man,
   That they are vanity.

12 Blessed is the man whom Thou instructest, 0 Jah,
   And teachest out of Thy law,

13 To give him rest from the days of evil,

---Calvin.

10. In the English Bible this is
broken up into two questions, and
a clause is supplied in the second
member which does not exist in the
Hebrew, "Shall not He know?"
But this is incorrect. There is a
change in the argument. Before,
it was from the physical constitution
of man; now it is from the moral
government of the world. He who
is the great Educator of the race
("who nurtureth the heathen,"
P.B.V.), who gives them all the
knowledge they possess, has He
not the right which even human
teachers possess of chastening, cor-
recting, reproving? He may not
always exercise the right, but it is
His. This, which I believe to be
the true interpretation of the verse,
is that of the LXX.: "Ο παίδευων
ἐσθη, οὐχὶ ἐλέγετε; ο διδάσκων ἀνθρω-
pον γνῶσιν; or there may be a
change in the appeal, a breaking
off of the question, as one he need
not ask. The Psalmist was going to
say at the end of ver. 10, "Shall not
He know?" finishing his question as
in the preceding verses, but instead
of that he gives the answer directly
in ver. "He knoweth," &c. Heng-
stenberg remarks, that the doctrine
of an influence exercised by God
upon the consciences of the heathen
is of comparatively rare occurrence
in the Old Testament, a fact to be
explained by the very depraved
condition of such of the heathen as
were the near neighbours of the
Israelites, and among whom few
traces of such an influence could
be seen. On this Divine education
see Rom. i. 20, ii. 14, 15.

11. So far from "not seeing,"
"not regarding,"as these "brutish"
persons fondly imagine, Jehovah
reads their inmost thoughts and
devices, as He reads the hearts of
all men, even though for a time
they are unpunished. The verse is
quoted in 1 Cor. iii. 20, ὁ Κύριος
γινώσκει τοὺς διαλογισμοὺς τῶν σοφῶν
ὅτι εἰσὶν μάταιοι, which only deviates
from the version of the LXX. in
the substitution of the special σοφῶν,
as more suitable to the Apostle's
argument, for the general ἀνθρώπων.

VANITY, lit. "a breath," as in
xxxix. 5, 6 [6, 7].

The second clause of the verse
is ambiguous. The pronoun "they,"
although masc., may refer to the
noun "thoughts" (fem.), but perhaps
rather to the , collective "man."
Probably the best rendering of this
clause would be, "For they (i.e.
men) are but a breath; "this vanity,
weakness, and emptiness of men
being alleged as a reason why
God sees and understands their
thoughts: they are finite, whereas
He is infinite.

12. The Psalmist turns to com-
fort the individual sufferer. God
who educates the heathen (ver. 10),
educates also the Israelite, giving
him a better instruction (comp.
Deut. viii. 5; Job v. 17), inasmuch
as it is that of a direct Revelation.
On this ver. see T. B. Berachoth,
5a.

13. To GIVE HIM REST. This is
Till the pit be digg ed for the wicked.
14 For Jehovah will not thrust away His people,
   Neither will He forsake His inheritance.
15 For judgement must turn unto righteousness,
   And all the upright in heart shall follow it.

16 Who will rise up for me against the evil-doers?
   Who will set himself up for me against the workers of
   iniquity?
17 Unless Jehovah had been my help,
   My soul had soon dwelt in silence.
18 (But) when I said, My foot hath slipt,
   Thy loving-kindness, 0 Jehovah, held me up.
19 In the multitude of my anxious thoughts within me,
   Thy comforts refreshed my soul.

the end of God's teaching, that His
servant may wait in patience, un-
moved by, safe FROM, THE DAYS OF
EVIL (comp. xlix., 5 [6]), seeing the
evil all round him lifting itself up,
but seeing also the secret, mysteri-
ous retribution, slowly but surely
accomplishing itself. In this sense
the "rest" is the rest of a calm, self-
possessed spirit, as Is. vii. 4, xxx.
15, xxxii. 17, lvii. 20, and "to give
him."="that Thou mayest give
him." Others interpret the "rest"
of external rest, deliverance from
sufferings (comp. Job iii. 13, 17);
then "to give" would be="so as
to give," &c.

14. FOR. God will give peace to
the man whom he teaches, for he is
a partaker of the covenant, one of
that PEOPLE and that INHERIT-
ANCE which He cannot forsake,
and He cannot forsake them till
righteousness ceases to be righte-
ousness.

15. FOR JUDGEMENT, &c., or,
"For judgement shall come back
unto righteousness with all them
that are upright in its train," i.e.
with the approval of all good men.
Judgement cannot always be per-
verted, cannot always fail. It must
appear in its true character at last
as very righteousness. This, no
doubt, was what Luther meant by
his forcible rendering,

" Denn Recht muss doch Recht
bleiben."

SHALL FOLLOW IT, lit. "(shall
be) after it," i.e. shall give in their
adhesion to it, openly avow their
attachment to it. For the phrase,
see I Sam. xii. 14; 2 Sam. ii. 10;
1 Kings xiv. 8.

16-19. Application to himself,
and record of his own experience.
AGAINST, lit. "with;" but we
need not suppose that it = "to fight
with," as Hupfeld explains. See
note on lv. 18 [19].

SET HIMSELF UP, in battle, as in
ii. 2; 2 Sam. xxxiii. 10, 12.

17. SILENCE, i.e. of the grave, or
the unseen world, as in xxxi. 18,
cxv. 17.

19. ANXIOUS THOUGHTS, Or
"perplexities," lit. " divided or
branching thoughts," whether doubts
or cares. Kay: "busy thoughts."
The word occurs, as here, with the
20 Can the throne of iniquity have fellowship with Thee,
Which frameth mischief by statute?
21 They gather themselves in troops against the soul of the righteous,
And condemn the innocent blood.
22 But Jehovah hath been a high tower for me,
And my God the rock of my refuge.
23 And He hath requited them their own iniquity,
And shall destroy them through their own wickedness:
Jehovah our God shall destroy them.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>20-23. This strophe, like the last, applies the general doctrine of the Psalm to the individual case, the personal security of the Psalmist, and the righteous retribution visited upon the evil-doers. But for &quot;Jehovah my God,&quot; in ver. 22, we have in ver. 23, &quot;Jehovah our God,&quot; as if to remind us that his personal welfare does not stand apart from, but is bound up with, that of the nation. Comp. ver. 14.</th>
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<td>20. THE THRONE or &quot;judgement-seat.&quot; The word is purposely employed, as Calvin observes, to show that he is inveighing, not against common assassins or thieves, but against tyrants who, under a false pretext of justice, oppressed the Church. The throne of the king, the seat of the judge, which is consecrated to God, they stain and defile with their crimes.</td>
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<td>21. GATHER THEMSELVES IN TROOPS, like bands of brigands. For the word see xxxi. 13 [14], xxxv. 15, lv. 18 [19].</td>
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<td>22. CONDEMN THE INNOCENT BLOOD, i.e. &quot;condemn the innocent to death;&quot; comp. Matt. xxvii. 4. Delitzsch wrongly explains, that because the blood is the life, the blood is the same as the person.</td>
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<td>23. HATH REQUITED, lit. &quot;hath caused to return,&quot; as vii. 16 [17], liv. 5 [7]. The preterites here express, not so much what has already taken place, as the confidence of faith which looks upon that which shall be as if already accomplished. Hence the interchange with the futures which follow.</td>
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a פֹּתֵא Imper. but irregular; it should be either פֹּתֵאה, the full form, as in lxxx. 2; or פֹּתֶה, the shorter form; see Ges. § 64, Ic. It may,
however, be the pret., as in 1. 2. So the LXX. ἐπαρπνιάσσατο. And so Hengst., who refers to xcvi., xcix., as also beginning with the preterite.

b ἐπαρρήσιαω, only here, not the Hithp. of ἔμαρτε, “they say to themselves, or among themselves;” but more probably, as Schultens, connected with the Arab. to command, εἰς, to carry oneself as ruler (comp. Emir). In Heb. the root appears in ἔμαρτε, a high branch, and ἔμαρτε, dweller in the mountains, cognate with ἔμαρτε, the Hithp. of which occurs Is. lix. 6, rightly rendered by Jerome, superbiétis.

c ἐπαρρήσιαω. We must supply ἐπαρρησίαω, nisi fuisset, or esset, the apodosis being propemodum, or cito (see on ii. 12, note f) occubisset. As regards the construction, comp. cxix. 92, cxxiv. 1-5; Is. i. 9; and for the pret. with ἐπαρρησίαω lxxiii. 2, cxix. 87 (with the fut. lxxxi. 15).

d ἐπαρρήσιαω, not Pual for ἐπαρρήσιαω; with substitution of o for u, for this would still leave unexplained the dropping of the Pathach, but Coal with transposed vowel for η επαρρησίαω. Comp. ἐπιθυμία (Gen. xliii. 29, Is. xxx. 19) for ἐπιθυμία, and ἐπιθυμία (Job xx. 26) for ἐπιθυμία. The same law holds, as Hupf. observes, in such forms as ἐπιθυμία for ἐπιθυμία, Prov. i. 22, &c. The o in ἐπαρρήσιαω points to a form ἐπαρρησίαω, which ought however to be ἐπαρρησίαω, as the root is intrans., and therefore must be pointed ἐπαρρησίαω; but comp. ἐπαρρησίαω and ἐπαρρησίαω from ἐπαρρησίαω. For the construction, comp. ἐπαρρησίαω, v. 5.

PSALM XCV.

THIS Psalm is one of a series,* as has been already observed, intended for the Temple worship, and possibly composed for some festal occasion. Both the joyfulness of its opening verses, and its general character, in which it resembles the 81st Psalm, would render it suitable for some of the great national feasts.

As to the date of its composition nothing certain can be said. The LXX. call it a Psalm of David; and the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews, in making a quotation from the Psalm, uses the expression "in David," but this is evidently only equivalent to saying "in the Psalms." In the Hebrew it has no Inscription.

In Christian liturgies the Psalm has commonly been termed the Invitatory Psalm. We are all familiar with it, as used in the Morning Service of our Church; and it has been sung in the Western churches

* This series has preceded (from time immemorial) the Sabbath Psalms on Friday evening; they form the "reception of the Sabbath" (קֶבֶל שֶׁבַּבָּה).
from a very remote period before the Psalms of the Nocturn or Matins. (Palmer, Orig. Liturg. i. 221.)

"We may think of this Psalm as we sing it in our daily worship as prophetic of a better worship still, even of the perpetual adoration of that heavenly city, wherein the Apostle saw no temple, ‘for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it.’"—Housman, Readings on the Psalms, p. 198.

It consists of two very distinct parts:—
I. The first is an invitation to a joyful public acknowledgement of God's mercies. Ver. I-7.

II. The second (beginning with the last member of ver. 7 to the end) is a warning to the people against the unbelief and disobedience through which their fathers had perished in the wilderness.

10 COME, let us sing joyfully unto Jehovah,
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation;
2 Let us go to meet His face with thanksgiving,
With psalms let us shout aloud unto Him.
3 For Jehovah is a great God,
Yea, a great King above all gods.

---

1—7. The character of the invitation here given, to worship God, not with penitence and brokenness of heart, but with loud thanksgiving, is the more remarkable, when we recollect in what a strain the latter part of the Psalm is written.

I. UNTO JEHOVAH. Augustine lays stress on this: "He invites to a great feast of joy, of joy not unto the world, but unto the Lord." And in the next clause, where the Latin has jubilemus, he explains it of a joy which runs beyond all words.

ROCK OF OUR SALVATION, as in lxxxix. 26 [27]. Comp. "rock of my refuge," xciv. 22.

2. Go TO MEET. Such is the proper and strict rendering of the word. See the same phrase xvii. 13, lxxxix. 14 [15]. The verb is used in the same sense as here, Micah vi. 6. In both places the E.V. has "come before," which does not sufficiently express the forwardness, the ready alacrity, which are really denoted by the verb.

WITH PSALMS. The LXX. ἔν ψαλμάις ὄλαλάξωμεν. The Syro-hex. adds "with the trumpet."

3. A threefold reason is given why this worship should be offered with glad hearts and loud thanksgivings—that Jehovah is a King more glorious than all "who are called gods, and who are worshipt," that He is the Creator of the world, that He is the watchful shepherd of His own chosen people.

ABOVE ALL GODS: not the angels, but all the gods of the heathen.
Comp. Exod. xviii. 11. xv. 11, &c. It cannot be inferred from this language that the Psalmist supposed the heathen deities to have any real power, or real existence (comp. xcvi. 5). He is merely contrasting heathen objects of worship, clothed in the imagination of their worshipers with certain attributes, and the one true supreme object of worship, who is really all, and more than all, which the heathen think their gods to be. See more in the note on xcvii. 7.
4 (Even He) in Whose hands are the deep places\(^a\) of the earth:
   And the heights\(^b\) of the mountains are His.
5 Whose is the sea,—and He made it,
   And His hands formed the dry land,
6 0 come let us worship and bow down,
   Let us kneel before Jehovah our Maker.
7 For He is our God;
   And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep
   of His hand.

To-day oh that ye would hear His voice:

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<th>6. 0 COME. Again the invitation to lowliest adoration and worship, called forth afresh by the remembrance of God's revelation to and covenant with Israel.</th>
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<td>OUR MAKER, and ver. 7, OUR GOD, thus asserting the personal covenant relationship of God to His people (so Moses speaks of &quot;the Rock who begat thee, the God who made thee,&quot; Deut. xxxii. 18); and here, as so often elsewhere, God's majesty as seen in Creation is linked with His love as seen in Redemption. See on xix. 7, xxiv. 1, 2.</td>
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<td>7. PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE, Hupfeld would correct, &quot;people of His hand, and sheep of His pasture.&quot; But this is as dull as it is unnecessary. The subject of comparison and the figure are blended together.</td>
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<td>The last member of this verse belongs clearly to what follows. It may however be rendered (1) either as the expression of a wish (as in the text), &quot;Oh that,&quot; &amp;c., lit. &quot;if ye will hear . . . (then it shall be well with you),&quot; the apodosis being understood: or (2), as in the LXX., Jerome, the E.V., and others, this clause may be the protasis, &quot;if ye will hear His voice,&quot; ver. 8 introducing the apodosis, &quot;harden not your hearts.&quot; So also in Heb. iii. 7, the writer of the Epistle, as usual, following the LXX. (3) A third interpretation, however, is possible, which is that of Ibn' Ezra, and others, according to which the first two members of ver. 7 are to be taken parenthetically, and the last member joined with ver. 6: &quot;Let us kneel before Jehovah . . . to-day, if ye will hear His voice.&quot; In any case there is the same solemn strain of warning and expostulation breaking in upon the very joy and gladness of the Temple worship, as we have already observed in lxxxi. 6 [7]. Psalms like these seem to have had a double purpose. They were not only designed to be the expression of public devotion, the utterance of a nation's supplications and thanksgivings, but they were intended also to teach, to warn, to exhort. They were sermons as well as liturgies. Hence, too, the prophetic character which marks them. The Psalmist, like every true preacher, comes as an ambassador from above, speaking not his own words, but the words which God has given him, the words which God himself has uttered. The warning here rests, as in lxxviii., lxxx., &amp;c., on the example of their fathers in the desert.</td>
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<td>TO-DAY, the present moment, as critical and decisive, the day of</td>
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8 "Harden not your heart as at Meribah,
   As in the day of Massah [trial] in the wilderness,
9 When your fathers tried Me,
   Proved Me, yea saw My work.
10 Forty years (long) was I grieved with (that) generation.
   And I said, 'It is a people that do err in (their) heart,

Holy One whom thou didst prove
   at Massah, and with whom thou
didst strive at the waters of Meri-
bah."The LXX., in this Psalm
only, give παραπεπρασποσ as the
equivalent of "Meribah:" else-
where they have λοιδόρησις (Exod.
xvii. 7) λοιδορία (Num. xx. 24);
ἀντιλογία (Num. xx. 13, xxvii. 14
Deut. xxxii. 1, xxxiii. 8; Ps. lxxx.
8, cv. 32 [Heb. lxxxi. 7 [8]; cvi.
32]); the only places where they
have preserved the proper name
being Ezek. xlvii. 19, xlviii. 28 (see
Alford on Heb. iii. 8).

IN THE WILDERNESS, of Sin, near
Kadesh, where the second murmur-
ing against Moses and Aaron for
want of water took place (Num.
xx. 1).

9. TRIED ME. In allusion to
Massah, "trial," in ver. 8.

My WORK. Whether miracles
of deliverance, or acts of judge-
ment, all that I did. See in Critical
Note.

10. FORTY YEARS. These words
in the quotation in Heb. iii. 9 are
joined, as in the Syriac, with the
preceding verse, and the word.
"wherefore" is inserted after them.
This departs both from the Hebrew
and the LXX. The alteration is
evidently intentional, because the
passage is afterwards quoted iii. 17
as it stands in the Psalm.

WAS I GRIEVED. The word is
a strong word, expressive of loath-
ing and disgust.

A PEOPLE THAT DO ERR, lit. "a
people of wanderers in heart."
There may be, as Hupfeld suggests,
an allusion to the outward wander-
ing in the wilderness as the punish.
And they do not know My ways;"  
11 So that I sware in Mine anger,  
They shall not enter into My rest."
c. This has been explained (1) "Although they had seen all the wonders I had wrought in their behalf." (2) "Yea (not only did they prove Me, but) they saw My judgements, felt My chastisements." (So Hupf., Ewald, and Bleek.) The objection to the former is that MGa does not elsewhere mean although; it is not necessary so to render it in Is. xlix. 15, to which Del. refers, though no doubt post-Biblical writers employ it in this sense. On the other hand, "My work" is more naturally understood of God's great redemptive acts than of acts of punishment, although it occurs in the latter sense lxiv. 10; Is. v. 12; Hab. i. 5.

d. without the article (LXX. τὴν γενεαὶ ἑκείνη), perhaps, as Del. explains, "not hac but tali generatione," the purely ethical notion being predominant in the word. But the absence of the article may be only poetical usage. The Targum has "with the generation in the wilderness."

e. so that, as in Gen. xi. 7.

PSALM XCVI.

THIS grand prophetic Psalm looks forward with joyful certainty to the setting up of a Divine kingdom upon earth. But it is only indirectly Messianic. It connects the future blessings, not with the appearance of the Son of David, but with the coming of Jehovah. And it has already been pointed out (in a note on Psalm lxxii. 17) that there are in the Old Testament two distinct lines of prophecy, culminating in these two advents. Their convergence and ultimate unity are only seen in the light of New Testament fulfilment. The same hopes, however, gather about both, as may be seen, for instance, by a comparison of this Psalm with such a passage as Isaiah xi. 1-9. Calvin, in his introduction to the Psalm observes, that it is "An exhortation to praise God, addressed not to the Jews only, but to all nations. Whence (he adds) we infer that the Psalm refers to the kingdom of Christ; for till He was revealed to the world, His name could not be called upon anywhere but in Judaea."

The LXX. have a double inscription:

(1) ὅτε ὁ ὅικος ὑκοδομεῖτο μετὰ τὴν αἰχμαλωσίαν, which is probably correct, as indicating that the Psalm was composed after the Exile, and for the service of the second Temple.

(2) ὡς ἦ τῷ Δαυὶδ, which seems to contradict the other, but was no doubt occasioned by the circumstance that this Psalm, together with
portions of Psalm cv. and cvi., is given, with some variations (which
will be found in the notes), by the author of the Book of Chronicles,
as the great festal hymn which David delivered into the hand of
Asaph and his brethren to thank the Lord "on the day when the Ark
was brought into the sanctuary in Zion.

The Psalm consists of four strophes (of which the first three are
perfectly regular, consisting of three lines each):

I. Jehovah is to be praised in all the world and at all times. Ver.
1—3.

II. He alone is worthy to be praised, for all other objects of
worship are nothing. Ver. 4—6.

III. Let all the heathen confess this, and give Him the honour due
to his name. Ver. 7—9.

IV. Let all the world hear the glad tidings that Jehovah is
King, and even things without life share the common joy. Ver.
10-13.

Supposing the Psalm to have been sung antiphonally, verses 1 and
2, 4 and 5, 7 and 8, may have been sung by two bands of Levites
alternately, the whole choir taking up the concluding verses of each
stanza, verses 3, 6, 9. Then in the last strophe, verses 10, 11, 12
would be sung antiphonally, the whole choir taking up the grand
solemn close of ver. 13, with fullest expression of voice and
instrument.

1 O SING unto Jehovah a new song,
Sing unto Jehovah, all the earth.
2 Sing unto Jehovah, bless His name,
Publish His salvation from day to day.
3 Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all the peoples.
4 For great is Jehovah, and highly to be praised,
He is to be feared above all gods;

1. A NEW SONG. See on xxxiii.
3. The new song is not the Psalm
itself, but one which shall be the fit
expression of all the thoughts and
hopes and triumphs of the new
and glorious age which is about
to dawn. It is the glad welcome
given to the King when He enters
His kingdom. Comp. with this
verse Is. xlii. 10, lx. 6, lxvi. 19.
2. PUBLISH, or "tell the tidings
of." See lxviii. 11 [12], xl. 9 [10].
LXX. εὐαγγελίσσῃ.
4. The manifestation of God's
glory. Comp. cxlv. 3, xlviii. i [2].
   ABOVE ALL GODS (as in xcv. 3;
5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
   But Jehovah made the heavens.

6 Honour and majesty are before Him,
   Strength and beauty a are in His sanctuary.

7 Give unto Jehovah, 0 families of peoples,
   Give unto Jehovah glory and strength;

8 Give unto Jehovah the glory due unto His name,
   Bring presents, and come into His courts.

9 Bow yourselves before Jehovah in holy attire,
   Tremble before Him, all the earth.

10 Say ye among the nations: Jehovah is King,
   Yea the world is established that it cannot be moved,
He shall judge the peoples in uprightness.

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad,
   Let the sea thunder and the fulness thereof;
12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein,
   Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy
13 Before Jehovah, for He cometh,
   For He cometh to judge the earth;
   He shall judge the world in righteousness,
   And the peoples in His faithfulness.

clause is introduced somewhat abruptly, and quasi-parenthetically, from xciii. 1. It describes one of the elements in Jehovah's government, but is it to be understood in a physical or a moral sense? It may be that the fact that God has so established the natural order of the world is alleged as showing His power and His right as Creator to rule. (So Rosenm) Or the meaning may be that the nations of the world (the inhabited earth), shaken and torn by war and anarchy, are now safe and peaceful under Jehovah's righteous sway. (So De- litzsch.)

Calvin has well combined the two senses: "Notatu vero dignum est quod subjicit: de stabilitate orbis. Etsi enim scimus natures ordinem ab initio divinitus fuisse positum, eundem semper solem, lunam, et stellas resplenduisse in caelo, iisdem alimentis quibus fideles sustentatosuisse incredulos, et eundem traxisse spiritum vitalem; tenendum est omnia esse confusa, et horribilem ἀταξίαν in star diluvii mundum in tenebris demersum tenere quamdiu impietas hominum animos occupat: quia extra Deum quid stabile esse potest? Non immerito igitur docet hic locus stabiliri orbem ut amplius non nutet, ubi rediguntur homines sub manum Devi. Unde etiam descendum est, quamvis suum officium peregant singulae creaturae, nihil tamen esse in mundo ordinatem, donec regiam sedem sibi Deus figat regendis hominibus." He refers to Ps. xlv. 5 [6].

It may be owing to the abruptness of this clause that the Chronicler has transposed some of the clauses in his adaptation of the Psalm. His arrangement (I Chron. xvi.. 30-33) is as follows: "Tremble before Him all the earth, yea the world is established that it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, and let them say among the nations, Jehovah is King. Let the sea thunder, and the fulness thereof. Let the field exult, and all that is therein. Then shall the trees of the wood shout for joy before Jehovah, for He cometh to judge the earth."

13. [This verse may have been sung antiphonally by the choir in some such way as is suggested in the Introduction to the Psalm.]
THE advent of Jehovah, and His righteous rule over the whole earth, is the subject of this Psalm, as of the last. Here, however, it would seem as if some great display of God's righteousness, some signal deliverance of His people, had kindled afresh the hope that the day was at hand, yea had already dawned, when He would take to Himself His great power and reign.

"Jehovah is King." Such is the glad assurance with which the Psalm opens. He has come to take possession of His throne with all the awful majesty with which He appeared on Sinai. All nature is moved at His presence. The heavens have uttered their message, telling of His righteousness, and all the nations of the world have seen His glory. His empire must be universal. Already the idols and the worshipers of idols are ashamed: and Zion rejoices in the coming of her King. He is near, very near. The first flush of the morning is already brightening the sky. They who love His appearing may look for Him, in holy abhorrence of evil and in faithfulness of heart, waiting 'till they enter into the joy of their Lord. Such is briefly the purport of the Psalm.

"If the bringing in of an everlasting worship gives its distinctive colouring to the foregoing Psalm, the final casting out of evil is the key-note of this: if the thought of the Great King bringing salvation to His people is foremost in that, in this it is the trampling down of His enemies: there he comes 'to diadem the right,' here 'to terminate the evil.'"—Housman, p. 203.

The coming of Jehovah as King and Judge is described almost in the same terms as the theophany in the Eighteenth and Fiftieth Psalms. The use of the past tenses in ver. 4-8, and in particular the vivid language in ver. 8, where Zion and the daughters of Judah rejoice in presence of Jehovah's judgements, are most naturally explained as occasioned by some historical event, some great national deliverance or triumph of recent occurrence; such, for instance, as
the overthrow of Babylon and the restoration of the theocracy (so Ewald). The structure of the Psalm, like the last, consists of strophes of three verses.

I. In the first, the coming of Jehovah is portrayed as if actually present. Ver. 1-3.

II. In the second, its effects are described on nature, and its purposes with reference to the world at large. Ver. 4-6.

III. The third speaks of the different impression produced on the heathen and on Israel, and the exaltation of God above all earthly power as the final result. Ver. 7-9.

IV. The fourth is an exhortation to the righteous, and also a promise full of consolation. Ver. 10—12.

1 JEHOVAH is King: let the earth be glad,
   Let the multitude of the isles rejoice.
2 Cloud and darkness are round about Him,
   Righteousness and judgement are the foundation of His throne
3 A fire goeth before Him,
   And devoureth His adversaries round about.
4 His lightnings gave shine unto the world,
The earth saw; and trembled.
5 The mountains melted like wax at the presence of Jehovah,

At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens have declared His righteousness,
And all the peoples have seen His glory.

7 Ashamed are all they that serve graven images,
That boast themselves in idols:

Bow down before Him, all ye gods.

lxxvii. 18 [10], whence the first member of this verse is taken:
with the second compare lxxvii. i6 [17].

5. THE MOUNTAINS MELTED:
comp. Judg. v. 5, Micah i. 4, and Ps. lxviii. 2 [3].

THE LORD OF THE WHOLE EARTH. This name of God occurs first in Joshua iii. 11, 13, where the Ark (at the passage of the Jordan) is called "the ark of Jehovah the Lord of the whole earth," as if emphatically, then when the people were about to occupy their own land, to distinguish Jehovah their God from the merely local and national gods of the heathen. The name is found again in Micah iv. 13; Zech. iv. 14, vi. 5.

6. HAVE DECLARED HIS RIGHT-EOUSNESS. This is the end and purpose of God's coming (as in 1. 6). He comes to judge, and the act of judgement is one which the whole world shall witness, as in lxxvii. 14 [15], lxix. 10, xcvi. 3. Comp. the language used of the great deliverance from Babylon, Is. xxxv. 2, xl. 5, lii. 10, lxvi. 18.

7. This and the next verse describe the twofold result of the Divine judgement—the impression produced on the heathen and on Israel, the confusion of all worshippers of idols, and the joy and exultation of the people of God.

ASHAMED, a word frequently employed with the same reference by the prophet Isaiah. It is a shame arising from the discovery of the utter vanity and nothingness of the objects of their trust.


ALL YE GODS. The LXX. (προσκυνήσατε αὐτῷ πάντες ᾧ γελοῖοι αὐτοῦ) and the Syr. both understand these to be angels. But this is contrary both to usage (see note on viii. 5) and to the context. The Chald. paraphrases: "all who worship idols." But doubtless heathen deities are meant. As all the worshippers are confounded, so must all the objects of their worship be overthrown, as Dagon was before the Ark of the Lord; all must yield before Him who is the Lord of the whole earth. If this be the meaning, the line may be taken as a sarcastic, contemptuous challenge to the idols of the heathen. If so, we need not enter into the question whether angels or spiritual beings were the real objects of worship, idols being only their representatives. Augustine supposes a heathen excusing himself when charged with idol-worship by saying that he does not worship the image but
8 Zion heard and rejoiced,
     And the daughters of Judah were glad,
     Because of Thy judgements, O Jehovah.
9 For THOU, Jehovah, art most high above all the earth,
     Thou art greatly exalted above all gods.

10 O ye that love Jehovah, hate evil;
     He keepeth the souls of His beloved,
     He delivereth them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light is sown a for the righteous,

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"the invisible deity which presides over the image," and argues that this is a plain proof that the heathen worship not idols but demons, which is worse. He quotes in support of this view the language of St. Paul in 1 Cor. x. 19, 20, viii. 4. But, he continues, if the pagans say we worship good angels, not evil spirits, then the angels themselves forbid such worship: "Let them imitate the angels and worship Him who is worshipt by the angels;" and then he cites the passage in the Latin Version, Adorate eum orrones angeli ejus. Calvin here, as in the two preceding Psalms, xcv. 3, xcvi. 5, understands by "gods" both angels and also those creatures of the human imagination, the projected images of their own lusts and fears, which men fall down and worship. "Quanquam proprie in angelos id competit, in quibus relucet aliqua Deitatis particula, potest tamen impropie ad deos fictitios extendi, acsi dixisset: Quicquid habetur pro Deo, cedat et se submittat, ut emineat Deus unus." Delitzsch refers to the addition made by the LXX. to the text of Deut. xxxii. 43, καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες ἄγγελοι θεοῦ, which is quoted in Neh. i. 6, perhaps with a reference also to the Septuagint Version of this Psalm, and applied to the worship which the angels shall give to the first-born of God when He comes again [of course taking ὅταν πάλιν εἰσαγάγη to mean, "When He shall have brought in a second time into the world," &c.] to judge the world: "where it is implied that it is Jesus in whom Jehovah's universal kingdom is gloriously perfected."

8. HEARD AND REJOICED: borrowed from xlviii. 11 [12], where see note, and the opposite to "the earth saw and trembled," ver. 4. Although the coming of Jehovah has been portrayed in images full of awe and terror, yet here, as in the two preceding Psalms, it is described as a coming to be welcomed with jubilant gladness by His Church. In the same spirit our Lord, when speaking of the signs of fear which shall be the precursors of His second coming, says, "When ye shall see these things begin to come to pass, then lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh."

10. The Psalm closes with a practical application, because the King and Judge is drawing near, a warning against the evil which is in the world, and an assurance of Divine protection and blessing to those who "hate evil." Comp. xxxiv. 14-22, xlv. 7 [8], cxxxix. 21, 22, 2 Cor. vi. 14-18.

11. LIGHT IS SOWN. The figure has been understood to mean that the prosperity of the righteous is future, just as seed is cast into the earth, and only after a time springs
And joy for the upright in heart.
12 Rejoice in Jehovah, 0 ye righteous,
And give thanks to His holy Name.

up and bears fruit. But it is far
simpler to take the verb "sown"
in the sense of "scattered," "dif-
fused."
Milton uses the same figure of
the dew:
"Now Morn her rosy steps in th'
Eastern clime

Advancing, sow'd the earth with
Orient pearl."
12. HOLY NAME, lit. "Holy Me-
morial."
The first member of the verse
corresponds nearly with xxxii. 11a;
the second is exactly the same as
xxx. 4 [5]b. where see note.

a הַנַּה. The LXX. ἀνέφετελε, hath sprung up, arisen, and so the other
Ancient Versions, as if they read מַהַנַּה, as in cxii. 4, but the change is
unnecessary. In Prov. xiii. 9, "the light of the righteous rejoiceth," it
has been proposed in like manner to read מַהַנַּה.

PSALM XCVIII.

THIS Psalm is little more than an echo of Psalm xcvi. Its subject
is "the last great revelation, the final victory of God, when His
salvation and His righteousness, the revelation of which He has
promised to the house of Israel, shall be manifested both to His own
people and to all the nations of the earth."
The Inscription of the Psalm in the Hebrew is only the single
word Mizmor, "Psalm" (whence probably the title "orphan Mizmor"
in the Babylonian Talmud, Abodah Zara, 24b. Comp. Tosaphoth
(Additamenta) of the North French, South German, and English
Rabbis twelfth and thirteenth centuries). In the Syriac the inscription runs, "Of the Redemption of the people from Egypt." Both the
beginning and the end of the Psalm are taken from Psalm xcvi. The
rest of it is drawn chiefly from the latter portion of Isaiah.

This Psalm follows the reading of the First Lesson in our Evening
Service. It was first inserted there in 1552, though it had not been
sung among the Psalms of Vespers or Compline.
1 SING unto Jehovah a new song,  
   For He hath done marvellous things;  
   His right hand and His holy arm hath gotten Him salvation.

2 Jehovah hath made known His salvation,  
   Before the eyes of the nations hath He revealed His righteousness.

3 He hath remembered His loving-kindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
   All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

4 Make a loud noise to Jehovah, all the earth;  
   Break forth and sing joyfully, and play,

5 Play unto Jehovah with the harp,  
   With the harp and the voice of a psalm;  
   With trumpets and the voice of the cornet,  
   Make a loud noise before Jehovah, the King.

7 Let the sea thunder, and the fulness thereof,  
   The world and they that dwell therein.
8 Let the streams clap their hands,  
Together let the mountains sing for joy,  
9 Before Jehovah, for He cometh to judge the earth.  
He shall judge the world with righteousness,  
And the peoples with uprightness.

8. CLAP THEIR HANDS. The same phrase occurs Is. lv. 12; else- 
where a different verb is used, as in

PSALM XCIX.

THIS is the last of the series of Royal Psalms, of Psalms which celebrate the coming of Jehovah as King. The first of the series is the 93rd. This opens with the announcement that "Jehovah is King," passes on to tell that His throne has been from everlasting, that He made the world and that He rules it—or rules the rage of the elements and the convulsions of political strife, of which that is the figure—and then concludes with one brief glance at His revelation of Himself to His people, and the distinguishing glory of the house in which he deigns to dwell, "Holiness becometh Thine house for ever."

The 95th Psalm *ascribes glory to Him as "a great King above all gods" (ver. 3). The 96th would have the glad tidings run far and wide that "Jehovah is King," that "He shall judge the people righteously " (ver. 13). The 97th opens "Jehovah is King," speaks of the glory of His advent, and of the joy with which it is welcomed by His people. The 98th calls upon all lands to break forth into loud shouts "before the King Jehovah," to go forth to meet Him with glad acclaim, with the voice of harp and cornet and trumpet, as men go forth to meet a monarch who comes in state to take possession of the throne of his fathers. The 99th, like the 93rd and the 97th, opens with the joyful announcement that "Jehovah is King," and then bids all men fall down and confess His greatness, and

* The 94th Psalm seems out of place in the series; it does not, like the rest, speak of the reign of Jehovah; and the number seven, if we take the 100th Psalm as the closing Doxology, is complete without it.
worship Him who alone is holy. Both the first and the last of the series, the 93rd and the 99th, celebrate the kingly majesty and the holiness of Jehovah, and also the holiness of His worship.

All these Psalms, then, alike tell of the setting up of a Divine kingdom upon earth. All alike anticipate the event with joy. One universal anthem bursts from the whole wide world to greet the advent of the righteous King. Not Zion only and the daughters of Judah are glad, but the dwellers in far-off islands and the ends of the earth. Even inanimate nature sympathises with the joy; the sea thunders her welcome, the rivers clap their hands, the trees of the wood break forth into singing before the Lord. In all these Psalms alike, the joy springs from the same source, from the thought that on this earth, where might has no longer triumphed over right, a righteous King shall reign, a kingdom shall be set up which shall be a kingdom of righteousness, and judgement, and truth.

In this Psalm, not only the righteous sway of the King, but His awful holiness, forms the subject of praise; and the true character of His worshipers as consecrated priests, holy, set apart for His service, is illustrated by the examples of Holy men of old, like Moses, Aaron, and Samuel.

The two principal divisions of the Psalm are marked by the greater refrain with which each closes, "Exalt ye Jehovah our God," &c. (ver. 5, 9). But the thrice-repeated lesser refrain, "He is holy," more full, as at the close (in ver. 9), "Jehovah our God is holy," marks also a strophical division, and is, in the words of Delitzsch, "an earthly echo of the Seraphic Trisagion" (comp. Is. vi. 3). We have thus three strophes or Sanctuses, ver. 1-3, ver. 4-5, ver. 6--9, the first and second consisting each of six lines. In each of these Jehovah is acknowledged in His peculiar covenant relation to His people. In the first, He is "great in Zion" (ver. 2); in the second He has "executed righteousness in Jacob" (ver. 4), and He is "Jehovah our God" (ver. 5); in the third, the great examples of this covenant relationship are cited from Israel's ancient history; and again God is twice claimed as "Jehovah our God " (ver. 8 and 9). In each there is the same exhortation to worship (ver. 3, ver. 5, ver. 9), and in each the nature of the worship and the character of the worshipers is implied, because the character of God is in each exhibited, "He is holy." But in the third Sanctus this is brought out most fully. The priestly character of all true worship is declared. All who call upon Jehovah call upon Him as His priests, all anointed with the same holy oil, all clothed in the same garments of holiness, "for Jehovah our God is holy."
Bengel (quoted by Delitzsch), recognizing this threefold partition of the Psalm, explains the subject somewhat differently. "The 99th Psalm," he says, "has three parts, in which the Lord is celebrated as He who is to come, as He who is, and He who was, and each part is closed with the ascription of praise, He is holy."—Erklärle Offenb., S. 313.

1 JEHOVAH is King, the peoples tremble;
   He sitteth throned upon the cherubim, the earth is
   moved.\(^a\)

2 Jehovah in Zion is great,
   And He is exalted above all the peoples.

3 Let them give thanks unto Thy great and fearful name:
   He is holy.

4 And the King's strength loveth judgement;
   THOU hast established uprightness,
   THOU hast executed judgement and righteousness in
   Jacob.

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1. Is KING, lit. "hath become
   King,"\textit{regnum caessivit}. See note
   on xcvi. I.

   HE SITTETH. This is a partic-
   iple, and is, strictly speaking, not
   so much an independent clause as
   a further description of the manner
   of God's kingly rules: He rules sit-
   ting throned, &c. It also suggests
   "not only the \textit{identity} of the hea-
   venly King with the God who is
   worshipt in Zion, but also His
   \textit{presence} in His temple."—Moll.

   UPON THE CHERUBIM. See note
   on lxxx. I [2].

   3. LET THEM GIVE THANKS, or
   the words may be taken as the
   utterance of the Psalmist's hope
   that God's "great and fearful
   Name" (Deut. x. 17) which is
   known in Israel shall be glorified
   in all the world: "they shall give
   thanks," &c. But the optative form
   of expression accords best with the
   exhortation in ver. 5, 9.

   HE IS HOLY. This might be
   rendered "\textit{It} is holy," i.e. the Name
   of God, mentioned just before.
   The meaning is the same in either
   case, for God's name "is God Him-
   self in His revealed holiness," as
   Delitzsch observes. I have pre-
   ferred the more immediately per-
   sonal rendering, because it is ob-
   viously required in the repetition
   of the same words afterwards, ver.
   5, 9.

   4. AND THE KING'S STRENGTH,
   &c. This rendered as an inde-
   pendent clause is awkward, though
   it is so rendered by most of the
   Ancient Versions. But the Chald.,
   Ibn Ez., Del., and others take the
   two last words of this member of
   the verse as a relative clause; Ibn
   Ez. renders: "It is strength and
   honour in a King who loves judg-
   ment." Del.: "And the strength
   of a King, who loveth judgement,
   Thou hast established in upright-
   ness." Others carry on the con-
   struction from the last verse, taking
   the words "He (or, it) is holy," as
   parenthetical, thus: "They shall
   praise Thy great and fearful Name
   (it is holy), and the might of the
   King who (or, which) loveth righte-
   ousness." It must be confessed
5 Exalt ye Jehovah our God,
And bow down at His holy footstool:
He is holy.

6 Moses and Aaron among His priests,
And Samuel among them that call upon His Name—
They called upon Jehovah, and HE answered them.

that but for the words of the refrain, which it is awkward to take thus parenthetically, the sense and the construction are better preserved by this rendering. Certainly the use of the conj. "and" at the beginning of this verse is far more natural on either of these views than on the other. At present it is otiose, supposing ver. 4 to begin a fresh sentence. It is possible, I think, that the words "He is holy" did not stand at the end of ver. 3 in the original Psalm, and that they were subsequently introduced in order to complete the Ter Sanctus. The correspondence between the two greater refrains, the natural introduction of the words there, and their abruptness here, all render such a supposition at least not wholly improbable.

THE KING'S STRENGTH; the same King who is mentioned ver. 1, Jehovah. His might is no arbitrary power, like that of earthly tyrants, but a judgement-loving might. His power only expresses itself in righteousness. He has "established uprightness" as the great eternal law of His government, the inner principle of His sway, and He has manifested it in all His acts: "He has executed judgement and righteousness in Jacob."

5. FOOTSTOOL: properly, the lower part or step of the throne (as Is. lxvi. i, Ezek. xliii. 7) put for the throne itself. In cxxxii. 7 it is spoken, apparently, of the sanctuary, "His dwellings, or tabernacles," being in the parallelism. So the sanctuary is called "the place of My feet," Is. 1x. 13. In I Chron, xxviii. 2 it is used of the ark of the covenant; in Lam. ii. 1 of the holy city (or perhaps the Temple); in Is. lxvi. 1 (comp. Matt. v. 35) of the whole earth. Here it seems doubtful whether the earthly or the heavenly sanctuary is meant.

6. The apparent abruptness of the transition in this verse—which, however, is very natural in lyric poetry—to the examples of Moses, and Aaron, and Samuel, has led to a variety of explanations. Rosenmüller proposes to join this with ver. 4, the refrain in ver. 5 being regarded as parenthetical; and takes this ver. as containing a fresh instance of God's goodness in hearing the prayers of His people. Delitzsch sees in it an appeal to the great men of old, and their experience as to the "absolute life and kingly rule of Jehovah." No explanation that I have seen satisfies me. I have already hinted, in the Introduction to the Psalm, at what I believe to be the train of thought. The great subject of the Psalmist's praise is the holiness of God. It is a holy God whom he calls upon all men to worship. It is "a holy footstool," "a holy mountain," before which they bow down; it is therefore a holy worship which they must render. Such was the worship of His saints of old: and then likewise Jehovah manifested His holiness both in "forgiving" and in "taking vengeance" (ver. 8).

MOSES . . . AMONG His PRIESTS. The priestly office was exercised by Moses in the sprinkling of the blood of the covenant, Exod. xxiv.
7 In the pillar of a cloud He spake unto them;  
They kept His testimonies and the statute that He  
gave them.

8 Jehovah, our God, THOU didst answer them,  
A forgiving God wast Thou to them;  
And (yet) taking vengeance of their doings.

9 Exalt ye Jehovah our God,  
And bow down before His holy mountain;  
For Jehovah our God is holy.

6-8, and again in the whole ritual for the consecration of Aaron and his sons, Levit. viii., as well as in the service of the sanctuary, before that consecration took place, Exod. xl. 22—27. So likewise he "called upon the Lord" as "a priest," in intercession for His people, Exod. xvii. 11, 12, xxxii. 30-32 (comp. Ps. cxi. 23); Num. xii. 13. Samuel also, though not here classed with the priests, but mentioned as a great example of prayer, not only like Moses discharged priestly functions, but also like Moses interceded for the people. We find him at Ramah offering sacrifices in the high place, and his independent priestly position so recognized by the people, that they would not partake of the sacrifice till he had blessed it (1 Sam. ix. 12, 13). We find him on the occasion of a battle offering a whole burnt-offering unto Jehovah (1 Sam. vii. 9), at the same time that he sternly rebukes, Saul for presuming to do the same thing (1 Sam. xiii. 11-13). For the efficacy of his prayers and intercessions—on which, and not on sacrifices, the stress is here laid—see the instances in 1 Sam. vii. 8, 9, xii. 16-18. Comp. Ecclus. xlvi.

7. IN THE PILLAR OF A CLOUD.  
Strictly this applies only to Moses, or at the most only to Moses and Aaron: see Num. xii. 5.

THEY KEPT HIS TESTIMONIES;  
an evidence of the holiness of those who called on Jehovah, and whom He answered. This latter clause might be disposed in two lines, thus:

"They kept His testimonies,  
And He gave them a statute (statutes)."

This verse would then, like all the others in this strophe, consist of three lines.

8. WAST THOU, or "didst Thou prove thyself to be," LXX. εὗλατος ἐγίνου αὐτοῖς. Cf. Ez. xxxiv. 7.

TAKING VENGEANCE. As it is clear that this cannot refer to all the three great examples cited above, certainly not to Samuel, the pronouns in this verse (and perhaps, as Calvin and others think, in ver. 7) must refer to the people at large, who, though not mentioned, are in the Psalmist's thoughts, as he goes back to their ancient history.

a ὄμη. The verb occurs only here instead of the more usual ὴμη. In most of the Ancient Verss. it is rendered, as well as ἀτρ. Tr. in the previous member, as an optative. The LXX. have ὄργιζεσθωσαν . . . σαλευθητω; Jerome, commoveantur . . . concutiatur. But Mendels., Hupf., and Del. render the verbs as presents, which appears to me to be preferable. The two verbs describe the effects which immediately and necessarily follow from the inauguration and establishment of Jehovah's kingdom. For the sequence of tenses, cf. xlvi. 7.
IF we are right in regarding the Psalms xciii.-xcix. as forming one continuous series, one great prophetic oratorio, whose title is "Jehovah is King," and through which there runs the same great idea, this Psalm may be regarded as the Doxology which closes the strain. We find lingering in it notes of the same great harmony. It breathes the same gladness: it is filled with the same hope, that all nations shall, bow down before Jehovah, and confess that He is God.

"This last Jubilate," says Delitzsch, "is the echo of the first—that, namely, which occurs in the first half of Psalm xcv. There we find all the thoughts which recur here. There it is said, ver. 7, 'He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.' And in ver. 2, 'Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us sing joyfully to Him with Psalms.'"

"Among the Psalms of triumph and thanksgiving this stands pre- eminent, as rising to the highest point of joy and grandeur. No local restrictions, no national exclusiveness, can find place in the contemplation of God as the common Creator and Father of man: hence it is that no hymn or psalm in any subsequent age has found a readier response than this first appeal to the whole world to unite in worshiping Jehovah on the ground of common sonship and humanity."

This Psalm is recited in the Jewish synagogues every day, except on Sabbaths and Festivals.

[A PSALM FOR THE THANK-OFFERING.]

I SHOUT aloud unto Jehovah, all the earth;

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I. SHOUT ALOUD: used of the welcome given to a king who enters his capital, or takes possession of the throne, as in xviii. 4, 6, lxvi. 1. ALL THE EARTH. As in all the preceding Psalms, xciii.-xcix., so here, the hope of the Psalmist goes far beyond the narrow limits of his own people and country. The blessing of Abraham is become the heritage of the Gentiles. The whole world is to acknowledge Jehovah, and to rejoice before Him. So Augustine: "Et tamen hanc vocem audivit universa terra. Jam jubilat Domino universa terra, et quae adhuc non jubilat jubilabit. Per tendens enim benedictio incipiente Ecclesia ab Jerusalem per omnes gentes, impietatem ubique pro- sterit, pietatem ubique construit. Et mixti sunt boni malis; et mali

* The Psalms Chronologically Arranged, p. 321.
PSALM C.                                  211

2 Serve ye Jehovah with gladness,
   Come before His presence with a song of joy.
3 Know ye that Jehovah, He is God
   He hath made us and we are His,\textsuperscript{b}
   We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
4 0 enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
   Into His courts with praise:
   Give thanks unto Him, bless His Name.
5 For Jehovah is good, His loving-kindness is everlasting;
   And His faithfulness (endureth) unto all generations.

\textsuperscript{2}a νῆπιον. The expression is used apparently in a liturgical sense (like the analogous titles of xxxviii., lxv., xcii.), to denote that the Psalm was to be sung during the offering of thank-offerings. Compare 'א יָּבֵּא, cvii. 22, CXV. 17, which is also termed simply יַּנְּחָה, lvi. 13, 2 Chron. xxix. 31.

\textsuperscript{b} א קְֹלְּמִנ. So the K'thibh; the sense being, as it is commonly explained, "He hath made us (chosen us to be His people), and not we ourselves,"

\textsuperscript{2}SERVE YE. Comp. ii. 11; where, however, in accordance with the warlike character ascribed to the monarch, it is added "with fear," instead of "with joy" as here. "Libera servitus est aped Dominum," remarks Augustine, "libera servitus; ubi non necessitas, sed caritas, servit."

\textsuperscript{3}KNOW YE, i.e. learn by experience, as Theodoret explains, διά αυτῶν μάθετε τῶν πραγμάτων.

\textsuperscript{4}HATH MADE US: i.e. not merely "hath created us," but hath made us what we are, viz. His people. Comp. 1 Sam. xii. 6: "It is Jehovah that made (E. V. advanced) Moses and Aaron." See also Deut. xxxii. 6, 15; Ps. xcv. 6. And so Israel is called "the work (lit. making) of Jehovah," Is. xcv. 23, lx. 21.

\textsuperscript{5}GOOD, i.e. "gracious," "kind," as in xxv. 8, xxxiv. 8 [9].

\textsuperscript{2}full of parallelisms to Is. xl.—lxvi., points out that this reading (that of the Q'ri) is supported by Is. xliii. 1: "And now saith the Lord that created thee, 0 Jacob, and formed thee, 0 Israel, fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by My name; Mine art thou."

\textsuperscript{4}The knowledge that Jehovah has chosen Israel to be His inheritance and the sheep of His pasture is not to tend to the exclusion of others from the same privileges. On the contrary, all nations are to flow to Jerusalem, and worship in the Temple. What in Is. ii. 2, 3 appears in the form of prediction, is here invitation, as in Is. ii. 5. "His temple is open to all. They may enter in; and when they enter may expect great things; 'For Jehovah is gracious, and His loving-kindness and truth never fail,' according to the repeated expression of the Hallelujah-Psalms and Psalms of Thanksgiving." —Delitzsch.

\textsuperscript{5}a per omnem terram, et boni per omnem terram. In malis murmurat omnis terra; in bonis jubilat omnis terra."
—i.e. it was not of merit on our part, but of His grace. So the LXX., αὐτὸς ἐποίησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ οὐχ ἡμεῖς, the Vulg., and the Syr. And the Midrash (Bereshith Rabba, c. 100, ad init.) finds in this confession the opposite to Pharaoh's boast, "I have made myself," Ezek. xxix. 3 (where, however, the rendering probably is as in E.V., "I have made it (the Nile) for myself"). But it is very doubtful if such a meaning would be thus expressed in Hebrew. Hence Symm. (who adopts the K'thibh) gives a different explanation, with αὐτὸς ἐποίησεν ἡμᾶς οὐκ ὄντας, and similarly Rashi.

But the Q'ri Ḫ nghiệm, has the support of the Chald., Jerome, and Saadia, the Talmud and Midrash have it, it is found in nineteen MSS. of De R. and nine of Kenn., yields the best sense, is more in accordance with the parallel passage, xcvi. 7, and has been adopted by the ablest modern critics, Ewald, Hupfeld, Delitzsch, &c. The Massoreth reckons fifteen passages in which קִanteed is written, and יל ought to be read: Ex. xxi. 8; Lev. xi. 21, xxv. 30; 1 Sam. ii. 3; 2 Sam. xvi. 18, xix. 7; Is. ix. 2, xlix. 5, lxiii. 9; Ps. c. 3; Job vi. 21, xiii. 15; Prov. xix. 7, xxvi. 2.

PSALM CI.

THIS Psalm has been styled "the godly purposes and resolves of a king." It might also be described as "Speculum Regis," a mirror for kings and all that are in authority. It opens with the joyful contemplation of God's mercy and justice as kingly virtues, in their measure and degree to be manifested in earthly kings. It then records the king's pious resolve to keep his own heart and life unspotted, and to remove from him all that might lead him astray. Yet scarcely has he uttered the resolve, when, reflecting on all that such a resolve implies, he breaks forth in the earnest cry that God Himself would come to him and take up His dwelling with him, giving him grace to walk in "a perfect way." Thus having consecrated himself and his house, he declares further how he will provide for the purity of his court. With jealous care he will exclude those who are the bane of kings' houses—the slanderer, the proud, the deceitful, the liar. None but the faithful, none but those who, like himself, walk in a perfect (i.e. blameless) way, shall be admitted to places of honour and trust about his person. Finally, the work of zealous reformation shall extend to his capital, the city of Jehovah,
and to the utmost borders of the land, that he may see realized under his sway the great ideal, "Ye shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

All this falls in admirably with the early part of David's reign, and the words are just what we might expect from one who came to the throne with a heart so true to his God. If the words "When wilt Thou come unto me ?" may be taken to express, as seems most natural, David's desire to see the Ark at length fixed in the Tabernacle which he had prepared for it on Zion, the Psalm must have been written whilst the Ark was still in the house of Obed-edom (2 Sam. vi. 10, 11). "Zion was already David's royal seat, and the Tabernacle of Jehovah was there; but all had not yet been accomplished that was necessary for the proper ordering and administration of the kingdom. The new state had still to be organized, and the great officers of state and of the household to be chosen, men upon whose character so much always depends, and especially in despotic monarchies like those of the ancient world. David himself was standing at the threshold of the most critical period of his life, and, fully aware of the greatness of his responsibilities, did not feel himself as yet equal to the task which devolved upon him, to the burden which he was henceforth to bear. Still at this first period of his reign in Jerusalem, in the flush of victory, in the full splendour of his newly-acquired dominion over the whole of Israel, at a time when lesser princes would so easily have been dazzled by the deceitful sunshine of prosperity, or would have been terrified at the responsibility, David is only the more earnest in praising Jehovah and calling to mind His attributes, in striving to purify his own heart, and to form wise measures for the conduct of a strong and righteous rule, and in the resolution to keep far from him all that would bring a reproach upon himself or a stain upon his court. For the very sanctity of that city which had just been chosen as the dwellingplace of Jehovah required that nothing unholy should be tolerated therein. One who begins his reign with thoughts and resolutions such as these may well look for a happy termination of it, and nothing shows us more clearly the true nobleness of David's soul than this short Psalm. It is the spontaneous, inartificial expression of feelings long restrained; feelings and purposes, however, which form in themselves a whole, and which therefore naturally, and without effort, appear as a whole in the Psalm, and give it the unity which it possesses."

* The passage in inverted commas is taken in substance from Ewald.
PSALM CI.

[A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 Of loving-kindness and judgment will I sing,
Unto Thee, 0 Jehovah, will I sing psalms.
2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way.
—When wilt Thou come unto me?
I will walk with a perfect heart within my house.
3 I will not set any vile thing before mine eyes;

1. LOVING-KINDNESS AND JUDGMENT. These can only be the theme of praise as Divine attributes. But it is as a king who would frame his own rule and his kingdom after the Divine pattern that David makes these attributes the burden of his song. He meditates on the mercy and the righteousness of God, that he may learn the lesson of that mercy and righteousness himself. He meditates on them till his heart glows with the thought of their surpassing excellence, as seen in the Divine government, and with the earnest desire that the same kingly virtues may be transferred into his own life and reign. See rote on lxxxv. 10.

SING PSALMS, or perhaps, rather, "play," i.e. upon the harp or other musical instruments. "Quum dicit, Tibi, Jehovah, psallam," says Calvin, "Dei beneficio se agnoscit ad tam praeclarum et honorificum munus esse destinatum; quia superbae temeritatis fuisset ulter se ingerere. Non bs re autem regias virtutes duabus his partibus complectitur, clementia et iudicio; quia sicuti praecipuum regis munus est suum cuique jus reddere, ita sollicitus erga suos amor et humanitas in eo requiritur. Nec abs re dicit Solomo: Clementia stabiliri solium (Prov. xvi. 12)."

2. I WILL BEHAVE MYSELF WISELY IN, or, "I will give heed to" (see Critical Note). The expression shows his sense of his own responsibility. The possession of absolute power too often dazzles and blinds men. An Eastern despot might have cast off all restraint, or at least might have allowed himself large license in the indulgence of his passions or his follies, almost without scandal or hatred. The nobler, therefore, is this resolve.

WHEN WILT THOU COME. It would be possible to render: "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way when Thou comest unto me;" but the question is far more expressive. It bursts forth from the heart, moved and stirred to its inmost centre, as it thinks of all the height and depth of that resolve to "walk in a perfect way." How shall a frail son of man keep his integrity? The task is too great for his own strength, honest and sincere as the resolution is, and therefore he cries, "When wilt Thou come unto me?"—come to be my abiding guest—come not only to dwell in Zion, in Thy tabernacle, but with me Thy servant, in my house and in my heart (comp. John xiv. 23), giving me the strength and the grace that I need? The expression is no doubt remarkable as occurring in the Old Testament; though if it be understood as referring to the removal of the Ark to Zion (see Introduction to the Psalm), it would be but a claiming of the promise in Exod. xx. 24: "In all places where I record My Name I will come unto Thee, and bless thee.

WITH A PERFECT HEART, lit. "in the perfectness, or integrity, of my heart." So "a perfect way" might be rendered "the way of integrity."

3. SET BEFORE MINE EYES, i.e. as
I hate the sin of unfaithfulness; it shall not cleave unto me.

4 A froward heart shall depart from me;
A wicked person I will not know.

5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him I destroy.
Whoso hath a high look and proud heart, him I will not suffer.

an example to imitate. According to Calvin, he speaks in the previous verse of the manner in which he will regulate his private life; in this of his duties as a king.

VILE THING, lit. "thing of vil
lany." The noun is that which is wrongly rendered in the A.V. of the Historical Books, "Belial," as if it were a proper name. It is really a compound noun meaning "that which profiteth not." Comp. Deut. xv. 9. See on Ps. xli. 8.

THE SIN OF UNFAITHFULNESS, lit. "the doing of turnings aside" (if we take the noun as an abstract), or, "the doing of them that turn aside," i.e. I hate to act as they do (if we take the word as an adjective). The alliteration of the sibilants in the three words is noticeable. See more in the Critical Note.

All such deviations from truth, from integrity, from that Divine law by which he rules himself, shall not "cleave" to him. Temptations to such a course may beset him. The whisper might come, Policy requires this course, craft must be met by craft, power is given to be used, kings are above law, and the like. But he refuses to listen to the whisper of the serpent, and when it would fasten its fangs in him, he shakes it off.

4. First David proves himself, laying down the rule for his own guidance; then he determines what his court and household shall be. In this verse he repudiates generally "the froward heart" and "the wicked person." In the following he enters more into detail.

A WICKED PERSON, or "wickedness;" but the former accords better with "the froward heart" (comp. Prov. xi. 20) in the parallelism.

5. The secret slanderer, seeking to ingratiate himself into his prince's favour by pulling down others, and the haughty, over-bearing noble (ver. 6), would be no uncommon characters in any court, least of all an Oriental court. Such persons would David destroy. Thus he exercised the kingly virtue of "judgement" (ver. 1). "As a private individual he could never have ventured on such a measure; but when he was placed on the throne, he received from God's hand the sword with which he was to punish wrong-doing."

A HIGH LOOK &C., lit. "whoso is lofty of eyes and wide of heart," the latter denoting a heart puffed up and blown out with pride (comp. Prov. xxi. 4, xxviii. 25). Elsewhere the phrase, "a wide heart," occurs in a very different sense. It is said of Solomon that God gave him "a wide heart," i.e. comprehensiveness, a large grasp, the power not only of gathering facts, but the power of seeing their mutual relation,—breadth of sympathy, and breadth of understanding. In cxix. 32, Is. lx. 5, the phrase denotes a feeling of liberty and of joy. In this last sense, the expression "my heart is dilated" occurs constantly in the "Arabian Nights." Comp. 2 Cor. vii. 2: Ἡ καρδία ἡμῶν πεπλάτυνται (where see Stanley's note).

I WILL NOT SUFFER, of "I cannot away with," Is. i. 13; Jer. xlv. 22.
6 Mine eyes are upon the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me.
Whoso walketh in a perfect way, he shall minister unto me.
7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house,
He that speaketh lies shall not be established in my sight.
8 Morning by morning will I destroy all the wicked of the land,
That I may cut off all the workers of iniquity from the city of Jehovah.

holding courts of law in the early morning. (See the same allusion in Jer. xxi. 12, "Execute judgement in the morning, and deliver him that is spoiled," &c.; Zeph. iii. 5, "Morning by morning doth He bring His judgement to light." See also 2 Sam. xv. 2, and comp. Luke xxii. 66; John xviii. 28.)

Day by day will he exercise his work of righteous judgement, purging out all ungodliness from the Holy City. His zeal is like the zeal of Phinehas, a zeal for God and for His honour. He will have a pure state, a pure city, as the writer of the 104th Psalm hopes to see a pure earth (civ. 35), without spot or stain of sin. It is like the dream which fascinated the Roman poet of an Astraeea redux. It is a hope which finds its accomplishment in the Apocalyptic vision, in that new Jerusalem into which "there shall in no wise enter any thing that defileth, or worketh abomination, or maketh a lie." (Rev. xxi. 27.)

a הָלִ֖יְבָ֑י. See Critical Note on xli. i [2]. According to Hupf. with prep. (as here, and Dan. ix. 13, with ב, and elsewhere with הָלִ֖יְבָ֑י, הָלוֹ֖ב, לְיַֽעַר), it can only have the meaning of to regard. But in Dan. i. 4 we have the Hiph. part. followed by ב, apparently in the other sense of behaving wisely, and hence the rendering of the E.V., "I will behave myself wisely," may be defended. Delitzsch explains the verb by the noun הָלִ֖יְבָ֑י in xxxii. 1, xlvii. 8, as expressing "poetic meditation," will dichtend ehren.

b הָלִ֖יְבָ֑י. The rendering given in the text is the most obvious. It is that of the LXX., Ἡξειξ πρὸς μέ; and has been adopted by the E.V.
It would be possible, however, (1) to take יָתָם, not as an interrogative, but as a conjunction, when, as often as; compare the similar usage in Arab. and Syr., and that of other interrogative words, as for instance יַמְשָׁ, xxv. 12, xxxiv. 13. (2) אֲבָדָה may be 3d fem., referring to יָמָה or יָמָה (so Maur.), "may it come to me," i.e. become my possession. But to speak of "a way," or even of "perfection"—taking יָמָה as a neut. noun (see on xv. 2, note a)—as "coming" to a person, is a strange expression, to which the words "within my house" in the next line form no real parallel.

c תָשָׁה, inf. constr. for תָּשָׁה, as in Gen. xxxi. 28; 1. 20; Prov. xxi. 3 comp. הָאָר, Gen. xlviii. 11, and perhaps הָאָר, Is. xlix. 7.

It seems most natural to take this as an abstract=יָמָה, Hos. v. 2 (see note on xl. 5), after the analogy of יָמָה, xix. 14. The verb almost requires this, lit. "the doing of apostasies or faithlessnesses." Ewald admits that this is the simplest construction, but thinks that the passage in Hosea is against it, as well as the sing. יָמָה. Hence he renders, "the doing of the false," i.e. so to act as the false do, taking יָמָה as an adjective.

d יָלָשִׁי (K'thibh), Part. Po., with the connecting vowel of the old stat. constr. (Ges. § 93. 2, Ew. § 211 b). According to Hupf. the Q'ri is Piel for יָלָשֵׁי, like יָלָשֵׁי, lxii. 4; but it may only be the shortened form of the Poel with Kametz Chatuph instead of Cholem, in which case it will be read מִלּוֹשְׁנַי.

PSALM CII.

THIS Psalm must have been written by one of the exiles in Babylon, probably towards the close of the Captivity, when the hope of a return seemed no longer doubtful. In mournful strains he describes his bitter lot. Sorrow and pain had been very busy with him. His very heart was smitten within him, as the grass is withered in the hot eye of the sun. He was alone, with no friend to comfort him; his enemies turned his misery into a proverb; his life was drawing to a close under the heavy wrath of God.

But when he has time to look away from his sorrow, a prospect so bright and so glorious opens before him, that in the thought of it all else is swallowed up and forgotten. Zion's deliverance is at hand. Her God has not forsaken her. The grounds on which his hope rests are broad and manifold; for Jehovah is the everlasting King (ver. 12); the time fixed in His counsels is come (ver. 13); the hearts of her children are moved with a more passionate longing for her restoration (ver. 14); the prayer of His suffering people has prevailed, the sighing of the prisoner has entered into His ears (ver. 17, 19, 20). A new nation shall be born in Zion, and other
nations and kingdoms shall be gathered into her to praise Jehovah (ver. 18, 21, 22).

Once again, as for a moment, the sadness of the exile and the sufferer prevails. His life is ebbing away, his heart and his flesh fail. Shall he be permitted to look upon that glory with the thought of which he has been comforting himself, the vision of which has been passing before his eyes? "O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days!" is the natural and touching petition which breaks from his lips, as he fears lest his eyes should be closed in death before that glory appears. And then suddenly, as if every cloud of apprehension were dispelled, he triumphs in the thought that there is One who changeth not; that though the solid frame of the universe itself should crumble into dissolution, yet He is the same "yesterday, to-day, and for ever," the one Hope and Stay of His children now and in all generations to come.

On the Messianic character of the Psalm, and the quotation made from it in the Epistle to the Hebrews, see the remarks at the end on ver. 25-27. It is strange that this quotation should have been passed over without any notice not only by commentators like De Wette and Hupfeld but even by Calvin, Tholuck, and Hengstenberg.

This Psalm is clearly individual, not national, and must have been intended for private rather than liturgical* use, as the Inscription seems designed to inform us. This Inscription is peculiar; it stands quite alone among the Titles prefixed to the Psalms; for it describes the character of the Psalm, and marks the Circumstances under which it should be used. In all other instances the Inscriptions are either musical or historical.

Besides the prologue, ver. 1, 2, and the Epilogue, ver. 23-28, the Psalm consists of two main divisions, the Complaint, ver. 3-11, and the Consolation, ver. 12-22.

[A PRAYER OF THE AFFLICTED, WHEN HE IS OVERWHELMED, AND BEFORE JEHOVAH POURETH OUT HIS COMPLAINT.]

1 O JEHOVAH, hear my prayer,
   And let my cry come unto Thee.

1, 2. The opening words are such as are found in other Psalms: comp. xviii. 6 [7]; xxxix. 12 [13]; xxvii. 9 ("hide not Thy face"); lix. 16 [17] ("in the day when I was in distress"), and xviii. 6 [7]; xxxi. 2 [3] ("incline Thine ear unto me"); lvi. 9, [10] ("in the day when I

* Since the beginning of the seventeenth century however, and perhaps from an earlier date, it has been used in the Jewish synagogues as the introductory Psalm to "the little Day of Atonement," i.e. the Eve of the New Moon.
2 Hide not Thy face from me; in the day when I am in distress;
   Incline Thine ear unto me;
   In the day that I call, answer me speedily.

3 For my days are consumed in smoke,
   And my bones are burnt up as a firebrand.

4 My heart is smitten like grass and withered,
   For I have forgotten to eat my bread.

5 Because of the voice of my groaning,
   My bone cleaveth to my flesh.

6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness,
   I am become like an owl of the ruins.

7 I have watched, and have been 

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2. This verse may admit of a different arrangement of its clauses:—
   Hide not, &c. . . . in the day of my distress,
   Incline, &c. . . . in the day that I call;
   Answer me speedily.
   So Hupfeld; but I have followed the accents.

3. IN SMOKE, as in xxxvii. 20. There is no need to adopt the reading of some MSS., "as smoke;" nor again is it necessary to render in the next clause, "as with a fire-brand" (Hupfeld). The bones are burned (see on lxix. 3) as the brand is when placed on the fire. Comp. xxii. 15 [16], xxxi. 10 [11], xxxii. 3.

4. SMITTEN, as by a sun-stroke. Comp. cxxi. 6; Hos. ix. 16; Jon. iv. 8.

5. MY BONE. The Heb. has the singular, and the E.V. retains the singular in Job xix. 20, but the sing. may perhaps be collective, for the plural.

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To MY FLESH. More naturally in Lam. iv. 8, "my bones cleave to my skin;" the expression denoting extreme emaciation. In Job xix. 20, however, it is, "my bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh," which may refer to a state of weakness and relaxation brought on by severe pain, in which the bones have lost their power of motion.

6. A PELICAN . . . AN OWL. Both are mentioned Lev. xi. 17, 18, and the former as inhabiting the wilderness, Zeph. ii. 14; Is. xxxiv. 11. The LXX. have πελεκάν and νυκτικόραξ. The owl is called in Arabic, "mother of the ruins."

7. I HAVE WATCHED, sleep having been driven away by sorrow. With the next clause of the verse may be compared Virg. AEn. iv. 462:
   "Solaque culminibus ferali carmine bubo
   Visa queri, et longas in fletum ducere voces."

And Georg. i. 403;--
   "de culmine summio
   Nequicquam seros exercet noctua cantus."

Ovid also has--
   "In adverso nocturnus culmine bubo."
Like a lonely bird on the house-top.
8 All the day long have mine enemies reproached me,
   They that are mad against me have made their
   oaths by me.
9 For I have eaten ashes like bread,
   And mingled my drink with weeping;
10 Because of Thine indignation and Thy wrath;
   For Thou hast taken me up and cast me away.
11 My days are like a shadow that declineth,
   And I am withered like grass.

12 But THOU, 0 Jehovah, sittest throned for ever,
   And Thy memorial is to all generations.

8. MADE THEIR OATHS BY ME, i.e. when they curse, choose me as an example of misery, and impre-
cate upon themselves or others my misfortunes—say, "God do to me, to thee, as He has done to this man." Comp. Is. lxv.15; Jer. xxix. 22.
9. ASHES LIKE BREAD, Lam. iii.
16. Comp. Ps. xlii. 3 [4 fl, "my tears are my food," lxxx. 5 [6].
10. "The acknowledgement is the same as in xc. 7-9. It is sin which has thus provoked God's dis-
pleasure; the two nouns, 'indig-
 nation' and 'wrath,' are in the Hebrew the strongest which the language possesses."—Delitzsch.
   THOU HAST TAKEN ME UP, &c. God's wrath has seized and whirled him aloft, only to cast him, as worthless, away. So in Is. xxii. 18,
   "He will toss thee like a ball into a large country." Comp. Job xxvii. 21, xxx. 22; Is. lxiv. 6; Ezek. iii. 14. Others explain, " only to dash him
   the more forcibly to the ground;" but the verb properity means to cast
   away, as in li. 11[13]; Job xviii. 7.
   11. THAT DECLINETH. The word is used properly of the day at its close (as in Jud. xix. 9), or the sun as setting, and so here transferred to the evening shadows (comp. cix. 23), which would strictly be said to
   lengthen. The figure describes the near approach of death.

12. BUT THOU. This is the great consolatory thought by which he rises above his sorrow. He, the individual, may perish, but Zion's hopes rest on her Eternal King.
   And yet this might seem, as Calvin remarks, a far-fetched consolation. What is it to us that God changeth not, that He sitteth King for ever, if meanwhile our own condition is so frail and feeble that we cannot continue for a moment in one stay? His unchangeable peace and bles-
   sedness do but make our life seem the more complete mockery. But the Psalmist recalls God's promises to His Church, especially that great
   covenant promise, "I will dwell in the midst of you" (Exod. xxv. 8). Resting on this, he feels sure that God's children, however miserable
   their state, shall have their share in that heavenly glory wherein God dwelleth. Because God changes not, His promise and covenant change not, and therefore we may ever lift our eyes to His throne in heaven, from which He will surely stretch forth His hand to us.
   SITTEST THRONED, as in ix. 7 [8], xxix. to.
   THY MEMORIAL, as in Exod. iii.
   15. Some MSS. read "Thy
   throne:" which, however, may have come from the parallel pas-
sage, Lam. v. 19.
13 THOU wilt arise (and) have compassion upon Zion,  
   For it is time to have pity upon her,  
   For the set time is come.  
14 For Thy servants find pleasure in her stones,  
   And have pity upon her dust.  
15 And the nations, shall fear the Name of Jehovah,  
   And all the kings of the earth Thy glory,  
16 Because Jehovah hath built Zion,  
   He hath appeared in His glory;  
17 He hath turned to the prayer of the poor-destitute,  
   And hath not despised their prayer.  
18 This shall be written for the generation to come,  
   And a people new-created shall praise Jah.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13. Because God is eternal, therefore He will have compassion on Zion. Or we may connect this verse with the following: THOU, Jehovah, the covenant God and our Father, wilt rebuild the walls of Zion, for even we Her children love her very dust.</th>
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<tr>
<td>HAVE PITY UPON, lit. &quot;be gracious unto,&quot; or as the E.V. &quot;favour.&quot;</td>
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<td>THE SET TIME. See on lxxv. 2.</td>
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<td>It is not necessary to understand this definitely of the seventy years prophesied by Jeremiah, xxv. 11, 12, xxix. 10. It is rather the time when her warfare is accomplished.</td>
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<td>14. STONES . . . DUST. It is strange that Luther and others should have understood these of the materials for building the new city. They evidently denote the ruins of the old (Neh. iii. 34 [E.V. iv. 2], iv. 4 [E.V. iv. 10]. It is not less strange that Hengstenberg should assert that we have here only a figure representing the low and ruinous condition of Zion, because in the Psalm there are no traces of the destruction of Jerusalem.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAVE PITY UPON HER DUST (the same verb as in verse 13). Zion was not only dear to them in her glory, when the splendour of her Temple riveted every eye; but her very dust is sacred, her very ruins are dear. To this day pious Jews have the dust of Jerusalem (or of Palestine) cast on their bodies before burial. &quot;Quaivis subversum sit templum, et deformis tantum vastitas illuc appareat, fideles tamen, in ejus amore manere de- fixos, in putridis lapidibus et corrupto camemento agnoscre Dei glori- am.&quot; — Calvin. And then he applies all this to the spiritual Zion, the Church, bidding us remember that the more mournful her desolations, the less should we cease to love her; yea, rather the more earnestly should our sighs and prayers go up on her behalf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. The effect produced on the heathen world by the manifestation of God's glory, as seen in the redemption and restoration of His people, which is not only the accomplishment of a sovereign purpose, but vouchsafed in answer to prayer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. POOR-DESTITUTE. I have retained this rendering of the P. B.V. because the word expresses, utter nakedness and destitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It only occurs here and Jer. xvii. 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. SHALL BE WRITTEN. The only place in the Psalms where the memory of great events is said to be preserved in writing: elsewhere (as in xxii. 30 [31], xliv. I [2], lxxviii. 2 [3]) it is left to oral transmission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A PEOPLE NEW-CREATED, or &quot;a people to be created,&quot; as in xxii. 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19 For He hath looked down from His holy height,  
    From heaven hath Jehovah beheld the earth,  
20 To hear the sighing of the prisoner,  
    To set at liberty those that are doomed unto death;  
21 That men may declare the name of Jehovah in Zion,  
    And His praise in Jerusalem;  
22 When the peoples are gathered together,  
    And the kingdoms to serve Jehovah.  
23 He hath brought down my strength in the way,  
    He hath shortened my days.  
24 I said, 0 my God, take me not away in the midst of  
    my days;--  
    Thy years are to all generations.

[32], "a people that shall be born."  
There is, as Calvin remarks, an implied antithesis between the new creation of the people and their present destruction. "The return from the Captivity was like a second birth." It was a παλιγγενεσιά. See the quotation from Cicero in the note on lxxxvii. 5. "The passage strikingly teaches that even when the Church seems dead it can be created anew when God wills. Let us never therefore despair, but rest assured that He who created a world out of nothing, can also bring His Church out of the darkness of death."

19. HE HATH LOOKED. Comp. Dent. xxvi. 15:


22. On this gathering of the nations in Jerusalem comp. xxii. 27 [28], lxviii. 32 [33; Is. xlv. 14. It is a fulfilment of the prophecy in Gen. xlix. 10.

Verses 18-22 express again in a somewhat different form what has already been said in verses 13-17: Thus, "Thou wilt arise," &c., ver. 13, answers to ver. 19, each describing the first movement of the Divine compassion. Again, ver. 17, like ver. 20, ascribes God's merciful interference to the prayer of His people. Ver. 15, like verses 21, 22, speaks of the effect to be produced on the world at large.

23. Again he returns to the contrast between his own weakness and the brevity of human life, on the one hand, and the eternity and unchangeableness of God on the other (see above, ver. 11, 12), finding in this list his perfect satisfaction and rest.

IN THE WAY, i.e. in the journey of life. Those who suppose the Psalm to express the feelings rather of the nation at large than of the individual, see here an allusion to the journey through the wilderness, as in Exod. xviii. 8; Num. xvii. 12, 13 [27, 28]. xx. 14.

24. The abrupt transition in this verse is full of pathetic beauty. The prayer that his life may not be prematurely cut short seems to spring in this instance not merely from a natural clinging to life (as in Hezekiah's case, Is. xxxviii. 10, 11), but from the intense desire to see God's glory manifested in Israel's restoration. Then, having uttered that prayer, without waiting for the answer, he magnifies God's eternity and unchangeableness, He...
25 Of old Thou hast laid the foundation of the earth,  
And the heavens are the work of Thy hands:  
26 They shall perish, but Thou remainest,  
Yea, all of them shall wax old as a garment,  
As a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall  
be changed;  
27 But THOU art the same,  
And Thy years shall have no end.  
28 The children of Thy servants shall continue,
And their seed shall be established before Thee.

with Is. vi. (Isaiah sees the glory of Jehovah, St. John tells us it was the glory of Christ), and John xix. 37, "they shall look on Him whom they pierced," which in Zech. xii. 10 is language used directly of Jehovah. The difference between these quotations in St. John and the one in the Ep. to the Hebrews is, that the argument in the latter requires that the Messianic character of the Psalm should be conceded. (4) Not only the revelation, the appearing of Jehovah in Zion, but also the creation of the world (ver. 25) would point to the Great Mediator, the Eternal Word, as the Person here spoken of, and on this last ground, especially, the quotation in the Epistle 'to the Hebrews seems to rest.

a הָעַז, incorrect writing for הָעַז, as in Hos. ix. 16. See on xlv. note l.

b הֵרֵץ. If the reading is correct, it is clear that the accent (Athnach) is misplaced. Olsh. ingeniously conjectures חֵרֵץ (comp. lv. 18). Instead of דָּוָד many MSS. of Kenn. and De R. have וַנִּקְד; wandering, as the Syr. also renders (the Chald. gives both), but contrary to the Massoreth on Is. xiv. 31, Hos. viii. 9.

c מַעְלֵי, Po. part. pass. (occurring also Eccl. ii. 2), with the objective suffix. Comp. for a similar constr. הָיָה, cix. 3; but the part. lends itself more readily to this kind of construction, as the suffix may be regarded, in a measure, as possessive; comp. מָאָס, xviii. 40.

d לָהַנְגָּה, Inf. Qal. The not unusual expanded form of this verb, as for instance in Is. xxx. 18, with Segol, instead of Chiriq or Pathach.

e וַהֲנָבָא. The Q'ri is שִׁבְד which in this instance seems preferable, as more in accordance with the parallelism; but if we retain the K'thib we may render either (1) "he hath brought down," or "humbled," or "afflicted with his strength, He hath shortened," &c.; or (2) "His strength hath humbled, it hath," &c.

PSALM CIII.

THIS beautiful Psalm is the outpouring of a full heart in thanksgiving to Jehovah for His grace and compassion, both as experienced by the Psalmist in his own life, and also as manifested to his nation in their history. It celebrates especially God's mercy in
the forgiveness of sin, and that tender pity, as of a human father, 
wherewith He remembers the frailty, and stoops to the weakness, of 
His children. It is a hymn of which the text and motto are to be 
found in that revelation of Himself which God gave to Moses when 
He proclaimed Himself as "Jehovah, tenderly compassionate and 
gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth " 
(Exod. xxxiv. 6).

Nothing certain can be said as to the author and date of the 
Psalm, though various conjectures have been hazarded. The Hebrew 
title gives it to David, the Syriac still more definitely assigns it to 
his old age. Rosenmüller supposes it to have been written after 
his sin in the matter of Uriah, a supposition which appears to me 
to be wholly without foundation. De Wette places the Psalm near 
the end of the Exile, on the ground that the Poet celebrates so 
largely God's grace and long-suffering, manifested to His people in 
spite of their sins and their idolatry. Not one word, however, hints 
at idolatry as the sin of which they had been guilty, nor is there a 
word to connect the Psalm with the Exile.

The argument built on the supposed later (Aramaic) forms which 
this Psalm has in common with Psalms cxvi., cxxiv., cxxxix., cxxxix., 
is not absolutely conclusive for a post-Exile date, for the same forms 
occur in 2 Kings iv. 1-7. Still, such forms do not occur in David's 
time, or in Psalms in the earlier Books ascribed to him, and they 
must fairly be regarded either as marking a dialectic variation (see 
Critical Note on ver. 3), or a time when Aramaic influence had 
begun to make itself felt.

Ewald, who thinks that this and the next Psalm were written by 
the same author, regards both as Temple-Psalms, composed after the 
Exile, the first praising Jehovah as the Redeemer of His people in 
the various circumstances of their history, the second praising Him as 
the Creator and Ruler of the world. There is little, however, to 
connect the two Psalms, except that both begin and end with the 
same self-exhortation, "Bless Jehovah, 0 my soul."

Others, again, attempt to connect this with the preceding Psalm. 
So Rieger observes: "To feel sin and death, and with this feeling to 
wrestle for grace and reconciliation, and to seek after the kingdom 
of God and His righteousness, is the subject of the 102nd Psalm; to 
feel sin and death, and then to have received reconciliation and the 
Spirit which quickeneth, and so to praise God, and in faith and 
patience to join oneself to all God's saints, is the subject of the 
103rd Psalm." Delitzsch, who quotes this with approbation, takes 
the same view.
The Psalm consists of three parts:--

I. A prelude, in a strain of trustful gladness, in which the Psalmist seeks to stir up gratitude within him, by the review of God's mercies to him as an individual. Ver. 1-5.

II. The body of the Poem, in a more reflective tone, full of a quiet, tender, pathetic, even melancholy beauty, in which, after a brief allusion to the facts of the national history, the great covenant relationship of God to His people forms the prominent ground of hope amid human sins and transitoriness. Ver. 6-18.

III. A triumphant conclusion. Joy in the remembrance of God's goodness to himself and his people predominates over every other feeling. Such a joy must utter itself in praise. Praise seems its natural employment, and therefore the natural employment of all other creatures which it summons to a holy sympathy and fellowship with itself. Ver. 19-22.

[(A PSALM) OF DAVID.]

I BLESS Jehovah, 0 my soul,
And all that is within me (bless) His Holy Name.
2 Bless Jehovah, 0 my soul,
And forget not all His benefits;
3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquity,a
Who healeth all thy diseases,

1. ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME; not as opposed to outward or mere lip service, but expressing the desire to enlist every thought, faculty, power, the heart with all its affections, the will, the conscience, the reason, in a word the whole spiritual being, all in man that is best and highest, in the same heavenly service.

2. FORGET NOT. This touches the secret spring of so much ingratitude:--forgetfulness, the want of recollection, or gathering together again of all the varied threads of mercy. Comp. Deut. vi. 12, viii. 11, 14. “Si oblivisceris, tacebis.”

3. FORGIVETH, the first and greatest of all the Divine benefits to the soul burdened with a sense of guilt and defilement: therefore also that which calls first for acknowledgement. "God's benefits will not be before our eyes, unless our sins be also before our eyes."—Augustine.

DISEASES or "sicknesses," primarily, at least, of body, as in Deut. xxix. 21; 2 Chron. xxi. 19; and this agrees with what follows; though possibly the maladies of the soul may be included. "Even when sin is forgiven," says Augustine, "thou still carriest about with thee an infirm body . . . . Death is not yet swallowed up in victory, this corruptible hath not yet put on incorruption, still the soul herself is
PSALM CIII.

4 Who redeemeth thy life from the pit,
   Who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies,
5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good (things), (So that) thy youth reneweth itself as the eagle.
6 Jehovah executeth righteousness

shaken by passions and temptations. . . . [But] thy sicknesses shall all be healed, doubt it not. They are great, thou wilt say; but the physician is greater. To an Omnipotent Physician no sickness is incurable only suffer thyself to be healed, thrust not away His hand; He knoweth what He doeth . . . A human physician is mistaken sometimes; why? Because he did not make that which he undertakes to heal. God made thy body. God made thy soul; He knoweth how to re-create that which He created; He knoweth how to re form that which he formed; only be thou still under the hands of the Physician . . . suffer thou His hands, 0 soul that blesseth Him, forgetting not all His benefits; for He healeth all thy sicknesses.

4. FROM THE PIT (see on xvi. to); including death, the grave, Hades. The Targum renders, "from Gehenna."

CROWNETH. The love of God not only delivers from sin, disease, and death. He makes His children kings, and weaves their crown out of His own glorious attributes of loving-kindness and tender mercies.

5. SATISFIETH. Giving Himself to us as the bread of life; as Athanasius says: Των πνευματικων ημῶς ενεπλησεν αγαθων, έαυτον ημιν άρτον άντα ζωής επεδιδούς. And Augustine, observing that every creature has its own good. "Seek thine own good, 0 soul. None is good but one, that is God. The highest good, this is thy good. What, then, can he want who hath the highest good? . . . God is this good. What kind of good who can say? Behold we cannot say, and yet we are not permitted to be silent."

As THE EAGLE, i.e. so that in strength and vigour, thou art like the eagle. The rendering of the E.V., "so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's," is grammatically justifiable, but very unnecessarily makes the Psalmist responsible for the fable of the eagle's renewing its youth (see at end of Critical Notes). Neither this passage nor Is. xl. 31 countenances any such fable. There is an allusion, no doubt, to the yearly moulting of the fathers of the eagle and other birds, the eagle being selected as the liveliest image of strength and vigour. The P.B.V. gives the sense rightly: "Making thee young and lusty as an eagle." And so Reuss: "Et fait rajeunir comme l'aigle."

6. He passes from his own experience to that of the Church at large: God's mercies to the individual are only a part of that vast circle of mercy which embraces all Israel. The connection is thus traced by Sanchez in his paraphrase:

"Thou hast shown mercy to me, Thou hast on various occasions executed judgement on those who have persecuted and oppressed me, and others of Thy people. These are Thy ways which Thou didst show to Moses, and to Thy people in the wilderness.—The Book of Deuteronomy from the 4th to the 10th chapter, and again from the 27th to the 31st, teaches nothing else but this, that Jehovah is full of compassion and long-suffering."

Los Salmos, tomo ii. p. 34.

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGEMENT. The words are in the plural,
And judgement for all that are oppressed.
7 He made known His ways unto Moses,
    His acts unto the children of Israel.
8 Jehovah is full of compassion and gracious,
    Long-suffering and plenteous in loving-kindness.
9 He will not alway be contending,
    Neither keepeth He (His anger) for ever.
10 Not according to our sins hath He dealt with us,
    Neither according to our iniquities hath He requited us;
11 For as high as the heaven is above the earth,
    So great is His loving-kindness upon them that fear Him.
12 As far as the East is from the West,
    So far hath He removed our transgressions from us.
13 Like as a father hath compassion on (his) children,
    So Jehovah bath compassion on them that fear Him.
14 For He knoweth our frame,
    He remembereth e that we are dust.

which therefore must either be used intensively for the singular (see note on lxviii. 35), or perhaps rather to denote the several ads in which Jehovah had displayed His righteousness.

    ALL THAT ARE OPPRESSED;
    the Church of God being a suffering Church.
7. HIS WAYS, in allusion to the prayer of Moses, Exod. xxxiii. 13:
    "If I have found grace in Thy sight, make known to me Thy way, and let me know Thee."

8. The verse is taken from Exod. xxxiv. 6. Comp. lxxvi. 5, 15, cxi. 4, exlv. 8; Joel ii. 13; Nehem. ix. 17, 31.
    9. Compare Is. lvii. 16, "For not for ever will I contend, and not perpetually will I be angry; for the spirit would fail before Me, and the souls that I have made."

    KEEPETH. See the same absolute use of the verb, Lev. xix. 18, "Thou shalt not keep (i.e. cherish any grudge) against the children of thy people;" Nah. i. 2; and of the synonymous word (shamar) Jer. iii. 5, 12. Calvin compares the French phrases il lui garde, it me l'a garde.

    11. The expressions in xxxvi. 5 [6], lvii. 10 [11], are similar. God's love is like Himself, infinite. It cannot be measured by all the measures of the universe.

    12. REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS. The forgiveness of sin (as in ver. 3) is the great proof of God's love. "The expression describes, in language which might be that of the N.T., the effects of justifying grace."—Del. Comp. Micah vii. 19, "Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea;" Is. xxxviii. 17, "Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back."

    14-16. Man's weakness and transitoriness is itself an appeal to God's fatherly compassion. Compare Gen. viii. 21, and see the same ground taken in Ps. xxxix. 5 [6], 13 [14], lxxviii. 39; Job vii. 7.

    14. OUR FRAME, lit. "Our fash-
15 As for frail man, his days are as grass,  
As a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.  
16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone,  
And the place thereof knoweth it no more.  
17 But the loving-kindness of Jehovah is from everlasting  
to everlasting upon them that fear Him,  
And His righteousness unto children's children;  
18 To such as keep His covenant,  
And to those that remember His precepts to do them.

19 Jehovah hath established His throne in the heavens,  
And His kingdom ruleth over all.  
20 0 bless Jehovah, ye His angels,  
That are mighty in strength, that execute His word,  
Hearkening to the voice of His word.

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15. Compare, for the figures in this and the next verse, xxxvii. 2, 10, 36, xc. 5, 6; Is. xl. 6-8, li. 12; Job xiv. 2; and for the phrase, "the place thereof knoweth it no more," Job vii. 10.

17. The same contrast between man's transitoriness and God's unchangeableness which occurs in Psalm xc. For the third time God's mercy and loving-kindness is said to be upon "them that fear Him," comp. ver. 11, 13, as if to remind us that there is a love within a love, a love which they only know who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, who fear Him and walk in His ways, as well as a love which "maketh the sun to shine, and sendeth rain upon the just and the unjust." In the next verse there is the same limitation, "To such as keep His covenant," and to those who not only know but "do" His will. The blessings of the covenant are no inalienable right; mancipio nulli, datur; children's children can only inherit its blessings by cleaving to it. Comp. Exod. xx. 6, xxiv. 7; Deut. vii.

FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING. "Ab aeterno, ob praedestinationem; in aeternum, ob beatificationem; altera principium, altera finem nesciens."—S. Bernard.

19. The concluding portion of the Psalm extols the greatness and majesty of Him who has thus stooped in pity to His children. The Psalmist had begun by calling upon his own soul to bless Jehovah for His goodness; he had associated with himself, as partakers in that goodness, all who feared the Lord. Now he concludes by calling on the angels in heaven and all creation, inanimate as well as animate, to ascribe blessing and honour and power to Him who sitteth upon the throne. Lastly, from all that vast congregation of worshipers praising God, he turns to himself, that his voice may not be wanting in the mighty anthem, "Bless thou Jehovah, 0 my soul."

20. MIGHTY IN STRENGTH, or "strong warriors" (see note on 1), as afterwards "all His hosts," by
21 Bless Jehovah, all ye His hosts,
Ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure.

22 Bless Jehovah, all ye His works,
In all places of His dominion.
Bless Jehovah, 0 my soul.

which not the stars but the angels are meant, as is plain from the parallelism, "ye ministers of His that do His pleasure." Compare the λειτουργία πνευμάτα of Heb. i. 14. See also Ps. civ. 4; Dan. vii. 10.

22. ALL HIS WORKS. In same way in Ps. cxlviii. first angels and then the whole creation is called upon to praise God.

On the closing words, "Bless Jehovah, 0 my soul," J. H. Michaeilis observes, "Magnum πάθος habet hic Psalmi finis, in quo Psalmista per epanalepsin ad animam suam revertitur."

These forms of the fem. suffix, *echi* in the sing. and *ay'chi* in the plural are commonly regarded as later Aramaic forms.

In the Psalter they occur, it is true, only in the later Psalms, as in cxvi. 7, 19 (where in ver. 12 occurs also the pure Chaldee masc. suffix, יַחַז), cxxxv. 9, cxxxvii. 6. But they are rather to be regarded as instances of a return to the original fuller form of the 2d pers. fem. (corresponding to the original form יַחַז, afterwards shortened into יָחַא), a return due, perhaps, to Aramaic influence. It is, however, remarkable that these same forms are found (in the K'thibh) in a passage in the history of Elisha, 2 Kings iv. 1-7, a fact which certainly seems to suggest a dialectic, i.e. North Palestinian variation. The only other passage in which (according io Del.) this form of suffix occurs is Jer. xi. 15.

b יַחַא. It is difficult to determine the meaning of the word here. In xxxii. 9 I have adopted the rendering trapping, harness. Hupfeld contends for a similar meaning here; he takes it to denote the whole apparatus of external means by which life is maintained, all, whether in the way of ornament or of use, which is to a man what trappings are to a horse; all that he may be said, figuratively, to put on (נָשַׁב), just as men are said, for instance, to put on strength, pride, &c. But as Hitz. pertinently observes the verb "satisfy" is wholly against such an interpretation. Hengst. also renders the word ornament or beauty, but supposes it to be used, like the word glory elsewhere, for the soul, and tries to obviate the objection to this, viz. that the soul is addressed in ver. 1, by saying that in what precedes the idea of the whole person has imperceptibly taken the place of the soul. Maurer and Koster keep to the same rendering, viz., ornament, but think that the body is meant, spoken of by anticipation as restored to youth and beauty.

In Ezek. xvi. 7, where the dual form of the word occurs, the A.V. has "ornaments," but Hitz. contends for the sense of "cheeks," which certainly accords better with the dual.

Of the older interpreters, the Syr. has thy body, the LXX. desire (ἐπιθυμία) the Chald. old age (either as connecting the word with יַחַא, time
or as parallel to *youth* in the next member), and this last is followed by De Wette and by Gesen. in his Lex., though in his Thes. he prefers the more general sense of *aetas*, and thinks that youth rather than old age is meant. Finally, there is the interpretation of Ibn 'Ezra, Qimchi, and others, who here, as in xxxii. 9 (see Critical Note there), give the sense *mouth*, lit. *cheek* [just as Cicero uses *bucca* in the same general way, *quicquid in buccam venera, scribito*, "whatever comes into your head"]. There are thus, in short, three meanings assigned to the word: (I) that *which is put on*, ornament, beauty, &c., according to which the rendering would be, "Who satisfieth all *that thou hast about thee*;" the awkwardness of this it is impossible not to feel: (2) *time* (whether *youth* or *old age*), a rendering to which Hupf. would incline, if it were allowable to set aside usage, and to go back to the root הָעַטָּס, *aetas*: (3) *mouth*, for which may be alleged the interpretation of the older versions in xxxii. 9, and the Arabic cognate. This last, which in xxxii. 9 has Ewald's support (though here he has "deinen Muth"), is perhaps, on the whole, simplest, though I give it with some hesitation. Hitz. has "deine Backe;" Reuss: "*ta bouche*.

c שָׂרָתָה: 3 fem. sing. with plur. noun, according to the well-known rule, Ges. § 146, 3. There is no reason to render this verb as a passive. The proper reflexive meaning is far more lifelike and expressive.

d הָבָר, with לֵ יֶל, in the same sense, cxvii. 2. Elsewhere the phrase has a different meaning, Gen. xlix. 26; 2 Sam. xi. 23. Hence Hupf would here read לֵ יֶל.

e יָסָר, strictly a passive *infixus*, but according to Ges. § 50, Obs. 2 = *infixum (menti) habens*.

f יָסָר; gerundial = *obediendo*.

The fable of the eagle's renewing its youth has received different embellishments. The version of Saadia, given by Qimchi, is as follows: The eagle mounts aloft into heaven till he conies near to the seat of central fire in the sun, when, scorched by the heat, he casts himself down into the sea. Thence he emerges again with new vigour and fresh plumage, till at last in his hundredth year he perishes in the waves. Augustine's story is more elaborate and far less poetical. According to him, when the eagle grows old, the upper curved portion of the beak becomes so enlarged, that the bird is unable to open its mouth to seize its prey. It would die of hunger, therefore, did it not dash this part of its beak against a rock till the troublesome excrescence is got rid of. Then it can devour its food as before, vigour is restored to its body, splendour to its plumage, it can soar aloft; a kind of resurrection has taken place. Thus it renews its youth. And then, wonderful to say, having told this story gravely, he makes Christ the rock, adding, "in Christ thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's."
The general argument of this Divine Ode of Creation has been well expressed by Calvin. "This Psalm," he says, "differs from the last, in that it neither treats of God's special mercies bestowed on His Church, nor lifts us to the hope of a heavenly life; but painting for us in the frame of the world, and the order of nature, the living image of God's wisdom, power, and goodness, exhorts us to praise Him, because in this our frail mortal life He manifests Himself to us as a Father." It is a bright and living picture of God's creative power, pouring life and gladness throughout the universe.

There are several points in the Psalmist's treatment of his subject which deserve especial notice.

I. First there is here, what is not to be found to the same extent, if at all, in any other ancient poetry, the distinct recognition of the absolute dependence of the universe, as created, upon the Creator: "He is before all things, and by Him all things subsist." This truth is throughout implied. It forms the very basis, and so to speak, main thread of the poem.

2. Secondly, the great work of creation is here regarded not as a thing of the past merely: the Universe is not a machine once set a-going, and then left to its fate, or to inexorable laws. The Great Worker is ever working.* "The world and all things owe their past origin and their present form to the continuous operation" of God. Creation ever repeats itself; death is succeeded by lire. He who made, renews the face of the earth. It is the same profound view of the relation of the Kosmos to the Creator, which St. Paul exhibits in his speech on Mars' hill. He, too, is careful not to separate the past from the present. "God, who made (past, ὃ ποιήσας) the world," did not then leave the work of His fingers: the streaming forth of His Omnipotence and His love was not checked or stayed; on the contrary, every part of His creation rests at every moment on His hands; "He giveth (present, διδοῖς) to all life and breath, and all things (Acts xvii. 25).

3. Thirdly, in its main outline the Poem follows the story of creation contained in the first chapter of Genesis. There manifestly

* See the excellent remarks on the importance of this view of nature in reference to miracles, in the Rev. D. J. Vaughan's valuable work, Christian Evidences and the Bible, p. 97.
is the source whence the Psalmist drew. Meditating on that sublime description, itself a poem, he finds in it his subject and his inspiration. And yet the Psalm is not a mere copy of the original. Breathing the same lofty spirit, it has a force and an originality of its own. In some respects the Psalm, even more strikingly than the early record, exhibits the infinite greatness, the order, the life of the Universe. "It is remarkable," says a Spanish commentator, "how the lyric verse, while losing nothing of its freedom and fire (bizarria ed entusiasmo), contrives at the same time to preserve all the force and simplicity of the picture of nature presented to us in Genesis." * But the creation of Genesis is a creation of the past; the creation of the Psalm is a creation of the present. The one portrays the beginning of the eternal order, the other its perpetual, living spectacle. Hence, too, the Ode has far more animation than the Record. The latter is a picture of still life; the former is crowded with figures full of stir and movement. How vivid are the images which it calls up,—the wild ass roaming the sands of the wilderness, stooping to slake his thirst at the stream which God has provided; the birds building their nests, and breaking forth into song in the trees which fringe the margin of the torrent-beds; the wild goats bounding from rock to rock, and finding their home in the inaccessible crags; the young lions filling the forest by night with their roar, and "seeking from God their prey;" and the sea with the same plentitude of life, its depths peopled with huge monsters and swarming myriads of lesser fish, and its surface studded with sails, the image of the enterprise, the traffic, the commerce of the world; and lastly, in fine contrast with this merely animal activity of creatures led by their appetites, the even tenor, the calm unobtrusive dignity of man's daily life of labour: take all these together, and we have a picture which for truth and depth of colouring, for animation, tenderness, beauty, has never been surpassed.

It is not surprising that this great Hymn of Creation should have called forth the warmest expressions of admiration from those who have studied it, and that they should have vied with one another in praising it as a masterpiece which has rarely been exceeded. One writer † "prefers it to all the lyric poetry of the Greeks and Romans." Another ‡ declares that "in Hebrew poetry there is little that can compare with it in precision of outline, and in the delicacy of its transitions, as well as in its warm sympathy with nature, and in the beauty of its images." A third § says, "The Psalm is delightful,

* Sanchez, Los Salmos, ii. 36. † Amyraldus. ‡ Hupfeld. § Sanchez.
sweet and instructive, as teaching us the soundest views of nature
(la mas sana fisica), and the best method of pursuing the study of it,
viz., by admiring with one eye the works of God, and with the
other God Himself, their creator and preserver." The great philo-
sopher and naturalist, A. von Humboldt, writes: "It might almost
be said that one single Psalm represents the image of the whole
Cosmos. . . . We are astonished to find in a lyrical poem of such
limited compass the whole universe—the heavens and earth—sketched
with a few bold touches. The contrast of the labour of man with the
animal life of Nature, and the image of omnipresent, invisible Power,
renewing the earth at will, or sweeping it of inhabitants, is a grand
and solemn poetical creation."—Cosmos, vol. ii. part. i. (p. 413,
Bohn's edition). "With what an eye of gladness," says Herder,
does the Poet survey the earth! It is a green mountain of Jehovah,
which He lifted above the waters; a paradise which He established
for the dwelling-place of so many living creatures above the seas. The
series of pictures which the Poet here displays is in fact the natural
history of the earth."

The Psalm is without any strophical division, but its main outline,
as has been said, follows the first chapter of Genesis. The Poet
begins with the light, and the heaven with its clouds and storms,
ver. 2-4, corresponding to the works of the First and Second Days,
Gen. i. 3-8. Then he passes to the earth, first describing its original
chaotic state, and the separation of earth and water by the voice of
God. ver. 5-9, in accordance with Gen. i. 9, 10 (first portion of the
Third Day's work); and then the varied adornment of the earth as
the dwelling-place of living creatures, in a strain which goes far
beyond the narrative in Gen. i. 11, 12. The mention of the heavenly
bodies follows, ver. 19-23 (Fourth Day's work), but with a more
direct reference to the life of men and animals than in Gen. i. 14-18.
Then, after a short exclamation of admiring gratitude, ver. 24, the
Poet, who has already woven into his verse so happily some portion
of the creative wonders of the Fifth and Sixth Days, the birds, and
beasts, and creeping things, and man, Gen. i. 20-26, turns back again,
ver. 25, 26, to speak of the sea and its life, Gen. i. 21. Finally, after
expressing in vivid phrase the absolute dependence of all this vast
and manifold creation upon its Maker, ver. 27-30, he longs to see
the bright original restored, to find himself and all God's creatures
parts of the mighty harmony, that a new sabbath of creation may
dawn, a rest of God, in which He shall rejoice in His works and
they in Him, and the world become a temple filled with the anthem
of praise, ver. 31-35.
1 BLESS Jehovah, 0 my soul!
0 Jehovah my God, Thou art very great,
Thou art clothed with honour and majesty.
2 Thou coverest Thyself with light as with a robe,
Thou spreadest out the heavens like a curtain,

I. CLOTHED, Comp. xciii. 1.
2. THOU COVEREST THYSELF,
lit. "covering Thyself" (and in the next member "spreading out"), if we connect these participial clauses with what precedes, or "covering Himself" if we join them with what follows. This participial construction (of which we have further instances in ver. 10, 13, 14, ciii. 3-5; see also Is. xlv. 24, 25, xlv. 7; Jer. x. 12; Am. iv. 13) gives a present force to God's creative action, teaches us to regard it not merely as a thing of the past, but as still operative. The fifth verse, on the other hand, opening with a past tense, takes us back to the original creation of all things.

WITH LIGHT. This is the First Day. At the creation God said, "Let there be light." Here, where the creation is an ever-continued work, He apparels Himself with light. The final revelation tells us that "God is Light," I John i. 5; comp. John i. 4-9.

"In comparing the light to a robe," says Calvin, "he signifies that though God is invisible, yet His glory is manifest. If we speak of His essential being, it is true that He dwelleth in light inaccessible; but inasmuch as He irradiates the whole world with His glory, this is a robe wherein He in some measure appears to us as visible, who in Himself had been hidden . . . It is folly to seek God in His own naked Majesty . . . let us turn our eyes to that most beautiful frame of the world in which He would be seen by us, that we may not pry with idle curiosity into the mystery of His nature." And Herder asks, "Is there in the universe a created thing more worthy to be the robe of Jehovah, whose very being is such that He dwelleth in darkness?"

SPREADEAST OUT THE HEAVENS.
The same figure in Is. xl. 22 (comp. xliii. 5; xlv. 24). This describes briefly the work of the Second Day, Gen. i. 6-8. The heavens are the firmament, the expanse (as the Hebrew word literally means) which is spread out to separate the waters. And in the waters above God lays, as it were, the floor of His palace.

LIKE A CURTAIN, i.e. the curtain of a tent, "ac si diceret regium esse tentorium."

"Because the Hebrews conceived of heaven as a temple and palace of God, that sacred azure was at once the floor of His, the roof of our, abode. Yet methinks the dwellers in tents ever loved best the figure of the heavenly tent. They represent God as daily spreading it out, and fastening it at the extremity of the horizon to the pillars of heaven, the mountains: it is to them a tent of safety, of rest, of a fatherly hospitality in which God lives with His creatures."—Herder.

Both Athanasius and Augustine observe, that in the use of this figure the Psalmist designs to mark not merely the form of the heaven, but the ease with which God works. "For easy as it is," says the former, "for a man to stretch out a skin, so easy it is for God to create the heaven which did not exist before." Augustine: "What infinite labour, and toil, and difficulty, and continued effort it costs to spread out one little room there is no effort of this kind in the works of God. Thou art not to think that God spread out the heaven as thou spreadest out the roof of thy house;
3 Who layeth the beams of His chambers in the waters,
Who maketh the clouds His chariot,
Who walketh upon the wings of the wind;
4 Who maketh the winds His messengers.

but as easy as it is for thee to
spread out a single skin, so easy
was it for God to spread out that
vast heaven. . . Nay, God did
not spread out the heaven as thou
spreadest out the skin. For let a
skin, wrinkled or folded, be placed
before thee, and command it to be
unfolded and stretched out; spread
it out by thy word. 'I cannot,'
thou wilt reply. See then how far
thou comest short of the ease with
which God worketh."

3. WHO LAYETH THE BEAMS.
The figures, as Calvin remarks, are
all designed to teach the same truth,
viz.. that we are not to pierce heaven
in order to discover God, because
He meets us in His world and pre-
sents everywhere living pictures to
our eyes. We must not suppose that
anything was added to Him by the
creation of the world; it is for our
sakes that He puts on this garment.
HIS CHAMBERS, lit. "upper cham-
ers," ύπεράνω, built on the flat roof
of the Eastern houses. For the
literal use of the word see for in-
stance 2 Kings iv. 10; for the figu-
rative, as here, Jer. xxii. 13, 14,
and comp. Am. ix. 6. Clericus cites
from Ennius, "coenacula maxima
cceli;" and from Plautus, Amph. iii.
1-3, where Jupiter says of himself,
"in superiore qui habito caenaculo."
IN THE WATERS, i.e. the waters
above the firmament, Gen. i. 7. It
is impossible not to admire the
boldness of the figure.
WALKETH UPON THE WINGS.
Δεικνυσιν ώς οὖδε ἡ τῶν ἀνέμων φορὰ
eīkη θέρεται, ἀλλ' αὐτὸς ἐστιν ώσπερ
τισ ἡμίονος αὐτῶν γινόμενος, διὰ
τὸ τοῖς αὐτῶν ἐπιβαίνειν πέρυξιν.--
Athenasius.

4. In former editions this verse
was rendered, "Who maketh His
messengers winds, His ministers a
flaming fire." I admitted that the
other rendering, which I have now
adopted, seemed to be the natural
sense of the words, and that which
harmonized best with the context:
God has His palace in heaven, He
makes the clouds His chariot, the
winds and the lightning His avant-
couriers and His train. But I then
thought there were insuperable
grammatical difficulties in the way
of this interpretation, both in the
plural predicate in the second mem-
ber, and in the inversion of order
in both members of the verse. As
regards the first, the plural predi-
cate we ought to have either,
"flames of fire His ministers," or,
"the flaming fire His minister."
The plural predicate, however, is
not wholly unexampled (see Prov.
xvi. 14, "the wrath of the king is
messengers of death," where the
E.V. inserts the particle of compar-
ison); and it may be accounted for
here, as an accommodation to the
plural predicate "messengers" in
the first member of the verse (so
Hitz. and Hupf.); though I think it
more likely that as by "the flaming
fire" the lightnings are meant, the
subject itself is conceived of as
plural. But the greater difficulty
of the inversion of order in the sub-
ject and predicate which remained,
and which seemed insuperable to
so acute a critic as Bishop Thirl-
wall (see his remarks in the Critical
Note), is no longer an obstacle.
The natural order, no doubt, in
Hebrew as in English, is verb,
object, predicate, and I had seen no
proof that any other was possible.
But since the last edition of this
work was published, I have met
with other instances of the inverted
order of the object and predicate
after the verb, which I have given in
the Critical Note, and which fully
justify the rendering I have now
adopted. It is no longer neces-
sary therefore to adopt either of
PSALM CIV.
His ministers the flaming fire.  
5 He established the earth upon the foundations thereof,
That it should not be moved for ever and ever.
6 Thou coverestd it b with the deep as with a garment;

the explanations suggested in former editions; such as (a) "He maketh His messengers winds, &c., i.e. He clothes His messengers with the might, the swiftness, the all-pervading subtlety of wind and fire;" or still less (b) [as in First Edition] that God's messengers (or angels) are the secret agents who assume the forms of wind and lightning, in order to accomplish His will; that what we see working around us are not blind forces of nature, but beings to whom natural objects are a veil concealing their operation. This view has no apparent support in Scripture, though it has been illustrated with great beauty of language by Dr. Newman in his Sermon on the Feast of St. Michael: "But how do the wind and water, earth and fire move? Now, here Scripture interposes, and seems to tell us that all this wonderful harmony is the work of Angels. Those events which we ascribe to chance as the weather, or to nature as the seasons, are duties done to that God who maketh His Angels to be winds, and His Ministers a flame of fire. . . . Thus, whenever we look abroad, we are reminded of those most gracious and holy Beings, the servants of the Holiest, who deign to minister to the heirs of salvation. Every breath of air, and ray of light and heat, every beautiful prospect, is, as it were, the skirts of their garments, the waving of the robes of those whose faces see God in heaven." [But why "deign," when this is their mission and their duty?]

On the rendering of the verse by the LXX., and the quotation in the Ep. to the Hebrews, i. 7, more will be found in the Critical Note. Calvin observes that we are not bound in this and similar instances to regard the application of a passage in the New Testament as settling the question of its meaning where it occurs in the Old.

HIS MESSENGERS. Hitz. illustrates the expression by reference to Babr. Fab. i, where an arrow is called "the messenger of the huntsman," and to Xen. Mem. iv. 3 § 4, where Socrates speaks of the winds and the lightning as "servants of the gods."

5. The work of the Third Day in its two great divisions: first, the separation of the land and water (ver. 5-9); next, the clothing of the earth with grass, herbs, and trees (ver. 10-18). The Poet, however, ranges beyond the first creation, and peoples the earth with the living creatures of the Fifth Day. It is not a picture of still life like that in Genesis, but a living, moving, animated scene.

HE ESTABLISHED. God's order is itself the surest prop.

UPON THE FOUNDATIONS THEREOF. Comp. Job xxxviii. 4-6; Prov. viii. 29. On the other hand, in Job xxvi. 7, God is said to "hang the earth upon nothing." Mendelssohn gets rid of the figure here by rendering "Thou hast established the earth in herself," but it must be a dull mind which needs thus to be guarded against misapprehension. Yet it is curious to see how these obvious figures have been strained, and a hard, literal, prosaic sense given to what is manifestly poetry. This was one of the passages which, according to Father Sanchez, was most strongly relied upon in the controversy with Galileo.

6-8. These verses hang together in construction, and are a poetical expansion of Gen. i. 9.

6. The original chaos is described not according to the heathen notion,
Above the mountains did the waters stand.
7 At Thy rebuke they fled,
   At the voice of Thy thunder they were scattered;
8 They went up by the mountains, they sank down into
   the valleys,

as a confused mass, earth and water mingled together, but the earth
as already formed, yet completely
enveloped in the water, ἐκ ὁδάτος καὶ
dι τὸ ὁδάτος, 2 Pet. ii. 5. This vast,
swelling, tumultuous sea hears the
"rebuke" of God, and sinks to its
appointed place; the earth appears,
emerges from her watery covering,
and shows her surface diversified
with mountain and valley.

So Milton:--
"The earth was formed, but in the
womb as yet
Of waters, embryon immature in-
volved,
Appear'd not: over all the face of
earth
Main ocean flow'd."
7. Comp. lxxvii. 17-19. AT THY
REBUKE; comp. xviii. 15 [16]; lxvii.

There is some doubt as to the
construction of the clauses of this
verse. I should see no objection
to that which the LXX. and Jerome
have adopted, according to which
the two clauses are immediately
connected (ἀναβαίνοντι ὁρη καὶ κατα-
βαίνοντι πεδία εἰς τόπον ὅν ἐθεμελίωσας
αὐτῶς, Ascendent montes, et des-
cendent campi ad locum quern fundasti eis), but that the subject of
the next verse is evidently again
that of ver. 6, the waters. Ewald
and Hupfeld take the first member
as parenthetical, and connect the
second with the previous verse, "At
the voice of Thy thunder the waters
fled to the place," &c.; and there
may be a reference to Gen. i. 9,
"Let the waters be gathered into
one place." Del. says this reference
is undeniable, but his own render-
ing, "the mountains rose, (the
water) sank down into the valleys,"
is as improbable as it is artificial

and unnecessary. The rendering of
the Chald., "They (i.e. the waters)
go up to the mountains, they sink
down into the valleys," which has
been followed by our translators
both in the Bible and in the P.B.V.
(the margin gives the other render-
ing), is grammatically admissible,
and has a certain picturesque force, )
carrying on, as it does, the image of
the preceding verse—the rush and
confusion of the waters fleeing at
the rebuke of God. It has also the
advantage of retaining the same
subject throughout verses 6-9.

And further it is supported by the
very similar construction in cvii. 26.
But with the present tense, "they
go up by the mountains; they go
down by the valleys unto the place,"
&c., the rendering does not har-
monize well with ver. 6, or with the
narrative in Genesis. The verbs
here, as in the previous verse, are
tre aorists or imperfects, and the
reference is still to the original
creation. Hence Jun. and Trem.
rightly, "Conscederunt per montes,
descenderunt per valles; in locum
quern fundaveras ipsis."

The other explanation, "The
mountains rose, the valleys sank,"
i.e. the mountains seemed to rise
as the waters subsided, may be
illustrated by Ovid, Met. i. 43
"Jussit et extendi campos, sub-
sidere vanes,
Fronte tegi sylvas, lapidosos sur-
gere montes;"
and 244,
"Flumina subsidunt, montes exire
videntur,
Surgit humus, crescent loca, decre-
scentibus undis."

And Milton:--
"Immediately the mountains huge
appear
(Even) to the place which Thou hadst established for them.

9 Thou hast set them a bound that they cannot pass,
   That they turn not again to cover the earth;

10 Who sendest forth springs along the torrent-beds;
   They flow between the mountains;

11 They give drink to all the beasts of the field;
   The wild asses quench their thirst.

12 Above them the fowls of the heaven have their habitation,
   (And) sing among the branches,

Emergent, and their broad bare
   backs upheave
Into the clouds, their tops ascend
   the sky;
So high as heaved the tumid hills,
   so low
Dawn sunk a hollow bottom, broad
   and deep,
Capacious bed of waters," &c.


The words of the first member occur again cvii. 26, where, as
Ewald remarks, they are strictly in place; whereas here he thinks they may have been no part of the original poem.

9. A BOUND separating the sea from the land, as in Job xxxviii. 8-11. See for a wider view, extending still further this separation of the elements, xxvi. 8-10, Prov. viii. 27, 29, and comp. Ps. cxlviii.6. Delitzsch says it might almost seem as if the poet who wrote these words did not suppose the flood to be universal, but it is far more probable that he is not thinking of the Flood, but only of the everlasting order first established at, the creation, and afterwards confirmed in the covenant made with Noah, Gen. ix. 9-16.

10. The loving care, the tender sympathy with which God, clothing the earth with beauty, provides at the same time for the wants of all His creatures. Even the wild ass which shuns the approach of man, and the birds of heaven, which have no keeper, are not left unprovided for.

WHO SENDEST FORTH. The article with the participle carries on the construction, Jehovah being the great subject throughout the Psalm.

THE TORRENT-BEDS. The word (nachal) denotes both the torrent and the valley through which it flows, corresponding to the Arabic Wady. Ewald and Hupfeld render, "Who sendeth forth springs into brooks." The latter argues (1) that the word never means the valley only, without the stream, and (2) that the subject of the next clause, "They flow," &c., cannot be the springs, but must be the streams. But in answer to (1) it may be said, that the torrent-bed is not here supposed to exist apart from the torrent, but rather to be produced by the action of the torrent; and in answer to (2), that the general subject of "water" is easily supplied from the preceding clause, as the LXX. have seen.

11. QUENCH THEIR THIRST, lit. "break their thirst," a phrase which occurs only here. Comp. the Latin frangere sitim; and the Welsh, "a dorrant eu syched."

12. ABOVE THEM, or, "beside them." The banks of the streams and the valleys would first be clothed with trees, and there the foliage would be most luxuriant.

THE FOWLS OF THE HEAVEN, a frequent expression in Genesis, as in i. 30, ii. 19, &c,

SING AMONG, lit. "give voice from."
13 He watereth the mountains from His chambers;
    The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work.
14 He maketh grass to grow for the cattle,
    And green herb for the service of man;
    That He may bring forth bread from the earth,
15 And wine that maketh glad the heart of man;

13. God waters the earth not only by the fountains and torrents, but by the rain. Comp. Gen. ii. 5 and io.
HE WATERETH, lit. "He giveth drink to," the same word as in ver. 11. The MOUNTAINS are mentioned not only because on them the clouds rest, from them the streams descend, but because Palestine was a mountain-land. Comp. Dent. xi. 11, "a land of mountains and of valleys; of the rain of heaven it drinketh water" (unlike Egypt, which was watered by the Nile). Thus doubly watered, from above and from beneath (comp. Gen. xlix. 25), the earth brings forth grass for the cattle, and its various fruits, corn and wine and oil for the use of men—for the cattle what they need, for man more than he needs—that which makes his heart glad and his countenance bright.
HIS CHAMBERS, i.e. the clouds, as in ver. 3, where they are built on the waters.
THE FRUIT OF THY WORK, i.e. apparently the rain, as seems to be required both by the parallelism and by the expression "the earth is satisfied," for with the "mountains" in the first clause, "the earth" can hardly stand here by metonymy, for "the dwellers on the earth," viz. cattle and men. The rain may perhaps be called "the fruit of God's work," as the result of His operation, as elsewhere it is called "the brook of God," lxv. 9, 10.
14. GRASS . . . GREEN HERB. Comp. Gen. i. 11, 29, 30; iii. 18, 19; Ex. x. 12, the latter comprising not vegetables only, but corn, &c.
FOR THE SERVICE OF MAN. This seems the most natural interpretation, corresponding to "for the cattle," in the first member, and may be supported by the use of the word in I Chron. xxvi. 30. Others render, "for the labour or tillage of man" (as the same word in ver. 23); but though we may speak of tilling the ground, we can hardly speak of tilling the green herb. Some connect the next clause with this: "that he (i.e. man by his labour in cultivating the earth) may bring forth bread from it." (So Ibn. Ez.). But it is an objection to this, that the whole passage speaks of God's works and gifts, and there is nothing in it to suggest man's co-operation.
THAT HE MAY BRING FORTH, or perhaps, "in that He brings forth," for the construction is somewhat loose, and it can hardly be said that purpose is clearly marked. If we adopt the latter rendering, then ver. 15 must be taken as an independent statement. See Critical Note.
BREAD in this verse seems to be used in its most general signification to denote all by which man is nourished. In the next verse it is mentioned in its proper sense, together with wine and oil, as the three most important products of the soil, the three essential elements of an Eastern banquet, the object being to set forth the bounty of God's provision for man. He furnishes no scanty table, He gives with no niggard hand.
15. From the satisfying of the earth by the precious rain, the Poet's thoughts turn to the satisfying of man by the earth. Not that man is the main subject, but rather the herbs and the trees; only he
That he may make (his) face to shine with oil,
And that bread may strengthen man's heart.

16 The trees of Jehovah are satisfied,
The cedars of Lebanon which He hath planted;
17 Where the birds make their nests:
As for the stork, the cypresses are her house.
18 The high mountains are for the wild goats;
The steep precipices are a refuge for the conies.

19 He hath made the moon for seasons;
The sun knoweth his going down:

passes for a moment from them to their chief uses, viz. for man, and for fowls, and for beasts.

WITH OIL, the face being mentioned rather than the head which was anointed, because the radiance of joy is seen in the face.
The construction of the verse is very doubtful. See Critical Note.

STRENGTHEN MAN'S HEART, Gen. xviii. 5; Jud. xix. 5. Comp. Ps. cv. 16.

16. THE TREES OF JEHOVAH, SO called as planted, not by human hand, but by God himself (as in the next member), trees of the forest and the mountain, in opposition to those which come under human cultivation, such as the vine and the olive, which are implied in ver. 15. See note on xxxvi. 6.

ARE SATISFIED, i.e. with the rain, as in ver. 13.

17. These trees have their use; they, are a home and a shelter for the birds—probably the larger birds are specially intended, as the stork is named, the smaller tribes of singing-birds having already been mentioned, ver. 12.

THE STORK. The word means in Hebrew, "the pious, or affectionate bird," called in Babrius, Fab. xiii., πτηνόν ἐσφεβέστατον ζώων, and by Petronius, 55, 6, pietatiscultrix.

18. THE HIGH MOUNTAINS and PRECIPICES or "cliffs" are mentioned, because they, like the trees, are a shelter for the wild animals. God provides food, and God provides shelter for His creatures.

CONIES. I have left the word as in the E.V., though incorrect. The creature meant is the hyrax Syrianus. See Knobel on Lev. xi. 5, and Smith's Dict. of the Bible.

19. Transition to the work of the Fourth Day, but still so contrived as to introduce another picture of life upon the earth, and the contrast between the life of the night and the life of the day.

THE MOON mentioned first, because to the Hebrew mind the night naturally preceded the day, as throughout Gen. i., "And there was evening and there was morning." Hence we have first the night-scene, ver. 20, 21, and then the day-scene, ver. 22, 23.

FOR SEASONS, as in Gen. i. 14. Others would render in both passages, "for festivals"; comp. Sir. xliii. 7, ἀπὸ σαλῆνης στημέιον ἐορτῆς, but there is no reason so to restrict it. See note on lxxv. 2 ("set time"), and comp. Lev. xxiii. 4.

KNOWETH HIS GOING DOWN. Comp. Job xxxviii. 12; Jer. viii. 7. This mention of the sunset prepares the way for the night-picture which follows.
20 Thou makest darkness—and it is night,
Wherein all the beasts of the forest do move.
21 The young lions roar after their prey,
And seek their food from God:
22 The sun ariseth,—they get them away,
And lay them down in their dens.
23 Man goeth forth to his work,
And to his labour until the evening.
24 How manifold are Thy works, O Jehovah!
In wisdom hast Thou made them all:
The earth is full of Thy riches.
25 Yonder is the sea, great and broad,

20-23. Even the night has its busy life; the beasts of prey are abroad, and they, too, wait upon the providence of God. The whole picture is finely conceived, and the contrast is perfect between the restless movement and roaring of the wild beasts, and man's calm life of labour, continued in the quiet light of day from morning till evening. All the other creatures wait upon God, in simple dependence upon Him; man must labour, as well as gather what God gives him, if he would be satisfied with good.

20. DO MOVE. The word is strictly used of the movements of reptiles and fishes. In Gen. i. 21, and in Ps. lxix. 34 [35] the verb, and in ver. 25 of this Psalm the noun, "things moving," are used of creatures in the sea. In Gen. i. 24, 25, the noun denotes things creeping upon the earth. Here, as applied to the beasts of the forest, the word may have been chosen to express their stealthy movements in pursuit of their prey, or it may be used of any kind of motion, as it is in Gen. vii. 21, "all flesh that moved upon the earth:" see also Gen. ix. 2.

24. Having thus come to man, the crown of all creation, and so touched, as it were, by anticipation, on the work of the Sixth Day, the Psalmist pauses to review with grateful wonder the multitude of God's works, and the wisdom which is manifest in creation.

Athanasius beautifully remarks on the sense of rest and refreshment which is produced by this change of strain, the Psalmist passing from the narration of God's works of providence to praise and glorify Him who is the Creator of all: τὸν περὶ τῆς προνοιάς διεξελθὼν λόγον ἐπὶ ὧμον τὸ γὰρ τῆς κτίσας τὸν λόγον μετέβαλεν, διαναπαύων ὡσπερ διὰ τούτο τὴν ἀκοήν.

RICHES, lit."possessions." Others giving a different meaning to the root render "creatures."

25. Then he remembers that there is one vast field of creative wonders of which as yet he has said nothing. The sea, too, has its life, a life in its depths of things small and great, a life of the coral insect as well as of the whale, and also a life on its surface, where "go the ships" carrying the thoughts and the passions, the skill and the enterprise of human hearts.

The way in which the sea is mentioned indicates a writer not living on the coast. It is visible, perhaps, but at a distance. Its monsters are not familiar objects, but are vaguely described as "leviathan."

BROAD, lit. "wide of two hands,"

22. THE sun riseth, and beast and bird arise and move about.
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Wherein are things moving without number,
Beasts both small and great.

26 There go the ships,
(And there) leviathan whom Thou hast formed to

take his pastime therein.

27 All of them wait upon Thee,
That Thou mayest give them their food in its season.

28 That Thou givest them, they gather;
Thou openest Thine hand, they are satisfied with
good;

29 Thou hidest Thy face, they are troubled;
Thou takest away their breath, they die,
And turn again to their dust.

30 Thou sendest forth Thy breath, they are created,
And Thou renewest the face of the ground.

31 Let the glory of Jehovah be for ever!
   Let Jehovah rejoice in His works!
32 Who looketh on the earth, and it trembleth,
   When He toucheth the mountains, they smoke.
33 Let me sing to Jehovah, as long as I live,
   Let me play unto my God, while I have any being.
34 Let my meditation be sweet unto Him;
   As for me, I will rejoice in Jehovah.
35 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth,
inbreathing of life is confined exclusively to the creation of man,
but rather to i. 2, where the Spirit of God is the great vivifying Agent in all Creation.

THOU SENDEST FORTH. Comp. Acts xvii. 25. THY BREATH. The same word in Hebrew may be rendered "breath" or "spirit." As the reference is here only to physical life, I have retained the former, especially as the same word is employed in the previous verse, where there can be no doubt as to the meaning. Comp. Job xxxiii. 4, xxxiv. 14, 15, Eccl. xii. 7, with Ps. cxlvi. 4. God is called "the God of the spirits of all flesh," Num. xvi. 22, xxvii. 16, Heb. xii. 9, and He "in whom we live, and move, and have our being," Acts xvii. 28.

THOU RENEWEST; life ever succeeding death, and all life being, as it were, a new creation.
"States fall, arts fade, but Nature does not die."

31. The Psalm closes with the prayer that the glory of that God who has thus manifested His glory in creation may endure for ever, and that He who looked with loving approbation upon His works when they were first created, pronouncing all "very good," may ever rejoice in them; for He is a God awful in His majesty, One whose look makes the earth tremble, One whose touch consumes the mountains, One who could in a moment blot out the creation He has made.

33. The same words occur in cxlvi. 2. And as the Psalmist utters the devout wish that God may rejoice in His works, so he utters the wish for himself that he may ever rejoice in God, that his thoughts and words may find acceptance with Him. This is the truest, highest harmony of creation; God finding pleasure in His creatures, His reasonable creatures finding their joy in Him. But this harmony has been rudely broken; the sweet notes of the vast instrument of the Universe are "jangled out of tune." Sin is the discord of the world. Sin has changed the order (κόσμος) into disorder. Hence the prophetic hope (35) that sinners shall be consumed, that the wicked shall be no more, that thus the earth shall be purified, the harmony be restored, and God once more, as at the first, pronounce His creation "very good." In the prospect of such a consummation, the Poet calls upon his own soul, and upon all around him, to bless and praise Jehovah.

35. HALLELUJAH, or "Praise ye Jah." I have had considerable difficulty in deciding which mode of rendering to adopt. Something is lost by not translating uniformly "Praise ye Jah," especially in Psalms where the verb occurs several times with a different object. On the other hand, Hallelujah is
And let the wicked be no more.
Bless Jehovah, 0 my soul!
Hallelujah.

almost like the titles of some of the Psalms, and like Amen, has become current in our language. The Talmud (B. Berakhoth, 91,) and Midrash observe that this is the first Hallelujah in the Psalter, and that the way in which it is connected with the prospect of the final overthrow of the wicked is remarkable and full of meaning.

a The LXX. render the verse: ὁ ποιῶν τοὺς ἀγγέλους αὐτοῦ πνεῦμα, καὶ τοὺς λειτουργοὺς αὐτοῦ πῦρ φλέγων (πυρὸς φλόγα in the Cod. Alex., which is followed in Heb. i. 7, where the passage is quoted), making the first nouns objects, and the second predicates. This is no doubt supported by the construction in the previous verse, where the same order is observed; "Who maketh the clouds His chariot." As regards the English translation it may be remarked, that the two words ἀγγέλους and πνεῦμα being both ambiguous, it is just as correct to render messengers and winds, as to render angels and spirits; and the whole passage shows that winds, not spirits, is the proper meaning of πνεῦμα here. But as has been already remarked in the note on ver. 4, most of the modern commentators abandon the rendering of the LXX., and invert the order of the object and predicate, "Who maketh the winds His messengers, the flaming fire His ministers."

There are, however, two difficulties, as I have said, in the way of this interpretation. First, there is the plural predicate in the second member, and next there is the inversion of order.

Hoffmann, who has discussed the passage carefully (Schriftb. I. 325), urges the first difficulty, and contends, moreover, that ποιῶ, followed by a double accus., means not to make a thing to be something else, but to exhibit a thing as something (etwas als etwas herstellen). So in Gen. vi. 14 the meaning is not "Thou shalt make the ark, already constructed, into cells or compartments," but, thou shall construct it as (of) a number of compartments. So again, "male and female created He them" (Gen. i. 27), i.e. as male and female; and "he made the altar of planks of acacia-wood" (Ex. xxxviii. 1), is, says Hoffmann, not essentially different. [Here, however, the second noun is not so much a predicate describing the form or manner in which the thing appears, as the material out of which it is made.] He renders therefore, "making His messengers as winds, His ministers as a flaming fire," so that the passage does not describe the purpose to which God applies winds and fire, but the form which He gives to those whom He, riding upon the clouds, makes use of to announce His presence, and to execute His will. And such is the traditional Jewish view: as for instance in Shemoth Rabbah, f. 25, "Deus dicitur Deus Zebaoth, quia cum angelis suis facit quae cum unum vult. Quando vult, facit ipsos sedentes, Jud. vi. i i. Aliquando facit ipsos stantes, Isa. vi. 2. Aliquando facit similes mulieribus, Zech. v. 9. Aliquando viris, Gen. xviii. 2. Aliquando facit ipsos spiritus (why not
ventos?), Ps. civ. 4. Aliquando ignem, Ib." Del. partially adopts this
view, but takes the second accus., that is, the predicate, as denoting the
material out of which a thing is made (as in Ex. xxxviii. 1). Accordingly
he renders, "Who maketh His messengers of winds, His servants of
flaming fire," which he says may either mean that God makes wind and
fire of service to Him for special missions (comp. cxlviii. 8), or that God
gives to His angels wind and fire as means whereby they may work, forms
in which they may clothe themselves in order to execute His will in the
world. But the former of these meanings comes to the same thing exactly
as the rendering, "Who maketh winds His messengers," &c.

But as regards the plural predicate, this may be defended by Prov. xvi.

Next, there is the difficulty that lies in the order of the words. Can
a Hebrew writer place the verb first, then the predicate, and then the
object? The Bishop of St. David's [the late Bishop Thirlwall], who
kindly allowed me to make use of the remarks which he sent me on
this passage; after observing that he could recall no instance of such
an inversion of the natural order of words in a sentence, continues:
"A priori, I should have thought it incredible that the language should
have been left in such a state as to make it immaterial as to the sense
whether you wrote ‘Who maketh the clouds His chariot,’ or, ‘Who
maketh His chariot the clouds,’ and that the reader should have to infer
the author's meaning not from the order of his words, but from extrinsic
considerations, such as those which you have discussed. I cannot help
thinking that more attention should have been paid to this question, and
that it should have taken precedence of every other: because if in this
respect the rule of Hebrew syntax was the same as our own, the only
remaining doubt would be in what sense we are to understand the words
‘He maketh His messengers winds, His ministers a flaming fire,’ which
would then be the only possible rendering. And in itself it would give a
very good sense as meaning: ‘He endows His messengers with the
might of the winds, His ministers with the all-pervading subtlety of fire’—
or as any one might paraphrase it better. But it would be only the
irresistible compulsion of a grammatical necessity that would induce me
to adopt this rendering; because, however satisfactory in itself, it appears
to me quite foreign to the context. The Psalmist is evidently speaking
of God's doings in the visible creation, not of the secret agency by which
He accomplishes His ends. It was, therefore, very much to the purpose
to say that wind and fire are His servants and do His pleasure; but not
at all to say that He has unseen servants who act as wind and fire."

Happily, I am now able (Fourth Edition) to remove this difficulty. I can
produce two passages from Isaiah which illustrate this inversion of order,
and show indisputably that the rule of Hebrew syntax was in this respect
not the same as our own. I no longer therefore feel any hesitation in
adopting the rendering in the text, which has the support of many of the
ablest of the modem commentators. The passages quoted in the first
edition of this work, Gen. i. 27, Ex. xxv. 39, in which the predicate stands first, are not to the point, because there the predicate stands before the verb. In Am. iv. 13, the only passage which Del. quotes, there is no reason whatever for assuming an inversion of the order.

b אָבַּד אַלָּבַּד, abbr. for זֶה אָבַּד אַלָּבַּד. The masc. suffix may refer to זֶה אָבַד, according to Del., by attraction, as in Is. ix. 18, lxvi. 8. Others, in order to avoid the sudden change of gender in זֶה אָבַד, render "As for the deep (nom. absol.), as a garment Thou coverest it" (i.e. placest it as a covering over the earth). But thus the verb "to cover" appears without an object, and אַלָּבַּד, moreover, is generally like זֶה אָבַד, fem., except in Job xxviii. 14, Jon. ii. 6. In other cases where it occurs with a masc. verb, the verb precedes, and this proves nothing as to gender; when the verb precedes, all fem. nouns may be construed with a masc. verb.

c עַשֹּׁי. The imperf. (after the pert. or pluperf.) as describing the then condition of things (relative preterite), and so again in the next verse, instead of historic tenses with 1 consec.

d The construction presents much difficulty. If we connect this verse with the last clause of the preceding, then as we have the inf. with ל twice followed by the fut., the four lines might alike denote the purpose of God, "That he may bring forth bread, &c. And that wine may make glad, &c. That he may make his face to shine with oil, And that bread may strengthen, &c.---this change of construction from the infin. to the fut. being in accordance with a well-known principle of the language. But the position of נִיָּה in ver. 15 is against this explanation. The difficulty lies in the subordinated form of (b) in ver, 15 (if the object were to mention oil as well as bread and wine as one of the chief products of the soil), as well as in the mention of bread a second time in (c).

Ibn Ezra says: "He mentions bread and wine, for these two are the life of man, and because he has mentioned the effect of the wine, he mentions the effect of the bread." It is clear, therefore, how he understood the passage generally, though he has given no explanation of (b). The effect of the wine is to gladden man's heart, to make his face shine more than oil (so he must have understood this clause as a part of the effect produced by the wine); the effect of the bread is to stay man's heart. Rashi, on the other hand, gives oil a place with bread and wine among the things which God is here said to bring out of the earth. He says: "Wine which maketh glad the heart of man, that also He brought forth from the earth, and oil wherewith to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart."

Ewald gives to לָבַּד in ver. 15 the comparative meaning more than, and takes the infin. with ל as gerundial merely: "Bringing bread out of the earth, Wine to gladden man's heart, More than oil making his face to shine, Bread to strengthen man's heart:" but this, though it seems to be the most obvious construction of the words, places in too subordinate a position what must have been designed to be prominent; oil and wine are commonly joined together as principal products of the soil of Palestine; Jud. ix. 9-13, Deut. xii. 17, Jer. xxxi. 12, &c.
Hitz: "And wine gladdens man's heart, So that it makes his face shine more than oil (shines), And bread supports man's heart."

Hupfeld takes ver. 15 as unconnected in construction with the preceding: "And wine maketh glad the heart of man, Whilst oil makes his face to shine (lit. "whilst he maketh his face to shine with oil"), and bread strengthens man's heart."

e תָּרוּ. . אָנָּשׁ. The apocopated forms are used as marking protasis and apodosis: "(When) Thou makest darkness, (then) it is night," or the first may be pret. (as in xviii. 12), and the second denote purpose, object, &c. (as in xl ix. 10).

f The Hallelujah is written differently in different MSS., sometimes יָהָעַ, at others יָהַעַ לֶלֶלְו, without the Makkef; or again יָהַעַ לֶלֶלְו, one word, but always, unless by mistake, with the He mappic. When it appears as one word, יָהַעַ is not regarded as strictly the Divine name, but only as strengthening the meaning of לֶלֶלְו, as in the reading יָהַעַ לֶלֶלְו, cxviii. 5.

—GEIGER, Urschrift u. Uebers. der Bibel, S. 275.

PSALM CV.

THIS Psalm, like the 78th and the 106th, has for its theme the early history of Israel, and God's wonders wrought on behalf of the nation; but it differs from both those Psalms in the intention with which it pursues this theme. The 78th Psalm is didactic; its object is to teach a lesson; it recalls the past, as conveying instruction and warning for the present. The 106th Psalm is a Psalm of penitential confession. The history of the past appears in it only as a history of Israel's sin. In this Psalm, on the other hand, the mighty acts of Jehovah for His people from the first dawn of their national existence are recounted as a fitting subject for thankfulness, and as a ground for future obedience. Those interpositions of God are especially dwelt upon which have a reference to the fulfilment of His promise, which exhibit most clearly His faithfulness to His covenant. Hence the series begins with the covenant made with Abraham, tracing all the steps in its fulfilment to the occupation of the Promised Land. This is commenced as the theme of the Psalm in ver. 8-11.

Hengstenberg has inferred, from the length at which the history of Joseph and the plagues in Egypt are dwelt upon, that the design of
the Psalmist was to encourage the exiles in the Babylonish captivity, which by Psalmists and Prophets is so often compared with the bondage of the nation in Egypt. But although this is evidently one of the later Psalms, and, like the two which follow (both of which contain allusions to the Exile), may have been written after the Return from the Captivity, still there is nothing in its language to justify the view which Hengstenberg takes. There is no hint of any comparison or contrast between those two great periods of national exile, and, in particular, the very slight allusion to the circumstances of the deliverance from Egypt—nothing being said either of the passover or of the passage of the Red Sea—is unfavourable to the supposition that any such contrast is implied.

The first fifteen verses are found in I Chron. xvi. 8-22 (with some slight variations), as the first portion of the festal song which, on the day when the Ark of God was brought to its resting-place on Zion, was delivered by David into the hands of Asaph and his brethren, "to give thanks unto Jehovah." The second part of that song consists of Psalm xcvi., the first verse of Psalm cvii., and the forty-seventh and forty-eighth verses of Psalm cvi. The last of these is the doxology which closes the Fourth Book, and was evidently a late addition. It seems, therefore, impossible to doubt that the song in the Chronicles is a combination from other sources. It is a striking proof how little a question like this, which is purely a critical question, can be fairly perverted into a question of orthodoxy, that whilst Hitzig holds the Psalm in Chronicles to be the original, Delitzsch maintains that it is a compilation, though he observes that the writer of the Book may not have compiled it himself, but have found it in its present shape in the Midrash of the Book of the Kings, which was his principal authority, and the source of his materials.

Like the last Psalm, this closes with a Hallelujah. It is the first of a number of Psalms beginning with the word ḫodū (Hodu), "Give thanks" (cv., cvii., cviii., cxxvi.), which Delitzsch styles "Hodu-Psalms," or Confitemini, just as those that begin with Hallelujah may be called Hallelujah Psalms (cvi., cxi.-cxiii., cxvii., cxxxv., cxlvi.-cl.).

1 O Give thanks to Jehovah, call upon His Name,

1-6. The greatness of God's love, as manifested to His people in their history, calls for the fullest acknowledgement. The Psalmist would have Israel sound forth His praises among all nations. They are not to sit down in idle satisfaction with their own privileges. His "doings" (ver. 1), His "wondrous works" (ver. 2, 5), His "tokens,"
Make known among the peoples His doings.
2 Sing unto Him, play unto Him;
   Meditate of all His wondrous works.
3 Make your boast of His holy Name,
   Let the heart of them rejoice that seek Jehovah.
4 Enquire ye after Jehovah and His strength;
   Seek His face evermore.
5 Remember His wondrous works that He hath done,
   His tokens, and the judgements of His mouth,
6 0 ye seed of Abraham His servant,
   Ye children of Jacob, His chosen.
7 He, Jehovah, is our God;
   His judgements are in all the earth.
8 He hath remembered His covenant for ever,
   The word which He confirmed to a thousand generations;
9 (The covenant) which He made with Abraham,

"the judgements of His mouth"
(ver. 5), "His holy Name" (ver. 3), as
the revelation of His character and
attributes,—all these are to form
the subject of loud thanksgiving,
—all these are to become, through
Israel, the heritage of the world.
1. Taken word for word from Is.
   xii. 4.
5. TOKENS . . . JUDGEMENTS;
   the miracles in Egypt are chiefly
meant, as these are chiefly dwelt
upon afterwards.
6. SEED OF ABRAHAM: in I
   Chron. xvi. 13, "seed of Israel."
   HIS CHOSEN, plural, referring to
the people, not to Jacob. It is on
this ground, because they are Abra-
ham's seed, because they are God's
chosen, because they are Jacob's
children, heritors of the covenant
and the promises, that they are
bound beyond all others to "re-
member," what God has done for
them. On the other hand, God,
who made the covenant with their
fathers, "remembers" it (ver. 8),
"for His part will surely keep and
perform" it.
7. The Psalmist begins himself
that praise of God to which he has
exhorted his people. And first he
extols "the covenant," "the word"
(or promise), the "oath" by which
God had bound Himself to the
patriarchs, and which He "re-
membered," i.e. fulfilled, when He
brought them into the land of
Canaan.
   OUR GOD, by covenant, but also,
as follows in the next hemistich,
Judge and Ruler of all nations.
8. HE HATH REMEMBERED: in
   I Chron. xvi. 15, "remember ye."
   CONFIRMED: for this, the ori-
ginal meaning of the word, see Ex.
   xvii. 23, "If thou wilt do this
thing, then shall God confirm thee,
and thou shalt be able to stand."
   Num. xxvii. 19, "Confirm," or "set
   him before thine eyes." In both
these passages the word is joined
with the same verb which occurs in
ver. to of this Psalm, "establish,"
   lit. "make to stand."
   TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS :
from Deut. vii. 9.
9. The verb MADE (lit. "cut," as
And the oath which He sware unto Isaac;
10 And He established it unto Jacob for a statute,
    Unto Israel for an everlasting covenant;
11 Saying, "Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan,
    The line of your inheritance;"
12 When they were a small number,
    Very few, and sojourners therein;
13 And they went to and fro from nation to nation,
    From (one) kingdom to another people;
14 He suffered no man to oppress them,
    And reproved kings for their sakes, (saying,)
15 "Touch not Mine anointed ones,
    And to My prophets do no harm."

in icere faedus) seems to require
that the relative should refer to
"covenant" in the first hemistich,
rather than to "word" in the
second, of ver. 8. But the phrase
to "make (lit. "cut") a word"
occurs in Hag. ii. 5, and therefore
the relative may refer to the nearer
noun.

UNT0 ISAAC, in allusion to Gen.
xxvi. 3, where God says to Isaac,
"To thee and to thy seed will I
give all these countries, and I will
perform the oath which I sware
unto Abraham thy father": comp.
Gen. xxii. 16.

11. THE LINE, i.e. an inheritance
measured out by line, as in lxxviii.
55; see note on xvi. 6.

12-15. The Divine protection by
which the small beginnings of the
nation were shielded.

12. A SMALL NUMBER, lit. "men
of number," as in Gen. xxxiv. 30;
see also Dent. iv. 27, xxvi. 5; Jer.
xliv. 28. So Horace says, "Nos
numerus sumus."

VERY FEW, lit. "as (it were) a
little," or "as little as possible,"
δοῦο δάλγον. Comp. Prov. x. 20.

13. NATION ... PEOPLE. "The
former denotes the mass as bound
together by a common origin, lan-
guage, country, descent; the latter

as united under one government."

--Delitzsch.

14. HE SUFFERED, as in Ex.
xxxvi. 10.
KINGS. viz. of the Egyptians,
Gen. xii., and of the Philistines,
Gen. xx., xxvi.

15. TOUCH NOT, with allusion,
perhaps, to Gen. xxvi. 11.
MINE ANOINTED, i.e. specially
set apart and consecrated. The
poet uses, as Ros. observes, the
language of his own time, not that
of the patriarchs, who were never
anointed. But inasmuch as in
David's time priests and prophets
were anointed (1 Kings xix. 16),
when he would say that the patri-
archs are priests of the true God,
and therefore to be regarded as
sacred, he gives them the epithet
"anointed," as in the next hemi-
stich "prophets," a name which
God bestows upon Abraham, Gen.
xx. 7, when he says to Abimelech,
"And now give the man back his
wife, for he is a prophet; and if he
pray for thee, thou shalt live."
MY PROPHETS. A good instance
of the wide signification of this
word. It is derived from a root
signifying to boil, to bubble up. The
prophet is one in whose soul there
rises a spring, a rushing stream of
16 And He called for a famine upon the land; He brake the whole staff of bread.
17 He sent before them a man; Joseph was sold for a slave.
18 They afflicted his feet with fetters; He was laid in iron (chains).

| Divine inspiration. In the later language he not only receives the Divine word, but he is made the utterer of it, the organ of its communication to others. But in the earlier instances, as in that of Abraham, his official character does not distinctly appear, though doubtless, like Noah, he was "a preacher of righteousness," and taught his own family (and through them ultimately the whole world) the way of the Lord. See Gen. xviii. 19. Here the prophet means little more than one to whom God speaks, one with whom He holds converse, whether by word, or vision, or dream, or inner voice. (Comp. Num. xii. 6-8.) We approach nearest to what is meant by styling the patriarchs prophets, when we read such passages as Gen. xvii. 17, "And Jehovah said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" or again, the pleading of Abraham for Sodom, in ver. 23-33, of the same chapter. It is, indeed, as pleading with God in intercession that Abraham is termed a "prophet" in Gen. xx. 7. The title is thus very similar to that of the "Friend of God," Is. xli. 8; 2 Chron. xx. 7; James ii. 23.
16. STAFF OF BREAD. The figure occurs first in Lev. xxvi. 26; comp. Is. iii. 1. The same figure is suggested in civ. 15, "bread that strengtheneth (stayeth) man's heart."
18. This is a much harsher picture of Joseph's imprisonment than that given in Genesis xxxix. 20-23, xl. 4. But it may refer to the earlier stage of the imprisonment, before he had won the confidence of his gaoler, or it may be tinged with the colouring of poetry.

| WITH FETTERS. Heb. "with the fetter." The word occurs only here and clxi. 8.
HE WAS LAID IN IRON. I have here followed the paraphrase of the E.V. In the margin, however, the literal rendering of the Hebrew is correctly given: "His soul came into iron," ("his soul," merely a periphrasis of the person="he," as in lvii. 4 [5], xciv. 17), i.e. he was a prisoner, bound with chains. So the Syr. and the LXX. σίδηρον διήλθεν ἢ ψυχή αὐτοῦ. Jerome, "in ferrum venit anima ejus." The more picturesque but incorrect rendering of the P.B.V., "the iron entered into his soul," follows the Vulg., "ferrum pertransit animam ejus." (The Chald. led the way in this interpretation, and it has been recently adopted by Moll.) The force of the expression has made it stereotyped in our language. It is a striking instance of the supremacy of the P.B.V. in our Church. Probably not one reader in a hundred of those who are familiar with that version | Egypt was no accident; God had sent him thither; so he himself traces the hand of God, Gen. xxiv. 5, 1. 20.

16-22. First the preliminary steps in the history of Joseph. The famine in Canaan was no chance occurrence; God called for it. (Comp. 2 Kings viii. 1; Am. v. 8; Hag. i. 11) Joseph's position in
19 Until the time that his word came, The saying of Jehovah tried him.
20 The king sent and loosed him, The ruler of the peoples, and let him go free.
21 He made him lord over his house, And ruler over all his substance;
22 To bind his princes at his will, And to teach his elders wisdom.

ever thinks of any other translation of the verse, or is aware that the Bible version is different.

19. HIS WORD. This may be (I) "the word of Joseph," i.e. either (a) his interpretation of the dreams of the king's officers in the prison, which finally led to his own liberation, Gen. xli. 12 (so Rosenm. De Wette, Hupf.); or (b) the word revealed to him in dreams of his own future exaltation, Gen. xlii. 9 (Ibn Ez.); or (2) "the word of Jehovah," viz, that which first foretold, and then fulfilled the promise of, his exaltation; or (3) "his cause," i.e. his trial, in which case the verb must be rendered "came on," i.e. for hearing, an interpretation which seems at least very doubtful. If we adopt (I), then the meaning is, Joseph lay in prison till his interpretation of the dreams came to pass.

CAME, i.e. was fulfilled, a word used in the same way of the fulfilment of prophecies, Jud. xiii. 12, 17 ("come to pass," E.V.); I Sam. ix. 6; Jer. xvii. 15. Delitzsch, who understands the "word" here mentioned as the word of God, illustrates the passage by reference to evii. 20; just as there God "sends" His word, so here His word "comes;" it came first as an angel of promise, and then as an angel of fulfilment.

THE SAYING (utterance, promise) OF JEHOWAH. LXX., τὸ λόγιον τοῦ Κυρίου, different from the WORD in the previous verse. This seems most naturally to be understood, not of God's interpretation of the dream (as Hupf. and others), but of God's promise of future exaltation conveyed to him in his dreams. The Divine utterance (imrah) has ascribed to it a living effectual power, as in cxxix. 50. It proved him by testing his faith during the years of suffering and imprisonment which intervened between the promise and its fulfilment.


22. To BIND. The earliest instance of the use of the word in a sense approaching to that which it had later, in the phrase "binding and loosing," although that phrase is always used of things, in the Rabbinical writings, never of persons. It denotes here generally the exercise of control. "The capability of binding is to be regarded as an evidence of authority; a power of compelling obedience, or in default thereof, of inflicting punishment."—Phillips.

Hengstenberg thinks that the figure was occasioned by a reference to ver. 18: his soul, once bound, now binds princes. He illustrates the meaning by Gen. xli. 44, "without thee shall no man move his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt;" and ver. 40, "thou shalt be over my house, and all my people shall kiss thy mouth."

AT HIS WILL, lit. "in, according to, his soul " (see on xvii. 9), equivalent to "according unto thy word," Gen. xli. 40.

To TEACH . . . WISDOM; not to
23 Israel also came into Egypt,
   And Jacob was a sojourner in the land of Ham.
24 And He caused His people to be fruitful exceedingly,
   And He made them stronger than their adversaries.
25 He turned their heart to hate His people,
   To deal subtilly with His servants.
26 He sent Moses His servant,
   Aaron whom He had chosen.
27 They wrought His signs among them
   And tokens in the land of Ham.
28 He sent darkness and made it dark,
And they rebelled not against His words.
29 He turned their waters into blood,
   And made their fish to die.
30 Their land swarmed with frogs
   In the chambers of their kings.
31 He spake the word, and there came flies,
   Gnats in all their border.
32 He gave them hail for rain,
   Flaming fire in their land.
33 He smote also their vines and their fig-trees,
   And brake the trees of their border.
34 He spake the word, and the locusts came,
   And grasshoppers without number,
35 And devoured all the green herb in their land,
   And devoured the fruit of their ground.
36 And He smote all the first-born in their land,
   The beginning of all their strength.
37 And He brought them forth with silver and gold,
And there was none among their tribes that stumbled.

33 Egypt was glad when they went forth;
   For their terror had fallen upon them.

39 He spread a cloud for a covering,
   And fire to lighten the night.

40 They asked and He brought quails,
   And satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

41 He opened the rock and the waters flowed;
   They went in the dry places like a river.

42 For He remembered His holy word,
   (And) Abraham His servant;

43 And He brought forth His people with gladness,
   His chosen with a song of joy.

44 And He gave them the lands of the nations,
   And they took possession of the labour of the peoples;

**THAT STUMBLED.** See the same phrase, as descriptive of vigour, Is. v. 27, "none shall be weary or stumble among them; "and for the general sense comp. Exod. xiii. 18.

38. WAS GLAD: Exod. xii. 31—
33. THEIR TERROR: Exod. xv. 14 -16; Deut. xi. 25.

39-41. Three of the principal miracles in the wilderness, which sum up the period between the departure from Egypt and the entrance into the Promised Land. But it is remarkable that the great miracle of the passage of the Red Sea, a favourite theme with poets and prophets, is not even alluded to.

39. SPREAD A CLOUD: not, as in Ex. xiv. 19, as a protection against their enemies, but rather over their heads, as a protection against the burning sun. See the use of the same verb, Exod. xl. 19, of the tabernacle; Joel H. 2, of a cloud; and comp. Is. iv. 5, 6.

   LIGHTEN. See note on lxxvii. 19 [20].

40. See on lxxviii. 24, 27.

**THEY ASKED.** The verb is in the sing., referring to the people.

41. ROCK. The word is tsur, and therefore the miracle at Horeb is intended; see on lxxviii. 15.

42-45. Conclusion, giving, first the reasons why God had thus dealt with Israel, viz. His own promise, and the faith of His servant Abraham, as in ver. 8, 9; next, the result in their history, that by virtue of this covenant they had taken possession of the land of Canaan; lastly, the great purpose designed by all that marvellous guidance, "That they might keep His statutes, and observe His laws."

43. WITH GLADNESS, alluding, probably, to the song of triumph after the overthrow of Pharaoh and his captains in the Red Sea. Comp. Is. xxxv. 10; "And the redeemed of Jehovah shall return and come to Zion with a song of joy, and everlasting gladness shall be on their head," &c.

44. LABOUR; not only cultivated lands, but cities, treasures, &c.
45 That they might keep His statutes,
    And observe His laws.

    Hallelujah.

45. THAT THEY MIGHT KEEP.
   This was God's purpose, that Israel
   should be a holy nation in the
   midst of other nations, a priest-
   hood representing the world, and
   claiming it for God as His world.

   a בֵּיתֵי כָּל. There is some difficulty as to the construction in this and
   the two next verses. In r Chron. xvi. 19 this verse is joined with what
   goes before, the suffix being changed to that of the ed pers., "when ye
   were," and so the Chald. and Syr. here. Del. finds the protasis here,
   and the apodosis in ver. 14. He takes ver. 13 as a part of the protasis,
   according to the common rule, that a sentence beginning with the
   infinitive recurs to the use of the finite verb: "When they were few,
   and sojourners, and went to and fro, &c. . . . (then) He suffered no man
   to harm them." Ewald connects both ver. 12 and ver. 13 with what
   precedes. Hupfeld thinks that ver. 12 is loosely subjoined to what
   precedes, but makes of ver. 13 and ver. 14 independent sentences: "they

PSALM CVI.

   THIS is the first of a series of Hallelujah Psalms; Psalms of which
   the word Hallelujah is, as it were, the Inscription (cvi., cxi.-cxi.,
   cxvii., cxxxv., cxvi.-cl.). As in the last Psalm, so here, the history
   of Israel is recapitulated. In that it was turned into a thanksgiving;
   in this it forms the burden of a confession. There God's mighty acts
   for His people were celebrated with joy; here His people's sin is
   humbly and sorrowfully acknowledged. Nothing is more remarkable
   in these great historical Psalms than the utter absence of any word
   or sentiment tending to feed the national vanity. All the glory of
   Israel's history is confessed to be due, not to her heroes, her priests,
   her prophets, but to God; all the failures which are written upon that
   history, all discomfitures, losses, reverses, the sword, famine, exile, are
   recognized as the righteous chastisement which the sin of the nation
   has provoked. This is the strain of such Psalms as the 78th, the
   105th, the 106th. This is invariably the tone assumed by all the
divinely-instructed teachers of the people, by the prophets in their
great sermons, by the poets in their contributions to the national
liturgy. There is no other poetry in the world of a popular and
national kind so full of patriotic sentiment, and yet at the same time
marked by so complete an abstinence from all those themes which
are commonly found in poetry written for the people. There is not
a single ode in honour of Moses or Aaron, or Joshua or David; there
is not one which sings the glory of the nation, except as that glory is
given it of God. The history of the nation, whenever referred to, is
referred to almost invariably for the purpose of rebuke and upbraiding,
certainly not for the purpose of commendation or self-applause. A
similar review of the past history of Israel, joined in the same way
with a confession of the sins of the nation during their history, occurs
in the prayer of the Levites on the occasion of the solemn fast
proclaimed after the return from the Captivity (Nehem. ix.). But the
earliest specimen of this kind of confession is the prayer which is
directed to be used at the offering of the first-fruits., Deut. xxvi.
Solomon's prayer at the consecration of the Temple, I Kings viii., is
not itself a prayer of confession, so much as a pleading with God
that He would hear His people whenever, having sinned, they should
come to Him confessing their sins. All these instances differ from
the Psalm in being prose, not poetry. Still the Psalm is not free, as
Delitzsch observes, from certain peculiarities found in the others, such
as (I) the fondness for rhyme, especially in the use of suffixes having the
same sound (see, for instance, ver. 4, 5, 8, 35-41): (2) the fondness
for synonyms, as in ver. 21, 22, "great things," "wonderful things,
"terrible things;" (3) the direct, even tautological expansion of the
thought, as in ver. 37, 38, to the comparative neglect of the usual
principle of parallelism.
From ver. 47 it may be fairly inferred that the Psalm is of the date
of the Exile, or was written shortly after the return of the first com-
pany of exiles. It is, however, remarkable that both that verse and
the closing doxology, together perhaps with the first verse of this
Psalm, form the concluding portion of the Psalm which, according to
the author of the Book of Chronicles, was sung by David when he
removed the ark to Mount Zion, I Chron. xvi. 34-36. On this point,
see more in the Introduction to Ps. cv., and the note on ver. 48.
The Psalm has no strophical division. It consists of an Intro-
duction, ver. 1-5. It then follows the history of Israel as a history
of perpetual transgressions, first, from Egypt through the wilderness,
ver. 7-33, and then in the Holy Land, 34-46, and concludes with
a prayer for deliverance from the present calamity, viz. the captivity
in Babylon, ver. 47.
I HALLELUJAH!
Give thanks unto Jehovah, for He is good,
For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.

2 Who can utter the mighty acts of Jehovah,
(Or) tell forth all His praise?

3 Blessed are they that keep judgement,
He that doeth righteousness at all times.

4 Remember me, 0 Jehovah, with the favour Thou bearest
unto Thy people,
0 visit me with Thy salvation;

1- 5. The first five verses seem
to stand alone, and to have little or
no direct connection with the rest of
the Psalm. Hupfeld regards the
first three verses, in particular, as
nothing but a general introduction,
and one quite at variance with the
strain of the Psalm as a confession
of sin. But this is a hasty and
superficial view. The first verse,
no doubt, is of the nature of a
doxological formula, such as we
find in some other of these later
Psalms. But the second and third
verses have an immediate bearing
on what follows. What so fitting
to introduce the confession of a
nation's sin and ingratitude, as the
rehearsal of God's goodness mani-
fested to it, and the acknowledge-
ment of the blessedness of those
who, instead of despising that good-
ness, as Israel had done, walked
in the ways of the Lord, keeping
judgement and doing righteousness
(vers. 3)? Or, again, what more
natural than that the sense of the
national privilege, the claim of a
personal share in that privilege,
should spring in the heart and rise
to the lips of one who felt most
deeply the national sin and ingrati-
tude?

The fourth and fifth verses are
clearly the expression of personal
feeling. It is strange that some
commentators should have seen
here a personification of the people,
when the fifth verse so expressly
distinguishes, in every clause, be-
tween the individual who speaks
and the people of which he is a
member. Nor is there any reason
to assume that the Psalmist speaks
in the name of the people. There
is the same blending of personal
feeling and personal experience
with the national life which we
find, for instance, in lxv. 3 [4]. The
hope expressed is, that when God
looks again with favour upon the
nation, when He delivers them from
the hand of the heathen (see ver.
47), then the Psalmist himself may
share in the general joy.

I. The Psalm begins with the
liturgical formula which was in use
in Jeremiah's time, xxxiii. 11 (under
Zedekiah), and which became after-
wards more frequent, I Macc. iv. 24.
It is not, therefore, quite so certain
that I Chron. xvi. 34 was taken from
the beginning of this Psalm, as that
the two following verses, 35, 36,
were taken from its close.

GOOD, i.e. not so much in refer-
ce to His own nature, as in His
gracious dealing with men. The
LXX., rightly, χρηστός.

2. THE MIGHTY ACTS are all
that He has done for His people, as
His PRAISE is all the glory which
He has thus manifested, and which
calls for praise from them.

4. In this and the next verse the
same suffix recurs, almost with the
effect of rhyme; "the peculiarity,"
says Delitzsch, "of the T'phillah-
style." In ver. 6 the same thing is
observable, which is characteristic
5 That I may see the prosperity of Thy chosen,
That I may be glad with the gladness of Thy nation,
That I may make my boast with Thine inheritance.

6 We have sinned with our fathers,
We have done iniquity, we have dealt wickedly.

7 Our fathers in Egypt considered not Thy wonders;
They remembered not the multitude of Thy loving-kindnesses,
But rebelled at the sea, at the Red Sea.

8 And (yet) He saved them for His Name's sake,
To make His might to be known.

9 And He rebuked the Red Sea, and it was dried up,
And He made them go through the depths as (through)
the wilderness.

10 And He saved them from the hand of the hater,
And ransomed them from the hand of the enemy,

of these prayers of confession (Vidduy, in the later Hebrew, from the
verb, "to confess," Lev. xvi. 21), I Kings viii. 47.
5. NATION. The word in the plural is always used of the hea-
then, but in the singular sometimes of the nation of Israel, and even
with the pronominal suffix, as here, and Zeph. ii. 9.
6. The language is borrowed evidently from that of Solomon's
prayer, I Kings viii. 47. Comp. Dan. ix. 5; Bar. ii. 12, where in the
same way several words are used in confession as if to express both the
earnestness of deep conviction, and also the sense of manifold trans-
gressions.

WITH OUR FATHERS. The nation is thus regarded as a whole, one in
guilt and one in punishment. See note on lxxix. 8. Not only the
"fathers in Egypt" (ver. 7) are meant, because the generation in
Canaan are also mentioned (ver. 34-36).
7. OUR FATHERS IN EGYPT.
These words are connected to-
getter by the accents, but the
words "in Egypt" belong to the
whole sentence. The "wonders"
are wonders wrought in Egypt, the
impression of which, great as they
were, had so quickly faded, that
they were forgotten even when the
people stood on the shore of the
Red Sea. Again in ver. 13, 21, this
forgetfulness is censured. Comp.
lxxviii. 11; Deut. xxxii. 18; and
see note on Ps. ciii. 2.

REBELLED (the verb is here used
absol., elsewhere with the accus.),
with reference to the occurrence in
Ex. xiv. 10-13,
This is the first act of trans-
gression of which confession is
made.
8. HIS MIGHT TO BE KNOWN, as
in lxxvii. 14 [15].

9. Compare, for the form of ex-
pression, Nah. i. 4; Is. I. 2, li. 10,
lxiii. 13. The word rendered "wil-
derness" denotes not the sandy
waste but "the pasture-ground;"
and the figure means that God led
His people through the sea as the
shepherd leads his sheep along the
11 And the waters covered their adversaries,
    Not one of them was left.
12 And they believed His words,
    They sang His praise.
13 Very soon they forgot His doings,
    They waited not for His counsel;
14 But lusted for themselves a lust in the wilderness,
    And tempted God in the waste.
15 And He gave them their request,
    And sent leanness (withal) into their soul.
16 And they were jealous against Moses in the camp,
    Against Aaron, the holy one of Jehovah.

11. NOT ONE OF THEM WAS LEFT.
Comp. Ex. xiv. 28.

12. THEY BELIEVED . . . THEY
SANG, with evident reference to
Ex. xiv. 31, xv. 1; "And Israel
saw the great act (lit. hand) which
Jehovah had done against Egypt,
and the people feared Jehovah, and
they believed on Jehovah and His
servant Moses. Then sang Moses
and the children of Israel this
song." Both the faith and the song
are mentioned, not in praise of
their conduct, but only as still fur-
ther proof, that whatever impres-
sions were produced, whether by
God's judgements or His mercies,
were but temporary and on the
surface. The goodness of Israel
was like the dew, early gone.

13-33. The confession of Israel's
sins in the wilderness. On the first
of these, the lusting for food, comp.
Ixxviii. 18, 29, and Ex. xv. 22-24,
xvii.2. See also Ex. xvi. and Num. xi.

13. VERY SOON, lit. "they made
haste, they forgot." WAITED NOT;
they were not content to exercise a
patient dependence upon God, leav-
ing it to Him to fulfil His own pur-
poses in His own way, but would
rather rule Him than submit them-
selves to His rule.

14. LUSTED FOR THEMSELVES A
LUST; the expression is taken from
Num. xi. 4.

14. HE GAVE THEM THEIR RE-
QUEST. See on Ixxviii. 21, 29.
LEANNESS. Comp. Is. x. 16, xvii.
4. The LXX., πληροφορίαν, "satiety,"
and so the Syr. and Vulg., but
wrongly. This LEANNESS and sick-
ness (phthisis) may refer to the
loathing of the food, followed by
great mortality (the "blow of God"),
Num. xi. 20, 33, the SOUL being here
used only in a physical sense of the
life. But the figurative sense is
equally true and equally pertinent.
The very heart and spirit of a man,
when bent only or supremely on the
satisfaction of its earthly desires
and appetites, is always dried up
and withered. It becomes a lean,
shrunk, miserable thing, always
craving more food, yet drawing
thence no nourishment, "magnas
inter opes inops."

16-18. The second great sin in
the wilderness was the insurrection
against their divinely-appointed
leaders. The reference is to Num.
xvi., xvii.

15. THE HOLY ONE. Aaron is so
called on account of his priestly
office. It was this, as an exclusive
privilege, which was assailed by
Korah and his company, on the
17 (Then) the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan,
And covered the congregation of Abiram;
18 And a fire was kindled in their congregation,
A flame burned up the wicked.
19 They made a calf in Horeb,
And bowed themselves before the molten image,
20 And they bartered their glory,
For the likeness of an ox that eateth grass.
21 They forgot God their Saviour,
Who had done great things in Egypt;
22 Wondrous things in the land of Ham,
Fearful things by the Red Sea.
23 Then He said He would destroy them,
Had not Moses His chosen stood in the breach before 
Him, 
To turn away His fury from destroying (them).

24 And they rejected the desirable land, 
They believed not His word.  
25 And they murmured in their tents, 
They hearkened not to the voice of Jehovah.  
26 Then He lifted up His hand unto them, 
That He would make them fall in the wilderness;  
27 And that He would make their seed fall among the 
nations, 
And scatter them in the lands.  
28 They were yoked also unto Baal-peor, 
And ate the sacrifices of the dead.

said (resolved, uttered His word), to 
destroy them," Deut. ix. 13. Comp. 
Ex. xxxii. 10; and for the construc- 
tion, Ezek. xx. 8, 13, 21.  
IN THE BREACH. The interces- 
sion of Moses is compared to the 
act of a brave leader, covering with 
his body the breach made in the 
walls of his fortress. Comp. Ezek. 
xxii. 30, "And I sought for a man 
among them, that should make up 
the hedge, and stand in the gap 
(breach, as here) before Me for the 
land that I should not destroy it."

24-27. A fourth act of sin,— 
the rebellion which followed on the 
report of the spies, Num. xiii., xiv. 
24. THE DESIRABLE LAND, so 
called also in Jer. iii. 19; Zech. vii. 
14 (in E.V. "pleasant land"). The 
other expressions in this and the 
next verse are from the Pentateuch: 
"they rejected," Num. xiv. 31; 
"murmured in their tents," Deut. 
i. 27; "lifted up His hand," as 
in Ex. vi. 8; Deut. xxxii. 4; 
"make them fall," as in Num. xiv. 
29, 32. The phrase, "to lift up the 
hand," refers to the custom in the 

22. The threat of exile (ver. 27), 
of which nothing is said in Num. 
xiv., is taken, doubtless, from Lev. 
xxvi.; Deut. xxviii. Comp. the same 
expression Exek. xx. 23, "I lifted 
up Mine hand unto them also in 
the wilderness, that I would scatter 
them among the heathen, and dis- 
perse them through the countries." 
27. MAKE FALL; here pro-
jicere, in the same sense almost as 
"scattered," in the parallelism. 
28. THEY WERE YOKED; a fifth 
transgression in the wilderness, re- 
corded in Num. xxv. The same 
verb is used there, ver. 3, 5, with 
reference to the prostitution which 
accompanied the worship of Baal-
peor, "the Moabite Priapus." 
Comp. 1 Cor. vi. 16, 17, and with 
the next clause ATE THE SACRIFICES. 
I Cor. x. 18-21, with Num. xxv. 
2. The LXX., for "they were 
yoked," have ἐτελέσθησαν, "they 
were initiated."  
THE DEAD. Two interpretations 
have been given: (i) that idols are 
meant, as opposed to "the living 
God." Comp. Jer. x. 10, 11, and 
the contemptuous expression "car-
29 And they gave provocation with their doings,  
And a plague brake in upon them.

30 Then stood (up) Phinehas and did judgement,  
And (so) the plague was stayed;

cases of their kings" (probably said of idols, as rivals of the One true King of Israel), in Ezek. xliii. 7, 9. Comp. Lev. xxvi. 30; Jer. xvi. 18. (2) Usage, however, is rather in favour of some allusion to necromantic rites, as in Deut. xviii. 11, "one who seeketh to the dead;" Is. viii. 19, "should a people seek to the dead (by the aid of necromancers, consulting them, as Saul consulted the Witch of En-dor), on behalf of the living?"
So Selden, De Diis Syris, i. 5, understands this place of sacrifices offered Dis manibus. Hupfeld objects that in Num. xxv. 2 the same sacrifices are called "sacrifices of their gods," and that sacrifices to the dead would scarcely be accompanied by sacrificial feasts. This last objection has no force.

This 28th verse, as Delitzsch remarks, is of historical importance, as having given rise to the prohibition of flesh offered in sacrifice to idols. In the T. B. 'Abodali Zarah, Perek 29b, in a comment on the words of the Mishnah, "The flesh which is intended to be offered to idols is allowed (to derive a profit from), but that which comes from the temple is forbidden, because it is like sacrifices of the dead," it is observed, ib. 32b: "R. Jehudah b. Bethera said, 'Whence do I know that that which is offered to idols pollutes like a dead body? From Ps. cvi. 28. As the dead pollutes everything which is with him under the same roof, so also does all which is offered in sacrifice to idols.'" St. Paul teaches that the pollution, when it exists, is not in the meat which has been offered in sacrifice, but in the conscience of the eater. I Cor. x. 28, 29.

29. GAVE PROVOCATION. The verb used absol., without a case, as other verbs in ver. 7, 32, 43, a peculiarity of the writer of this Psalm.

A PLAGUE. The word is used of a Divine judgement, more commonly of sickness, but here, as in Num. xxv. 8, 9, 18, of the slaughter accomplished by human instruments. Comp. Ex. xxxii. 35.

BRAKE IN, or "made a breach" (for the verb is from the same root as the noun in ver. 23). Comp. Ex. xix. 24.

30. STOOD. See the similar expression, Num. xxv. 7, "And when Phinehas saw it, he rose up;" and the same verb as here, Num. xvi. 48 [xvii. 13], of Aaron's intercession. It is a picture of the one zealous man rising up from the midst of the inactive multitude, who sit still and make no effort.

DID JUDGEMENT, not, as in P.B.V., following the Chald. and Syr. "prayed" (i.e. interceded), a meaning which the verb never has in this conjugation (Piel), but only in the Hithpael. The LXX. give the sense only when they render etaaaro (Vulg. placavit). This righteous act of judgement, like the intercession of Aaron, was propitiatory; it appeased and turned away the wrath of God; "and the plague was stayed;" words borrowed from Num. xxv. 8; comp. Num. xvi. 48 [xvii. 13]. The two figures, Aaron standing with the incense, and with the true priestly heart, between the dead and the living, and making atonement, and Phinehas as the minister of righteous vengeance turning away wrath, form a striking and instructive contrast. The one makes atonement in saving life, the other in destroying it.
31 And it was counted unto him for righteousness, Unto all generations for evermore.

32 They angered (God) also at the waters of Meribah, And it went ill with Moses for their sakes.

33 For they rebelled against His Spirit, And he spake unadvisedly with his lips.

34 They did not destroy the peoples, As Jehovah had said unto them;

31. IT WAS COUNTED UNTO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS; it was looked upon as a righteous act, and rewarded accordingly. The same thing is said of the faith of Abraham, Gen. xv. 6; a striking instance of the fearlessness of expression which is to be found in the Scriptures, as compared with the dogmatic forms of modern controversial theology. This verse has given occasion to whole disquisitions on the subject of justification, with which it really has nothing to do, though at least the language is in perfect accordance with that of St. James (ii. 20-26).

The reward of this righteousness was the perpetual continuance of the priesthood in his family (Num. xxv. 12, 13).

UNTO ALL GENERATIONS, &c. lit. for generation and generation, to (all) eternity," a remarkable instance of the hyperbolic way in which this and similar phrases are employed, and one which is a warning against hastily building doctrines upon mere words.

32. The sixth instance of transgression — the rebellion against Moses and Aaron at Meribah, in the fortieth year of the wandering, NUM. xx. 2-13

IT WENT ILL WITH. This must be the meaning here (though elsewhere the same phrase means "it grieved, or displeased," as in Neh. ii. 10, xiii. 8; Jon. iv. 1). Comp. Deut. i. 57, iii. 26, "also Jehovah was angry with me for your sakes," The reason why Moses was forbidden to enter the Promised Land is here stated more distinctly than in the narrative. It was the exasperation into which he suffered himself to be betrayed in uttering the words in Num. xx. 10; though the impatient spirit was shown also in striking the rock twice.

33. THEY REBELLED AGAINST HIS SPIRIT. Three explanations of this line have been given. (1) By "his spirit" has been understood the spirit of Moses, and accordingly the line has been rendered in the E. V. "they provoked his spirit." This, however, is to give a meaning to the verb which it never has. Hence De Wette, "they strove against his spirit." (2) The words have been understood of disobedience against God: "They rebelled against His (God's) Spirit." Comp. Is. lxiii. 10, " But they rebelled and vexed His Holy Spirit," with Ps. lxxviii. 40. But (3), retaining this last explanation, it is still a question what is the subject of the verb. It may be said of Moses and Aaron, that they rebelled (see Num. xx. 24, xxvii. 14), but it is better to assume that the people are the subject, the two clauses of ver, 33 thus answering to the two of ver. 32.

34. Disobedience in the land of Canaan itself, especially in not rooting out the nations (as enjoined) Ex. xxiii. 32, 33, and often repeated, Josh. xxiii. 12, 13, and the adoption of their idolatrous worship.

AS JEHOVAH HAD SAID, the construction may be either (1) "Which thing Jehovah had said unto them;" or (2) "Concerning whom Jehovah
35 But they mixed themselves with the nations,
And learned their works;
36 And they served their idols,
And they became unto them a snare;
37 And they sacrificed their sons and their daughters to false gods;
38 And they shed innocent blood,
The blood of their sons and their daughters,
Which they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan;
And the land was polluted with bloodshed.
39 And they were defiled with their works,
And went a-whoring with their doings.

40 Then the anger of Jehovah was kindled against His people,
And He abhorred His own inheritance.
41 And He gave them into the hand of the nations,
And their haters ruled over them.
42 And their enemies oppressed them,
And they were bowed down under their hand.
43 Many a time did He deliver them,
But they rebelled (against Him) in their counsel,
And were brought low through their iniquity.

had commanded them," as in the E.V.
36. A SNARE, as the warning ran, Ex. xxiii. 33, xxxiv. 12; Deut. vii. 16. Of the abominations of the heathen, that of human sacrifices, as in the worship of Moloch, is especially dwelt upon. This was an offering to FALSE GODS (Heb. Shedim), lit. "lords," like Bealim, 'Adonim, and then applied to gods (as the forms Shaddai, 'Adonai, were confined to Jehovah); see the same word Deut. xxxii. 17, for which in Jud. ii. 11, Bealim. The LXX. render δαμαντιοις, and Jerome daemonibus, whence the E.V. has "devils."
38. POLLUTED. The strongest word, taken from Num. xxxv. 33; comp. Is. xxiv. 5. The land, the very soil itself, was polluted and accursed, as well as the inhabitants (ver. 39).
40-43. The terrible and repeated judgements of God.
42. THEY WERE BOWED DOWN, elsewhere said of the enemies of Israel, Jud. iii. 30, iv. 23, viii. 28, xi. 33.
43. IN THEIR COUNSEL, as in lxxxi. 12 [13]; Jer. vii. 24, emphatically opposed to the counsel and purpose of God.
WERE BROUGHT LOW, Lev. xxvi. 39.
44 But He looked upon their distress,
    When He heard their cry.
45 And He remembered for them His covenant,
    And pitied them according to the greatness of His
    loving-kindness.
46 And He made them to find compassion
    In the presence of all who carried them captive.
47 Save us, 0 Jehovah our God,
    And gather us from the nations,
    That we may give thanks unto Thy Holy Name;
    That we may glory in Thy praise.

48 Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Israel,
    From everlasting even to everlasting.
    And let all the people say, Amen!  
    Hallelujah !

| 44. The Psalmist turns now to  | behalf of his brethren who were  |
| the other side of God's dealings | still dispersed.                  |
| with His people. It was not all | GLORY IN THY PRAISE, or "deem    |
| anger, if they forgot His covenant,| ourselves happy in that we can    |
| He remembered it. Even in the | praise Thee." The verb is the    |
| land of their captivity, He softened| reflexive form (Hithpael), which  |
| the hearts of their captors. | occurs only in this Psalm.       |
| THEIR CRY. The word which is    | 48. The last verse is merely a    |
| often used of the song of joy, here, | Doxology, added at a time sub-    |
| as in I Kings viii. 28, of the cry of  | sequent to the composition of the |
| distress. | Psalm, to mark the close of the  |
| 45. PITIED THEM, or "repented," | Book. The first line varies but   |
| as in xc. 13. | slightly from that at the end of |
| 46. MADE THEM TO FIND, &c., | lxxii., "Blessed be Jehovah God,  |
| lit. "Made them for (an object of) compassions, or tender mercies." | the God of Israel."            |
| There is a reference to Solomon's | The Chronicler who quotes this    |
| prayer, 1 Kings viii. 50. Comp. | verse (see Introduction to this Psalm|
| Neh. i. 11; Dan. i. 9. For the | and cv.), changes the wish "Let all |
| construction, see Gen. xliii. 14. | the people say, Amen," into the   |
| 47. The grace of God, already  | historic tense, "And all the people |
| shown to His people, leads to the | said Amen, and praised Jehovah"   |
| prayer of this verse—a supplication | (1 Chron. xvi. 36). The fact that he |
| for which the whole Psalm has | has incorporated this verse as well |
| prepared the way. The language | as the preceding in his Psalm, is a |
| would seem to indicate that the | proof that already in his time the |
| Psalm was written in exile, though | Psalter was divided, as at present, |
| the same prayer might also have | into Books, the Doxology being      |
| been uttered by one of those who | regarded as an integral portion of |
| returned in the first caravan, on| the Psalm.                        |
THE PSALMS

BOOK V.

PSALMS CVII.-CL.
PSALM CVII.

IT has already been observed in the General Introduction to this work (Vol. I. p. 71) that there is no obvious reason why, in the division of the Psalter into Five Books, the doxology marking the close of the Fourth Book should have been placed at the end of the 106th Psalm. On the contrary, the 106th and 107th Psalms seem to have certain links of connection, and many critics have supposed that they are the work of the same author.

Not only are the opening words of the two Psalms identical, but what is the subject of prayer in the one is the subject of thanksgiving in the other. In cvi. 47 the Psalmist prays that God would gather Israel from the heathen: in cvii. 3 he exhorts Israel to give thanks to Him who has brought them back from their captivity.*

Some expositors have even gone so far as to maintain that the four Psalms, civ.-cvii., were designed to constitute a complete tetralogy arranged in chronological order, beginning with the narrative of creation (Ps. civ.), going on to the history of the patriarchs and the early history of Israel (Ps. cvi.), pursuing the fortunes of the nation in the Promised Land, and even down to the time of the Captivity (Ps. cvi.), and finally celebrating the deliverance from Babylon, and the return of the exiles (Ps. cvii.). But the connection between Ps. civ. and those which follow it is by no means so close as that between the three Psalms, cv.-cvii.

"These three anonymous Psalms," says Delitzsch, "form a trilogy in the strictest sense, and are in all probability a tripartite whole from the hand of one author." Philipson takes the same view, remarking that the Poet has shown consummate art in the form which he has given to the whole, and the disposition and grouping of his materials. He thus traces the connection: "In the first part (Ps. cv.) the Poet has set forth the benefits of God, and the effect produced by them: in the second (Ps. cvi), only the sins of Israel, and the loss and suffering thereby incurred; in the third (Ps. cvii.), the deliverance, into the picture of which he has skilfully introduced both the sufferings

* On these grounds both Ewald and Hengstenberg regard these two Psalms as closely connected.
of his people and also their return to their God. The first part is bright with praise and thanksgiving, the second gloomy and terrifying, the third full of exhortation and encouragement. And how skilful is the transition from one part to another! At the close of the first division (cv. 45), an intimation is given that Israel had not accomplished the purpose for which Canaan had been given him as an inheritance; at the close of the second (cvi. 45), we already see the dawn of approaching redemption."

Delitzsch, who traces the connection in a similar way, points to the three following passages as confirming it: "He gave them the lands of the heathen" (cv. 44); "He threatened to cast forth their seed among the heathen, and to scatter them in the lands" (cvi. 27); "And He hath gathered them from the lands, from the East, and the West," &c. (cvii. 3). Other expressions, he observes, occur which link the three Psalms together. Egypt is called in them "the land of Ham," cv. 23, 27, cvi. 22, and Israel "the chosen of Jehovah," cv. 6, 43, cvi. 5 (comp. 23). In cv. 19, cvii. 20, there is an approach to the hypostatic sense of the "word " of God.* In cvi. 14, cvii. 4, y'shimon is the word used to describe the waste, the wilderness. To these characteristics may be added the use of the Hithpael conjugation in all the Psalms, cv. 3, cvi. 5, cvi. 47, cvii. 27. In all alike there is the same absence of strophical arrangement.† In all there is evidence of a partiality for the later chapters of Isaiah (xl.-lxvi.) and the Book of Job. This is more especially noticeable in the 107th Psalm, where the Poet is more at liberty, as he is no longer re-capitulating the history of his nation.

But ingenious as all this is, it rests on the assumption that the 107th Psalm, like the other two, is historical, and is designed chiefly to celebrate the return from the Babylonish captivity. The second and third verses of the Psalm are supposed to mark the occasion for which it was written, and the rest of the Psalm is held to exhibit, by means of certain examples of peril and deliverance, either in a figure the miseries of the Exile, or literally the various incidents of the homeward journey.

Such an interpretation, however, can scarcely be maintained. No doubt the deliverance from Babylon is uppermost in the Psalmist's thoughts (ver. 2, 3), and this suggests the various instances of God's providential care. Wanderers in the desert, captives, the sick and

* See, however, the notes on those passages.
† This can hardly be maintained with regard to Ps. cvii. At least to the end of ver. 32 the strophical arrangement is clearly marked by the double refrain, "Then they cried unto Jehovah," &c., and "Let them thank Jehovah for His loving-kindness," &c.
suffering, the merchant and the mariner have experienced that care, and have had reason to acknowledge it with gratitude. But it is unnatural to regard these various examples, taken from every-day experience, as a figurative description of the Exile; it is quite impossible, in particular, that the picture of the seafarers should represent the sufferings of captivity, though it certainly might form one part of the story of the return; for the exiles are here described, not merely as coming back from Babylon, but from all the countries of their dispersion (comp. Jer. xvi. 15, xl. 12; Dan. ix. 7).

It is obvious that this Psalm is not historical. It describes various incidents of human life, it tells of the perils which befall men, and the goodness of God in delivering them, and calls upon all who have experienced His care and protection gratefully to acknowledge them; and it is perfectly general in its character. The four (or five) groups, or pictures, are so many samples taken from the broad and varied record of human experience.

Such a Psalm would have been admirably adapted to be sung in the Temple-worship, at the offering of the thank-offerings.

But, whatever may have been the circumstances under which the Psalm was written, or the particular occasion for which it was intended, there can be no doubt as to the great lesson which it inculcates. It teaches us not only that God's providence watches over men, but that His ear is open to their prayers. It teaches us that prayer may be put up for temporal deliverance, and that such prayer is answered. It teaches us that it is right to acknowledge with thanksgiving such answers to our petitions. This was the simple faith of the Hebrew Poet.

It is needless to say how readily such a faith is shaken now. First, there is the old and obvious objection that all such prayers, even when offered by men of devout mind, are not answered. Calvin notices the difficulty, quoting the story of the wit, who when he entered the temple, and observed the votive tablets suspended there by merchants, recording their escape from shipwreck by the favour of the gods, sarcastically remarked, "I see no record of those who perished in the sea, and yet the number of them must be immense." Calvin replies, as might be expected, that though a hundred-fold more are lost than escape, still God's goodness is not obscured; that He exercises judgement as well as mercy; that all deserve destruction, and that therefore His sovereign mercy ought to be acknowledged in every instance where it is displayed. It would have been better, surely, to have replied, that answers to prayer are not all of one kind; and that God as really answers His children's supplication when He gives them strength and resignation in prison or in sickness, as when
He "breaks in pieces the bars of iron," or "sends His word and heals them"; when He suffers them to sink beneath the raging waters, with heaven open to their eyes, as when He "brings them to their desired haven." Closely akin to this, there arises another question. Does God ever answer prayer by direct action upon the material world? Are not the laws of the universe the expression of His will? Are they not, therefore, unchangeable? And is it not both presumptuous and selfish to ask Him to change the phenomena, which are the result of those laws: presumptuous, because we thus dictate to Him what is best for us; selfish, because the blessing we crave may be at the expense of injury and loss to others? I conceive it may be replied, that it is not for the most part by immediate action in the material world that God grants our petitions. Even if we were forced to concede that now, since the age of miracles is past, God never so acts, still this should not trouble us, seeing how wide the region is in which indirectly our prayers even for temporal blessings may be answered. "Thus, for instance" (I venture to repeat what I have said elsewhere*), "we pray that the cholera or the murrain may be stayed. God does not with His own hand take away the plague; but He puts it into the heart of some physician to find the remedy which will remove it. He does not hush the storm in a moment; but He gives the mariner courage and skill to steer before it till he reach the haven. He does not shower bread from heaven in a famine; but He teaches the statesman how, with wise forethought and patient endeavours, at least to mitigate the calamity. How often we speak of happy inspirations, little knowing what we mean when we speak thus! And how unable we are to trace the chain! We cannot see God's Spirit prompting the prayer, or suggesting the remedy which shall be the answer to the prayer. But the antecedent and the consequent are as really there, the links of the chain are as essential as they are in any of the phenomena of the material world, which present themselves to our bodily senses. And thus the answer comes not by direct interference with the laws of nature, but in accordance with the laws of the spiritual world, by the Divine action on the heart of man." If so, then the answer may be acknowledged with devout thanksgiving, and men may praise the Lord for His goodness.

The Psalm consists of six groups, with a preface (ver. 1-3), and a conclusion (ver. 41). The preface and the conclusion alike give the theme or key-note of the Psalm. The first four groups are marked

* The Feast of harvest. A Sermon preached in St. Peter's Church, Carmarthen, p. 19. [I have discussed the subject still more fully in a Sermon on "Prayer and Natural Law" in a volume of sermons recently published by Isbister and Co., 1874]
by the double refrain, the two last have but a slight connection with the others (see note on ver. 33). The grammatical structure is peculiar. In the first part of the Psalm the strophes, except the first, begin with a particle or adjective of the subject, the predicate being virtually contained in the verb of the refrain: *Let them give thanks.*

1 "O GIVE thanks unto Jehovah, for He is good,
    For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever,"
2 Let the ransomed of Jehovah say (so),
    Whom He hath ransomed from the hand of the adversary.
3 And gathered them out of the lands,
    From the East and from the West,
    From the North and from the South.a
4 They wandered in the wilderness, in a pathless waste;b
    A city where men dwell they found not:

| 1. The Psalm opens with the    | (comp. Is. xi. 12, lvi. 8, and often) |
| same doxological formula as cvi., | of the return from the Captivity. |
| only here it is put into the mouth | For the same picture see Is. xiii. |
| of the exiles returned from Babylon. | 5, 6, xlix. 12. The exiles free to |
| For a similar opening see cxviii. | return are seen flocking, not from |
| 1-4. In earlier Psalms where | Babylon only, but from all lands, |
| phrases of the kind occur, they do | "like doves to their windows." Cf. |
| not stand at the beginning of the | cv. 44, cvi. 27. |
| Psalm, and the verb "say" pre- | THE SOUTH, lit. "the sea" (if the |
| cedes the doxology instead of | text is correct), which everywhere |
| following it; see xxxv. 27, xl. 16 | else means the West (the Mediterranea- |
| [17]. | nian Sea), but must obviously here |
| It is the old liturgical doxology | denote the South. Hence the |
| which, as in Jer. xxxiii. 11, is to be | Chald. understands by "the Sea," |
| heard in the mouth of the captives | the Southern Sea (i.e. the Arabian |
| restored to their own land. | Gulf); others again, the Southern |
| 2. RANSOMED OF JEHOVAH; as | (Indian) Ocean; but as these ex- |
| in Is. lixii. 12 (whence it may have | planations are contrary to usage, |
| been borrowed), lxiiii. 4; comp. | there is reason to question the |
| xxxv. 9, 10. | correctness of the text. See more |
| THE ADVERSARY, the oppressor | in Critical Note. |
| in Babylon; or the word may mean, | 4. The first example: the caravan |
| as in ver. 6, "distress." (So Ibn Ez. | which has lost its way in the desert. |
| and Qimchi.) "From the hand of | The interpretation of the verse will |
| distress" might be said in Hebrew, | vary according to the view we take |
| in the same way as "from the hand | of its connection with the prece- |
| of the dog" (xxii. 20). | ding. |
| 3. GATHERED THEM, as in cvi. 47, and generally in the Prophets | (i.) We may take "the ransomed |
| | of Jehovah" (ver. 2) as the subject |
5 Hungry and thirsty,
    Their soul fainted in them:
6 Then they cried unto Jehovah in their trouble,
    (And) He delivered them out of their distresses;
7 He led them by a straight way,
    That they might go to a city where men dwell.

of the verb; and then (a), by those who adopt the historical interpretation of the Psalm, the picture which follows has been held to be a description either (1) of what befell the Jews who (Jer. xliii.) fled into the wilderness to escape the Chaldeans after the taking of Jerusalem; or (2) of the perils encountered by the caravans of exiles as they crossed long tracts of sandy desert on their return; or (3) intended to set forth in a figure the miseries of the Exile itself. Or (b) "the ransomed of Jehovah" may be taken in a wider sense, as denoting, not the captives at Babylon, but all Jews exposed to the risks and hardships of foreign travel. So Calvin: "Et primo ad gratitudinem hortatur qui ex longinqua et difficili peregrinatione, adeoque ex servitute et vinculis, domum incolumes reversi sunt. Tales autem vocat redemptos Dei, quia per desertum et invias solitudines vagando saepius a reditu exclusi essent, nisi Deus, quasi porrecta manu, ducem se illis praebuisset."

(ii.) The subject of the verb may be changed, and this, either because (a) the Psalmist, having begun to speak of God's goodness to the exiles, restored by His hand to the land of their fathers, goes on to speak of other instances in which His goodness has been manifested. Or (b), because the first three verses were a liturgical addition, framed with particular reference to the return from Babylon, and prefixed to a poem originally designed to have a wider scope.

THEY WANDERED. The subject of the verb (see last note) may be "men" generally. The incident described was doubtless not uncommon. The usual track of the caravan is lost—obliterated, perhaps, by the sandstorm.

A CITY WHERE MEN DWELL, lit. "a city of habitation" (as E.V.). No particular city is meant, as P.B.V., " the city where they dwelt," much less is Jerusalem intended, but 'any inhabited city, as opposed to the uninhabited wilderness. The expression recurs in verses 7, 36.

5. FAINTED, lit. "covered itself," as with darkness, sorrow, and the like, as in lxxvii. 3 [4], cxlii. 3 [4], cxliii. 4; Jon. ii. 7 [8].

6. THEN THEY CRIED. SO it ever is: only the pressure of a great need forces men to seek God. Prayer is not only the resource of good men, but of all men in trouble. It is a natural instinct even of wicked men to turn to God at such times: "Si graviori in discrimine versentur, etiam sine certa meditazione, ad Deum invocandum natura duce et magistra impelli."—Calvin.

JEHOVAH. Hengstenberg alleges the use of this Name instead of the more general one, Elohim, God, in proof that the Psalmist is speaking not of men at large, but only of Jews (and that hence the Psalm refers to the return from the Captivity at Babylon). The heathen, he objects, would not be said to call upon Jehovah. But surely a Jew even when speaking of the general providence of God, would have Jews chiefly before his mind as embraced in that providence, and as naturally would use the name of God which was dearest to him as a
8 Let them give thanks to Jehovah for His loving-kindness,
And for His wonders to the children of men:
9 For He satisfieth the longing soul,
And filleth the hungry soul with good.
10 They that sat in darkness and the shadow of death,
Being bound in affliction and iron,
11 Because they rebelled against the words of God,
And despised the counsel of the Most High,
12 And He brought down their heart with labour,
They stumbled, and there was none to help
13 Then they cried unto Jehovah in their trouble,
(And) He saved them out of their distresses;
14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
And brake their bonds asunder;--

Jew. The distinction between Jew and Gentile would be lost sight of altogether.
8. Others render, "Let them praise His loving-kindness before Jehovah, and His wonders before the children of men," i.e. let them confess His goodness before God and man. The parallelism may perhaps be more accurately preserved by this rendering, but grammatically it is not necessary. It is also doubtful whether we have here the expression of a wish, "Let them give thanks;" or the statement of a past fact, "they gave thanks." In support of the latter rendering may be alleged the frequent use of the same tense in the Psalm as a past ("a relative preterite," Hupf.); see on xviii., note c. But the analogy of ver. 2, which is clearly optative, makes the former the more probable.
9. There is a reference to ver. 5; "longing" answers to "thirsty," as in Is. xxix. 8.
10-16. The second example—that of prisoners.
10. DARKNESS, &c. The same expression occurs Is. xlii. 7, xlix. 9; Micah vii. 8, of the gloom of the prison-house. Comp. Virgil. AEn. vi. 734, "Neque auras Respiciunt, clausx tenebris et carcere caco."

AFFLICTION AND IRON. Comp. the fuller phrase Job xxxvi. 8, "bound in fetters, and holden in cords of affliction."
11. WORDS . . . COUNSEL. The commandments of God as given in the Law, and His counsel as declared by his prophets, are chiefly meant; for throughout the passage language is employed which implies the theocratic position of Israel. But the reference may be wider. The law written in the conscience, the instruction given by inner revelation (comp. xvi. 7) need not be excluded. So the verb THEY DESPISED is used both in the theocratic sense of blasphemy (Num. xiv. 11, 23, xvi. 30; Deut. xxxi. 20), and also in a more general sense, as in the rejection of the counsels of wisdom (Prov. i. 30, v. 12, xv. 5).
12. AND HE BROUGHT, &c. Some would begin the apodosis here, "So He brought," &c., or "Therefore He brought," &c.; but in that case, as on any interpretation, the participles in ver. to must be a nominativus pendens, the
15 Let them give thanks to Jehovah for His loving-kindness,
And for His wonders to the children of men:
16 For He brake the doors of brass,
And cut the bars of iron in sunder.

17 Foolish men, because of the way of their transgression,
And because of their iniquities, bring affliction upon themselves;
18 Their soul abhorreth all manner of food,
And they draw near to the gates of death:

construction not being completed till ver. 15, see note on that verse.
Ritz. with more probability makes the nominative in ver. to taken up in ver. 13, verses 11 and 12 being parenthetical: "They that sat in darkness, &c. (because they rebelled, &c.), they cried unto Jehovah."

15. The construction of the whole passage, beginning with ver. 10, is only completed here. The participial subject, "they that sat, or sit," &c., finds here its verb. The intervening verses, 11-14, are to a certain extent parenthetical: ver. 11, 12 giving the reason, and ver. 13, 14 the consequences, of the chastisement. The verbs in ver. 10, 13, 14, might all be rendered as presents.

16. The expressions are apparently taken from Is. xlv. 2.

17-22. Third example: sick persons brought by their sickness to the edge of the grave.

17. FOOLISH MEN so called because of the moral infatuation which marks their conduct, as in xiv. 1, where see notes; men of earthly, sensual, selfish minds, who turn a deaf ear to warning, and despise counsel (comp. Prov. i. 7, xii. 15, xiv. 3, 9, XV. 5, xxvii. 22), and who can only be brought to reason by chastisement. The expression seems quite to exclude the notion that the allusion is to "a party of sick exiles, enfeebled probably by labours, or by uncongenial climates, so that their soul abhorred all manner of meat, and they were hard at death's door."—Liddon. Such persons would not be described as "foolish," but rather as objects of pity. The noun "foolishness," xxxviii. 5 [6], is from the same root, and is used in the same ethical sense. See note there.

THE WAY OF THEIR TRANSGRESSION. The expression is used to denote the course of conduct, the habit of the life, and is not merely pleonastic.

BRING AFFLICTION UPON THEMSELVES. The proper reflexive significance of the conjugation is by all means to be retained. It most expressively marks how entirely a man brings upon himself his own punishment. The same form of the verb is used, but with a somewhat different shade of meaning, in 1 Kings ii. 26. There it rather denotes the involuntary submission to suffering. [Delitzsch would give this sense here, and in 1 Kings ii. 26 explains the Hithp., "geflissentlich leiden." He is quite right in adding, "refines Passivum affligebantur ist es nicht."] I have here, and in what follows, after the example of our translators, preferred the present tense to the past. This change of tense exists in the Hebrew, and the rendering gives more force and animation to the picture; though it would certainly be possible to continue the use of the past tense throughout. See on xviii., note c.

18. Comp. the similar passage, Job xxxiii. 20-22.
19 Then they cry unto Jehovah in their trouble,  
   He saveth them out of their distresses:  
20 He sendeth His word, and healeth them,  
   And rescueth them from their graves.  
21 Let them give thanks to Jehovah for His loving-kindness,  
   And for His wonders to the children of men:  
22 And let them sacrifice sacrifices of thanksgiving,  
   And tell of His works with a song of joy.  
23 They that go down to the sea in ships,  

20. HE SENDETH HIS WORD.  
The same expression occurs in cxlvii. 15, 18; see also cv. 19, and  
comp. Is. ix. 8 [7], lv. 11. We  
detect in such passages the first  
glimmering of St. John's doctrine  
of the agency of the persona Word.  
The Word by which the heavens  
were made (xxxiii. 6) is seen to be  
not merely the expression of God's  
will, but His messenger mediating  
between Himself and His creatures.  
It is interesting to compare with  
this the language of Elihu in the  
parallel passage of Job xxxiii. 23,  
where what is here ascribed to the  
agency of the Word is ascribed to  
that of the "mediating angel, or  
messenger." Theodoret observes:  
Ο θεός Λόγος ένανθρωπήγας και ἀπο-  
σταλείς ως άνθρωπος τά παντόδαπα  
τών ψυχών ἱάσατο τράιματα, και τοὺς  
διαφθορέντας ἀνέρρωσε λογισμοῦς  
Too much stress, however, must  
ot be laid on the use of the  
verb "sendeth." Comp. cxi. 9,  
"He sent redemption unto His  
people."  

GRAVES. The word may be taken  
in this sense, in allusion to their  
nearness to death, ver. 18; others  
derstand by it "pits" metaphorically, the pit of suffering  
into which they have sunk. (So  
Delitzsch, referring to Lam. iv. 10,  
and the similar form in Prov.  
xxviii. 10.) Hitz. from their sins  
(Dan. vi. 5) into whose powers they  
have given themselves (Job viii. 4),  
which have taken hold of the doer  
of them (Ps. xl. 13); i.e. the  
consequences of their sins. He  
therefore connects the word with  
ἡνίσψ in the sense of corruption, as  
The LXX. ἐκ τῶν διαφθορών αὐτῶν.  
23-32. Fourth example: sea-  
farers tossed and driven by the  
tempest, and brought at last safe  
into port. The description may  
be compared with the language of  
Jonah i., ii. It is the most highly  
finished, the most thoroughly poet-  
ical of each of the four pictures of  
human peril and deliverance. It is  
painted as a landsman would paint  
it, but yet only as one who had  
himself been exposed to the dan-  
ger could paint the storm — the  
waves running mountains high, on  
which the tiny craft seemed a play-  
thing, the helplessness of human  
skill, the gladness of the calm, the  
safe refuge in the haven.  

Addison remarks, that he prefers  
this description of a ship in a storm  
before any others he had ever met  
with, and for the same reason for  
which "Longinus recommends one  
in Homer, because the poet has not  
amused himself with little fancies  
upon the occasion, as authors of an  
inferior genius, whom he mentions,  
had done, but because he has  
gathered together those circum-  
cstances which are the most apt to  
terrify the imagination, and which  
really happened in the raging of a  
tempest." By the way, he adds,  
"how much more comfortable as  
well as rational is this system of
That do business in great waters,
24 These men have seen the works of Jehovah,
And His wonders in the deep.
25 For He commandeth and raiseth a stormy wind,
Which lifteth up the waves thereof.
26 They mount up to the heaven,
They go down (again) to the depths;
Their soul melteth away because of (the) trouble.
27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man,
And are at their wits' end:

the Psalmist, than the pagan scheme
in Virgil and other poets, where one
dehity is represented as raising a
storm, and another as laying it!
Were we only to consider the sub-
limine in this piece of poetry, what
can be nobler than the idea it gives
us of the Supreme Being thus rais-
ing a tumult among the elements,
and recovering them out of their
confusion; thus troubling and be-
calming nature?"--Spectator, No.
489.

23. GO DOWN TO THE SEA, as in
Is. xlii. 10; Jon. i. 3.
BUSINESS. There is no need to
restrict this to the management of
craft by seamen. It includes the
occupations of fishermen, traders,
persons on a voyage, &c.

24. THE WORKS OF JEHOVAH,
AND HIS WONDERS, i.e. His rule
of the elements: how at His word
the storm raises the billows high as
heaven, how at His words it sinks
down hushed and gentle as the
soft breath of summer.

25. FOR HE COMMANDETH, lit.
"and He said," the phrase which
occurs so often in Gen. i. to de-
scribe God's creative fiat. Compare
the use of the same word in cv.
31, 34.

THE WAVES THEREOF, i.e. of the
sea, the pronominal suffix referring
to the remote noun in ver. 23, as
is not uncommonly the case in
Hebrew. (See for a still more re-
markable instance of this, cxi. 10,
where the plural pronoun "them"
can only refer to the word "statutes"
in ver. 7.) In sense it may also
refer to the noun "deep" in ver. 24,
but not in grammar, this noun
being feminine.

26. THEY MOUNT UP, i.e. not
"the waves," but "the seafarers."
The same expression occurs, but in
a different sense, in civ. 8, where
see note.

27. REEL TO AND FRO, or, even
more exactly, "spin round and
round."

ARE AT THEIR WITS' END, lit
"all their wisdom (skill, resources,
&c.) swalloweth itself up," or, "com-
eth of itself to nought," *(Comp.
Is. xix. 3, "I will bring his counsel
to nought.") The Hithpael occurs
only here. Possibly the figure may

* The whole description up to this point finds a striking parallel in
Ovid, Trist. i. 2:

"Me miserum quanti montes volvuntur aquarum:
Jamjam tacturos sidera summa putes.
Quantae diducto subsidunt aquore valles:
Jamjam tacturos Tartara nigra putes.
Rector in incerto est, nec quid fugiatve petatve
Invenit: ambiguix ars stupet ipsa malis."
28 Then they cry unto Jehovah in their trouble,
   And He bringeth them out of their distresses;
29 He husheth the storm to a gentle air,
   So that the waves thereof are still.
30 Then are they glad because they be quiet,
   And He leadeth them to their desired haven.
31 Let them give thanks to Jehovah for His loving-kindness,
   And for His wonders to the children of men;
32 Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people,
   And praise Him in the seat of the elders.
33 He turneth rivers into a wilderness,
   And water-springs into a thirsty ground;
34 A fruitful land into a salt-marsh,
   Because of the wickedness of them that dwell therein.

have been taken from the Syrtes,
   or a whirlpool.
29. A GENTLE AIR. This, and not absolute "stillness," "calm"
(Symm. γαλήνη), seems to be the meaning of the word, or they could not move on to the haven. Comp. I Kings xix. 12, and so the LXX. and Aq. αὐρα. J. D. Mich. quotes Virgil's equate stirant aurae.
   THE WAVES THEREOF, lit. "their waves," but the plural suffix must refer to the sea, and may perhaps have been occasioned by the plural "great waters" in ver. 23. See note on ver. 25. Others refer the plural pronoun to the seafarers: "their waves," i.e. those on which they are tossed, and which threaten to engulf them.
30. BE QUIET. A word used of the quiet of the sea after a storm, Jon. i. 11, 12, and only once besides, Prov. xxvi. 20, of the ceasing of contention.
   HAVEN. This is probably the meaning of the word, but it occurs nowhere else. Ibn Ezra renders "shore," "coast." Others explain: "sight (fr. ΠΗΠ) of their desire," i.e. the desired object, the land or haven in sight.

   32. SEAT or "assembly," conces-suss. See note on i. I.
33. The character of the Psalm changes at this point. We have no longer distinct pictures as before: the beautiful double refrain is dropped, the language is harsher and more abrupt. Instead of fresh examples of deliverance from peril, and thanksgiving for God's mercies, we have now other instances of God's providential government of the world exhibited in two series of contrasts. The first of these is contained in ver. 33-39, and expresses a double change—the fruitful well-watered land smitten, like the rich plain of Sodom, with desolation, and changed into a salt-marsh (LXX. εἰς ἄλμην, Jer. in salsuginem;) and anon, the wilderness crowned with cities, like Tadmor (of which Pliny says, vasto ambitu arenis includit agros), and made fertile to produce corn and wine: the second is contained in ver. 40, 41, and expresses the changes in the fortunes of men (as the last series did those of countries), viz. how the poor and the humble are raised and the rich and the proud overthrown.
35 He turneth a wilderness into a pool of water, 
   And a dry land into water-springs. 
36 And there He maketh the hungry to dwell, 
   And they build a city to dwell in; 
37 And sow fields, and plant vineyards, 
   Which may yield the fruit of (yearly) produce. 
38 And He blesseth them so that they multiply greatly, 
   And He suffereth not their cattle to be minished. 
39 And again they are minished and brought low 
   Through oppression, evil, and sorrow. 
40 He poureth contempt upon princes,
And maketh them to wander in the waste where there is no way.'

41 And He setteth the poor on high out of affliction, And maketh families like a flock.

42 The upright see (it) and are glad, And all iniquity hath shut her mouth.

43 Who is wise that he should observe these things, And that they should understand the loving-kindnesses of Jehovah?

thesis to the following verse, but as suggesting also an antithesis to ver. 36.

41. LIKE A FLOCK: a figure expressive of large increase, as in Job xxi. 11.

42. The impression produced by these acts of Divine Providence. Comp. Job. v. i6.

43. The conclusion, in the form of a question, such as that with which Hosea concludes his prophecy, xiv. 10.

This verse might, however, also be rendered, either (i) "Who is wise and will observe these things? Let them understand, &c.," or (2, "Whoso is wise will observe, &c., and they shall understand, &c."

a בָּנֶת everywhere else (unless possibly in Is. xlix. 12, where it is opposed to כָּלָה) means the West, the "Sea" being the Mediterranean. That evidently cannot be the meaning here, where another word is already used for West. Perhaps, therefore, we ought to read בָּנֶת כָּלָה (Kost.) or בָּנֶת אֶת, as in Is. xliii. 5.

b מַג עַד. It seems unnecessary, with Olsh. and others, to read מַג עַד, as in ver. 40. The negative is implied in the word מַג. The noun "way" is the accus. of nearer definition, as it is called (Ges. § 118, 3), "Waste as to way" = "a region where there is no way," "a pathless desert." The LXX., Syr., Vulg., join מַג with what follows, "a way to a city of habitation," &c. Others would join it with יָרָד (errerunt a via), which, however, is too remote.

PSALM CVIII.

THIS Psalm consists of portions of two others, the first half of it being taken from the 57th Psalm, ver. 7-11 [8-12], and the latter half from the 60th, ver. 5-12 [7-14]. It bears the name of David, because the original passages both occur in Psalms ascribed to him as their author. But there is no reason for concluding that these
fragments were thus united by David himself. Some later Poet probably adapted them to circumstances of his own time; possibly wished thus to commemorate some victory over Edom or Philistia. The change in the tenth verse, as compared with the corresponding passage in the 60th Psalm, may be held to favour this view. There are a few other not very important variations of the text which will be pointed out in the notes.

For the interpretation at large, the notes on the other two Psalms may be consulted.

[A SONG. A PSALM OF DAVID.]

1 My heart is steadfast, 0 God;
   I will sing and play, yea, even my glory.
2 Awake, lute and harp,
   I will wake the morning-dawn.
3 I will give thanks unto Thee among the peoples, 0 Jehovah,
   And I will play unto Thee among the nations.
4 For great above the heavens is Thy loving-kindness,
   And Thy truth (reacheth) unto the skies.
5 Be Thou exalted above the heavens, 0 God,
   And Thy glory above all the earth.
6 That Thy beloved may be delivered,

| 1. MY HEART IS STEADFAST. In lvii. 7 [8] this is repeated. In the next member of the verse, MY GLORY has been made a second subject, "I, (even) my glory," instead of being joined with the following imperative, as in lvii. 8 [9]. MY GLORY, i.e. "my soul," with all those powers and faculties which belong to the rational being, as created in the image of God. See Gen. xlix. 6. |
| 3. ABOVE: comp. cxiii. 4. In xxxvi. 5 [6] the form of expression is somewhat different; "in the heavens . . . unto the clouds : " see also Jer. li. 9. |
| 6-13. These verses are taken from Ps. lx. The passage consists of two lines of the first strophe of that Psalm, and the second and third strophes complete. |
| 6. The construction of this verse is different from that in lx. 5 [7] Here it forms a complete sentence in itself, the first clause depending on the second. The verse was evidently necessary to soften the abruptness of the transition from the former passage to this. |
Save with Thy right hand, and answer me.
7 God hath spoken in His holiness:
   Let me exult, let me portion out Shechem,
   And the valley of Succoth let me mete out.
8 Mine is Gilead, mine Manasseh,
   Ephraim also is the defence of my head;
   Judah is my sceptre:
9 Moab is my washpot;
   Upon Edom will I cast my shoe;
   Over Philistia will I shout (in triumph).
10 Who will conduct me into the fenced city?
   Who hath led me unto Edom?
11 Hast not Thou, 0 God, cast us off?
   And wilt not go forth, 0 God, with our hosts?
12 0 give us help from the adversary,
   For vain is the salvation of man.
13 Through God we shall do valiantly,
   And HE shall tread down our adversaries.

ANSWER ME; here in the text,
and not the Massoretic correction, as in lx.
  9. On the change in this verse,
instead of "Because of me, 0 Philistia, cry aloud," the principal variation in the Psalm, see note on lx. 8.
  10. FENCED. The more common word mibtsar is used instead
of matsor in ix. The omission of the copula in
ver. 9a, and of the pronoun in ver. 11, are the only other variations of
any note.

PSALM CIX.

THIS is the last of the Psalms of imprecation, and completes the
terrible climax. The remarks already made in the Note on xxxv. 22,
in the Introduction to lxix. and the Note on ver. 22, and in the General
Introduction to Vol. I., pp. 62-65, may be consulted here.
This Psalm differs from the 96th in being levelled against one
enemy chiefly, not against many. This circumstance may partly
account for the even more intensely-wrought and detailed character
of the curse. In the awfulness of its anathemas, the Psalm surpasses
everything of the kind in the Old Testament. Who the person was who was thus singled out for execration, it is in vain to conjecture. Those who hold, in accordance with the Inscription, that the Psalm was written by David, suppose that Doeg or Cush, Shimei or Ahithophel, is the object of execration.

In Acts i. 20, St. Peter combines a part of the 8th verse of this Psalm, “his office let another take,” with words slightly altered from the 25th [Heb. 26th] verse of the 69th Psalm, and applies them to Judas Iscariot. Hence the Psalm has been regarded by the majority of expositors, ancient and modern, as a prophetic and Messianic Psalm. The language has been justified not as the language of David, but as the language of Christ, exercising His office of Judge, or, in so far as He had laid aside that office during His earthly life, calling upon His Father to accomplish the curse. It has been alleged that this is the prophetic foreshadowing of the solemn words, "Woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed; it were good for that man if he had not been born" (Matt. xxvi. 24). The curse, in the words of Chrysostom, "is a prophecy in form of a curse" (προφητεία ἐν εἴδει άρας).

The strain which such a view compels us to put on much of the language of the Psalm ought to have led long since to its abandonment. Not even the woes denounced by our Lord against the Pharisees can really be compared to the anathemas which are here strung together. Much less is there any pretence for saying that those words, so full of deep and holy sorrow, addressed to the traitor in the Gospels, are merely another expression of the appalling denunciations of the Psalm. But terrible as these undoubtedly are, —to be accounted for by the spirit of the Old Dispensation, not to be defended by that of the New,—still let us learn to estimate them aright. This is the natural voice of righteousness persecuted. These are the accents of the martyr, not smarting only with a sense of personal suffering, but feeling acutely, and hating nobly, the triumph of wickedness.*

* Calvin defends the imprecations on this ground partly, but goes further: "Tenendum est," he says, "Davidem quoties diras istas vel maledictionis vota concepit, nec immodico carnis affectu fuisse consumtum, nec privatam causam egisse, nec zelo inconsiderato fuisse accensum. Hoc tria diligenter notanda sunt." He then warns us not to allege the example of David when we are hurried away by our own passions,—for Christ's answer to His disciples will apply to us, "Ye know not of what spirit ye are,"—and severely comments on the sacrilege of the monks, and particularly the Franciscans, who could be hired to recite this Psalm as a curse against an enemy. He mentions as a fact coming within his own knowledge, that a lady of quality in France had hired some Franciscans to curse her only son in the words of this Psalm.
The strains of this Psalm are strains which have lingered even in
the Christian Church, not softened by "the meekness and gentleness
of Christ." Let any one read the closing passage of Tertullian's
treatise De Spectaculis, in which he does not hesitate to speak of the
joy and exultation with which, at the day of judgement, he shall look
upon the agonies of the damned, of the delight with which he shall
see the kings of the earth, and the rulers who persecuted the Name
of the Lord, melting in flames fiercer than those which they lighted
for the Christians, philosophers burning with their disciples, tragic
actors shrieking with real pain, the charioteer red upon his fiery wheel,
and the wrestler tossing in the flames, till the fierce invective ends in
a perfect shout of triumph as he thinks of the grandeur of the spec-
tacle—let any one, I say, read passages such as this, let him remember
how long it was held a sacred duty by Christian Fathers and Bishops
to persecute, and then let him pause before he passes a too sweeping
judgement on "the fierce vindictiveness" of the Jew.

A mode of interpretation has, however, sometimes been advocated
which would get rid of the difficulty connected with the imprecations,
by supposing them not to be uttered by the Psalmist, but to be
merely cited by him as the words of his enemies directed against
himself. We have only at the end of ver. 5 to supply the word
"saying" which is so commonly omitted in Hebrew before quota-
tions (see for instance ii. 2, xcvi. 7, 10), and all that follows to the
end of ver. 19 may be regarded as the malediction of the Psalmist's
enemies. This is the view of Kennicott and of Mendelssohn, and it
has been recently revived by Mr. Taylor (Gospel in the Law, p. 244,
&c.), who has also attempted to apply the same method in explaining
Ps. lxix. (ib. p. 225, &c.), though I cannot think successfully. For
not to mention that other passages of vindictive and impreca-
tory character remain, of which no such solution is possible, he is
obliged to give an interpretation of ver. 20 of this Psalm, which, to
say the least of it, is strained and improbable (see note on the verse).
It is moreover somewhat difficult to understand how the imprecations
of the Psalmist's enemies could be cited by St. Peter, Acts i. 20, as
prophetically descriptive of the fate of Judas. Would not this
almost imply that the Psalmist himself was a kind of Old Testament
Judas? Moreover, if we could account for every imprecation in the
Psalms on the principle advocated by Mr. Taylor, what are we to say
of such passages as the closing verses of Ps. lvi., or cxcix. 19, or
cxcix. 5-9?

Since the last edition of this work appeared, the view in question
has been maintained with very great ability by the Rev. Joseph
Hammond in a paper entitled An Apology for the Vindictive Psalm,
which appeared in the *Expositor*, vol. ii. pp. 225-360. He maintains the Davidic authorship of the Psalm, and thinks that it is directed against Shimei. He argues that the Psalm is admirably illustrated by the narrative in 2 Sam. xvi., always remembering that the Psalmist has forewarned us that the charges brought against him were "lying" and "deceitful" (verse 2). Verses 1-5 of the Psalm "would describe exactly the words and deeds of Shimei." He has traced step by step each point in the narrative in 2 Sam. which illustrates the language of the Psalm, and it must be admitted has made out a very strong case for the view that in verses 6-19 of the Psalm, David is quoting Shimei's curses against himself, and not indulging in curses of his own. He lays stress (a) on the change from the plural to the singular in ver. 6, and on the change back again from the singular to the plural in ver. 20; (b) on the verbal coincidences between the first and second sections of the Psalm; on the change between the tone and form of expression from ver. 20, and the resumption here of the complaint of the first section, that the Psalmist's adversaries "spoke evil against his soul"—that evil having meanwhile been put before us in the intervening section, 6-19. "The whole of this concluding section," he observes, "harmonizes, as it seems to me, with the first part, and is alien from the spirit of the second." I cannot, however, do more here than refer thus briefly to his able and exhaustive paper, which will well repay perusal.

In a series of papers in the third volume entitled *The Vindicative Psalms Vindicated*, he has discussed the whole subject of the Imprecations in the Psalms with a learning and a candour and a grasp of the subject of which it is impossible to speak too highly. I hope to advert more fully to these papers in the Appendix to this volume, but meanwhile I am sure my readers will thank me for directing their attention to them.

FOR THE PRECENTOR. A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 0 GOD of my praise, be not silent!
2 For a wicked mouth and a deceitful mouth have they
   opened against me;

| 1. GOD OF MY PRAISE, i.e. the object of my praise (Jer. xvii. 14). "The name contains the ground of the prayer. The God whom the Psalmist has hitherto found reason to praise will now also give him | fresh reason for praise. In this faith he offers the prayer: 'Be not silent' (comp. xxviii. I, xxxv. 22). God speaks when he interferes to judge and to save."—Delitzsch. |
| 2. A WICKED MOUTH, &c., lit. “a | |
They have spoken against me with a false tongue.
3 Yea with words of hatred have they compassed me about,
And fought against me without a cause.
4 For my love they are adversaries unto me,
But I (give myself unto) prayer.
5 They have requited me also evil for good,
And hatred for my love.
6 Set Thou a wicked man over him,
And let an adversary stand at his right hand.
7 When he is judged let him go forth condemned,
And let his prayer be turned into sin.

8 Let his days be few;
His office let another take.

9 Let his children be orphans,
And his wife a widow.

10 Let his children also be continually vagabonds and beg;
(Driven) from their ruined houses a let them seek (their bread).

11 Let the extortioner lay snares for all that he hath;
And let strangers spoil his labour.
12 Let there be none to continue kindness unto him; Neither let his fatherless children have any to favour (them). b

13 Let his posterity be cut off; In the next generation let their name be blotted out.

14 Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with Jehovah And let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.

13 Let them always be before Jehovah, That He may cut off the memory of them from the earth.

16 Because he remembered not to show kindness, But persecuted the afflicted man and the poor, And the broken in heart, to put (them) to death;

of the arts of the usurer, never resting till he has robbed his victim of "all that he hath."

12. CONTINUE KINDNESS to himself in distress, or to his children. See the same phrase xxxvi. 10 [11].

14, 15. The curse goes backward as well as forward. The whole race of the man is involved in it root and branch he is accursed. Not the guilt of the individual only, but the guilt of all his guilty ancestors, is to be remembered and visited on his posterity. For the great law, comp. Matt. xxiii. 32-36. Hupfeld objects that the curse on "the fathers" is pointless, as it could no longer reach them; but if I see rightly, the object is to heighten the effect of the curse as it falls upon the children mentioned in ver. 13. So in our Litany "Remember not our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers."

16. HE REMEMBERED NOT therefore "let his iniquity be remembered," ver. 14.

TO PUT TO DEATH. The intensive form of the verb (Poel instead of Hiphil) denotes the eagerness, the relentless cruelty of the persecutors. The construction of this and the three following verses admits of some question.

(i.) Ver. 16 may be connected with ver. 15, as giving the reason for the prayer of that verse, "Let them always be," &c., "because he remembered not," &c. Then ver. 17, 18 stand alone describing the man's wickedness and the retribution it brought upon him. The man's own curse, aimed at others, has fallen back upon himself. What he has sown, that he has also reaped. Thus the figures "as with a garment," "like water," "like oil," would denote the penetrating, clinging nature of the curse; or, as Stier expresses it: "As the man has sinned through and through his whole being, so is his, whole being cursed through and through."

But there are two objections to this explanation. (a) The figures in a Hebrew writer would more naturally denote what is refreshing than what is hurtful (comp. Job xv. 16, xxxiv. 7, Prov. iii. 7, 8, and xvii. 22). (b) The change to the expression of a wish, when the figures employed are so much weaker, has almost the effect of an anti-climax. This is only partially obviated, even if, with Delitzsch, we make the verb "covereth emphatic = "envelopeth."

(ii.) We may take ver. 16-18 as the protasis, and ver. 19 as the
17 And he loved cursing, and it came unto him,
   And he had no delight in blessing, and it was far
   from him;
18 Yea, he clothed himself with cursing as with his raiment,
   And it came like water into his bowels,
   And like oil into his bones;
19 Let it be unto him as the garment (wherewith) he covereth
   himself,
   And as the girdle that he is always girded withal.
20 This is the reward of mine adversaries from Jehovah,
   And of them that speak evil against my soul.

apodosis: "Because he persecuted
the poor, because cursing was as
water to his thirsty soul, as marrow
and fatness to his bones, let it be
unto him as a garment, let it wrap
him round, and envelope him,
covering him from head to foot,
and clinging to him like a girdle
which never leaves his loins."

The verbs cannot be rendered in
verses 17, 18, as in the E.V., as op-
tatives. The tenses are past tenses,
and have been rightly so rendered
by the LXX.

20. Two explanations of this
verse are possible, according to the
view we take of the former part of
the Psalm. (1) It may mean, "My
enemies may curse me thus (as in
ver. 19) but after all this cursing re-
turns upon themselves. This is the
reward (for this meaning of the He-
brew word, see Is. xlix. 4), they them-
selves receive from the hand of the
righteous Judge" (comp. vii. 15,
16 [16, 17]). (2) Those who take
the passage ver. 6-19, not as the
words of the Psalmist, but as the
words of his enemies, suppose the
genitive here to be subjective;
"This is mine adversaries' award
unto me: this the sentence they
would procure against me from Je-
hovah, when they pray, Set Thou
a wicked man over him," &c. So
Mr. Taylor explains (Gospel in the
Law, p. 249), and illustrates this use
of the genitive by such expressions
as "the wages of sin," i.e. the wages
sin gives (Rom. vi. 23); "children
are an heritage of the Lord," i.e.
which the Lord bestows (Ps. cxxvii.
3); "My reward is with me" (Rev.
xxii. 12). Comp. also Is. xl. 10.
But the addition "from Jehovah"
renders the first explanation far the
more probable: "This is the re-
ward which my adversaries receive
from Jehovah." The sentence is
clear and intelligible. But on the
other interpretation we should have
expected, not "from Jehovah"
meaning "supplicated from Je-
hovah," but rather the personal
pronoun which can hardly be
omitted, "This is mine adversaries'
reward unto me." Mr. Hammond
however gets rid of this difficulty
by taking ἡ λειτουργία in its original sense
of "work" or "labour," not in its
derived sense of "wages," or "re-
ward." This primary sense, being
given both by the LXX. τοῦτο τὸ
ἐργον τῶν ἐνδιαβαλλόντων με παρὰ
Κυρίου, and the Vulg. "Hoc opus
eorum qui detrahunt mihi apud
Dominum." He explains accord-
ingly, "This—the string of impre-
cations just quoted—is the work of
mine adversaries from the Lord."
This he would no doubt consider to
be equivalent to David's words in
2 Sam. xvi. "Let him curse; for
the Lord hath hidden him."
21 But THOU, 0 Jehovah Lord, deal with me for Thy Name's sake;
   For Thy loving-kindness is good: deliver Thou me.
22 For I am afflicted and poor,
   And my heart is wounded within me.
23 As a shadow, when it lengtheneth, am I gone hence,
   I have been driven away as the locust.
24 My knees are become weak through fasting,
   And my flesh hath failed of fatness.
25 As for me,—I am become a reproach unto them
   When they see me, they shake their head.
26 Help me, 0 Jehovah my God,
   Save me according to Thy loving-kindness.
27 And let them know that this is Thy hand;
   Thou, Jehovah, hast done it.
28 Though they curse, yet THOU blessest;
   They arose and were put to shame,
   But Thy servant rejoiceth.
29 Mine adversaries are clothed with confusion;
   They cover themselves with their own shame (as with)
   a mantle.

21. BUT THOU. He turns from his adversaries to God, from their
curses to His loving-kindness. The emphatic pronoun, and the double
name of God, both mark the earnestness of the appeal. See the use
of these two names in lxviii. 20 [21], exl. 7 [8], cxli. 8; Hab. iii. 19. The
second member of the verse might be rendered, "Deliver me, because
Thy loving-kindness is good;" or, again, the imperative," Deliver
me," might be transferred to the beginning of ver. 22.

23. As A SHADOW, &c.: comp. cii. 12.
   AM I GONE HENCE, or, more literally, "am I made to go hence."
This passive form (which only occurs here) denotes external com-
pulsion.

25. SHAKE THEIR HEAD. See on xxii. 7.

27. At the close of the Psalm the individual persecutor drops out of
   sight, and a return is made to the plural number, as in ver. 2-5.

28. The emphatic position of the pronoun before the second verb
   makes the rendering as given in the
30 I will greatly give thanks unto Jehovah with my mouth,
And in the midst of a multitude will I praise Him.
31 For He standeth at the right hand of the poor,
To save (him) from them that judge his soul.

The Psalm closes with the confident and joyful anticipation that the prayer in ver. 26, 27 is heard and answered.

There is, further, a remarkable contrast between these verses and verses 6, 7. There, the adversary a 'בְּרִי, "from, i.e. out of, away from, their ruins, i.e. the ruins of their homes." The LXX. have ἐκβληθήτωσαν ἐκ τῶν οἰκοπέδων αὐτῶν, whence it has been conjectured that they read יָשִּׁי (as in Exod. xii. 39; Job xxx. 5) instead of יָשִׁי.

b נָחָה, a benefactor. This is the form everywhere, except in Prov. xiv. 21, where it is נָחָה. Like the verb, it is always construed with the accus. of the person, consequently יָדָי is not governed by נָחָה, but belongs to רֵעֶיךָ.

c מַלְמֵם. On this periphrastic future or optative, see on lxii., note g.

d שָׁוָה (Qal. only here, elsewhere Piel), lit. hath lied or become faithless, i.e. is changed (as LXX. and Symm. הֲלֹאֲוַיְסָה) from fatness, so as no longer to be fat. Or it may be rendered hath fallen away (hath become faithless) from fat. יִפְּשֵׂה here, as in Is. v. i, xxviii. i, fat, not oil. The LXX. δι’ ἔλαιον, Symm. ἀπὸ δαναλειψίας, "my flesh has changed, grown lean for (want of) oil;"—but wrongly.

PSALM CX.

THIS Psalm claims emphatically to be the fruit and record of a Divine revelation. The words of the Poet, though shaped in the Poet's heart, come to him from the very sanctuary of the Most High. It is an oracle, an utterance of Jehovah which he has heard, and which he is to declare to others. It is an oracle which concerns a king who reigns in Zion; it is addressed to one to whom the Poet does homage, calling him "Lord;" it assures him of the high favour
of Jehovah, who lifts him to a share in His own regal dignity, giving him the victory over all his enemies. The Poet then pictures the king going forth to battle, surrounded by his youthful warriors, bright and numberless as the dew-drops on a summer's morn, willing to shed their hearts' blood in his service, each one robed as a priest, each one a soldier of God.

As he gazes on the vision which has been called up by the first word from heaven, another Divine word sounds in his ear, the word confirmed by the oath of Jehovah, that the king shall also be A PRIEST FOR EVER AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.

Then he follows the king in imagination to the war, sees him winning victory after victory with great slaughter, aided by God Himself in the fight, and securing the fruits of his victories by a pursuit of his enemies which knows no check even in the burning heat of an Eastern sun.

If we were at liberty to adopt in this Psalm the same principles of interpretation which we have already adopted with regard to all the other Messianic Psalms, it would present no special difficulty. We might suppose it to have been written by some Poet of David's time, who would naturally speak of David himself as his lord. In the first and lowest sense his words would apply to David as the theocratic king; in their ultimate and highest sense they would be fulfilled in David's great Descendant, in Him who was both David's son and David's lord. But we seem to be precluded from this method of interpretation here by the argument which, according to the first three Evangelists, our Lord, in disputing with the Pharisees, builds upon the first verse of the Psalm. "When the Pharisees were gathered together," St. Matthew tells us, "Jesus asked them, saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is He? They say unto Him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call Him lord, saying, The Lord said unto my lord, Sit Thou on My right hand till I make Thine enemies Thy footstool? If David then call Him lord, how is He his son?" (xxii. 41-45). In St. Mark's Gospel still more emphatically: "And Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the Temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the son of David? (For) David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The Lord said to my lord, Sit Thou on My right hand, till I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. David (therefore) himself calleth Him lord, and whence is He his son?" (xii. 35-37). In St. Luke the quotation is introduced by "David himself saith in the Book of Psalms," but there is no other variation of any importance.

Now in this argument all turns on these two points; first, that David himself wrote the Psalm, and the next, that in writing he was...
moved by the Holy Ghost. David himself, in a confessedly Messianic Psalm, is speaking not of himself, but of his great Descendant, and, so speaking, calls Him his lord. David was able to do this, was able in faith to recognize the true Divine greatness of One who, according to the flesh, would be his son, because he spake as the organ of a Divine revelation, as "he was moved by the Holy Ghost." This is clearly the scope of our Lord's argument. And if so, then it is plain that there can be no lower reference of the Psalm to David or any other Jewish monarch. It is a prediction, and a prediction of the Christ as the true King, as the everlasting Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Nor is there anything to startle us in such a conclusion, unless we are prepared to deny altogether the possibility of a revelation of the future. The real difficulty is this, that, taking this view of the Psalm, it differs from all the other prophetic Psalms which, in their first intention at least, refer to David or Solomon, or some other Jewish monarch. And further, the language of the latter part of the Psalm is such as to be only fairly applicable to an earthly king literally reigning in Zion, and literally engaged in fierce and bloody war with his enemies and therefore it becomes the more difficult to understand on what principle the former part of the Psalm can be detached from a primary reference to some reigning monarch.

Attempts have consequently been made to reconcile a primary reference in the Psalm with our Lord's argument as given by the Evangelists. It has been said, for instance, that the Psalm may have been written, not by David, but by Nathan or some other poet, in honour of David, without either impugning our Lord's veracity or affecting His argument. We are reminded that our Lord in His human nature does not claim omniscience, and that, in so trifling a matter as the authorship of a particular poem, there is no reason why any supernatural illumination should have been vouchsafed Him. In matters of literature and criticism, His knowledge was the knowledge of His time.* It is conceivable, therefore, that He might have adopted, as man, the popular view respecting the authorship of the Books of Holy Scripture. Or, as Neander puts it: "If Christ really named David as the author of the Psalm, we are not reduced to the alternative of detracting from His infallibility and unconditional truthfulness, or else of admitting that David really wrote it. The question of the authorship was immaterial to his purpose; it was no part of His divine calling to enter into such investigations." (*Life of Christ, Bohn's ed. p. 403.)

But whilst we may freely admit that our Blessed Lord's human knowledge was subject to limitation, since this is implied in the Gospel narrative, and we have His own express declaration to the same effect, it does not follow that we are justified in deciding for ourselves where the line is to be drawn—when it is that He speaks only as man, when it is that His divine nature operates. Surely on so mysterious a subject it is wiser and more reverent to abstain from speculation, wiser and more reverent, to say the least, not lightly to charge Him with error to Whom we look as the Source and Fountain of truth. But apart from this, how does the argument hold, if the Psalm was not written by David, but by some one else? Neander contends that it is not invalidated. "Its principal point," he says, "is precisely that of the Psalm; the idea of the Theocratic King, King and Priest at once, raised up to God, and looking with calm assurance for the end of the conflict with his foes, and the triumphant establishment of his kingdom. This idea could never be realized in any man; it was a prophecy of Christ, and in Him it was fulfilled. This idea went forth necessarily from the spirit of the Old Dispensation, and from the organic connection of events in the old Theocracy; it was the blossom of a history and a religion that were in their very essence prophetical. In this regard it is a matter of no moment whether David uttered the Psalm or not. History and interpretation, perhaps, may show that he did not. But whether it was a conscious prediction of the royal Poet, or whether some other, in poetic but holy inspiration, seized upon this idea, the natural blossom and offshoot of Judaism, and assigned it to an earthly monarch, although in its true sense it could never take form and shape in such an one, still it was the idea by which the Spirit, of which the inspired seer, whoever he may have been, was but the organ, pointed to Jesus." All very true, except that it does not show how it is possible for our Lord's argument to stand if we reject the Davidic authorship of the Psalm. If we hold ourselves at liberty to assume, that our Lord was mistaken on this point, then His argument might certainly still be of force as against the Pharisees, who, like Himself, held the Psalm to be David's, but has no force whatever for ourselves. For the very hinge of the argument turns on the circumstance, that David wrote the Psalm. "The Messiah, you admit, is David's son. How then cloth David in spirit call Him lord?" Suppose the Prophet Nathan or some Poet of David's time to have written the Psalm in honour of David, and the argument falls to the ground.*

* But see the remarks of Bishop Thirlwall, quoted in the note at the end of the Psalm, p. 313.
It has been suggested by others, in order to escape from the embarrassment in which the argument involves them, that our Lord's object, in this instance, was not to establish any particular doctrine, as He had before established against the Sadducees the doctrine of a Resurrection, but only to silence His adversaries. It was quite unnecessary for Him, therefore, to do more than argue from the premisses admitted by the Pharisees, that the Psalm was a Messianic Psalm, and that it was written by David. But this distinction is too subtle. As in His conflict with the Sadducees He proved the doctrine of the Resurrection from the Pentateuch, so in His conflict with the Pharisees He showed from the Psalms that the Messiah must be not only the Son of Man, but the Son of God. His object was in each case to establish a truth which had been gainsaid by His opponents.

It seems to me, then, that we are shut up to the conclusion, that in this lofty and mysterious Psalm, David, speaking by the Holy Ghost (ἐν ἀγίω πνεύματι), was carried beyond himself, and did see in prophetic vision that his son would also be his lord. Nor is it altogether strange, altogether inconsistent with the course of God's providence, that such a vision should be vouchsafed to one to whom so clear a promise was given that the Messiah should come of his seed, and who in his "last words" pictured in such glowing terms the Righteous Ruler and the blessings of His righteous reign.*

Whilst, however, we maintain what our Lord's argument compels us to maintain, that the Psalm is a prediction, we cannot tell to what extent it was a conscious prediction. We do not know how far David himself needed an interpretation of the vision in which he saw the majestic figure of the priestly king. His words may have been higher than his thoughts: they may have been pregnant with a meaning which he did not see. Unless we deny all inspiration, we must be prepared to admit this. At the same time, he is not wholly lifted out of his own age and time. If he speaks of a Messiah to come and so far sees-something of His greatness as to call Him "lord," he is still suffered to conceive of Him, partially at least, as an earthly

* It is impossible not to feel how not only our Lord's argument but also that of the Epistle to the Hebrews fails, if we suppose the Psalm to have a first reference to David. If the writer of the Epistle had supposed that David himself was a priest after the order of Melchizedek, what would have become of his argument that the abrogation of the Levitical priesthood was signified by the fact that the priesthood of Christ was after the order of Melchizedek? For if David, who raised the Levitical priesthood to a pitch of importance and splendour which it had never before possessed, was a priest after the order of Melchizedek, it is not clear how the priesthood of Christ was a proof that the Levitical priesthood had come to an end, or that the one positively excluded the other.
monarch fighting bloody battles with his enemies. The Psalm thus sinks down towards its close into—must we not say?—a lower key. The image which it presents to us is an image partly of fine gold, but partly of clay. We may indeed think ourselves at liberty to take the earthly words as symbols of spiritual truths. We may understand the victories of the Messiah as won in the kingdom of mind and heart, not as won with sword and spear. But we cannot suppose that it was with any such meaning that David wrote "He shall judge among the nations, filling them with corpses." To his eye the struggle was one of flesh and blood, the victory such as he had himself obtained, the triumph that of an earthly conqueror.

Again, as we may allow that the prediction was partially at least unconscious, or that the vision was obscure, so we may also admit that it was vouchsafed in connection with circumstances and events to which it would stand in some definite relation. Prophecy—and the inspired songs of Psalmists are often prophecies—never seems wholly to forsake the ground of history. However extended the vista which stretches before him, that vista begins at the Prophet's feet. The present is his home and his starting-point, though he may make "all the ages " his own. So we must look to some occurrence in David's life for the secret impulse of his song; and none seems so naturally and obviously to associate itself with the language of the Psalm, as that marked occurrence to which, in all probability, many other Psalms are due, the bringing up of the Ark of God into the Tabernacle which he had prepared for it in Zion. David on that occasion danced before the Ark, girded with a linen ephod, offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings, and blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts,* and thus, though but in a passing and temporary manner, prefigured in his own person the union of the kingly and priestly offices. Zion had become, by the removal of the Ark thither, the seat of Jehovah's visible Presence. The king, therefore, who made Zion his abode, was himself in some sense the assessor of Jehovah on His throne. Jerusalem, tradition said, was the ancient Salem, the capital of Melchizedek, and the memories which thus lingered about it and hallowed it may have helped David to

* See 2 Sam. vi. 14--18. I own I cannot see any evidence in this passage that "David was recognized as the head of the priesthood," or that "the union of priesthood and kingship in David was more complete than in any other sovereign in Judah." We read of no repetition of such acts as those here recorded; the occasion itself was peculiar; and certainly no stress can be laid upon the expression "he offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings before the Lord," for the same might be said of any one who brought the victims to the priests to sacrifice, e.g. Solomon and all the congregation, I Kings viii. 5.
understand how the true Ruler, Priest as well as King, should be
Priest, not after the ancient and venerable order of Aaron, but after
the order, still more ancient and more venerable, of Melchizedek.
It may, however, have been wisely ordered not only with a view to
the future Antitype, but with regard to the present relation between
the king and the priesthood, that no hint should be given of any un-
warranted assumption on the part of the one of the duties belonging
to the other. David did not interfere with the Levitical priesthood
as existing in his own day; he pointed to a time when that priest-
hood would be superseded by a higher.

It may throw still further light on some of the expressions in the
Psalm, if we recollect in what a spirit and with what resolves David
had begun his reign, how jealously he desired to maintain the purity
of his household and of his court (see Psalm ci.), how firm his deter-
mination was to have recognized under his sway the great ideal to
which Israel was called, "Ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests
and a holy nation." For the people of the king in the Psalm who
offer themselves willingly to fight his battle are priestly soldiers. If
the king is henceforth to be a priest on his throne, he is so as
embodying in his own person the priestly character of the people.
He is not only the military chief, he is the religious head of the
nation, the representative both of Church and State.

It has been said, that it is of importance for the right understanding
of the Psalm, and especially of the fourth verse of the Psalm, to bear
in mind the military character of the Hebrew priesthood. It is per-
haps of more importance to bear in mind, that the whole nation was
at once a nation of soldiers and a nation of priests. They were the
soldiers of God pledged to a crusade, a holy war; pledged to the
extermination of all idolatry and all wickedness, wherever existing.
The character of the war marked the character of the soldiers. They
were God's "sanctified ones." They were set apart as priests for
His service. That zeal for God should have manifested itself chiefly
in the priesthood, and that they should not have hesitated to draw
the sword, is readily accounted for by the fact that in them the
ideal of the nation culminated: they were in every sense its repre-
sentatives.

The Psalm is not only quoted by our Lord as Messianic in the
passages already referred to; it is more frequently cited by the New
Testament writers than any other single portion of the ancient Scrip-
tures. Comp. besides those passages in the Gospels, Acts ii. 34, 35;
I Cor. xv. 25; Heb. i. 13, v. 6, vii. 17, 21, x. 13.

In later Jewish writings nearly every verse of the Psalm is quoted
as referring to the Messiah.
In the Midrash Tehillim on Ps. 36, on the words, "Thy gracious condescension shall make me great," we read: "R. Yoden, in the name of R. Chama, said: 'In the age to come [i.e. the new Messianic dispensation] the Holy One—blessed be He!—makes King Messiah to sit on His right hand (for it is said, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit on my right hand), and Abraham on His left. But his (Abraham's) face grows pale, and he says, The son of my son sitteth on the right hand, but I on the left. But the Holy One—blessed be He!—appeases him, and says, The son of thy son is on My right hand, but I am at thy right hand,' as intimated in the words, 'The Lord is at thy right hand.'" According to R. Martini, this passage was also in his Bereshith Rabba as the commentary of R. Mosheh Haddarshan on Gen. xviii. i.

Again, Martini quotes a passage from the Midrash Tehillim on Ps. ii. 7, in which this verse is cited, together with Exod. iv. 22, Is. lxi. 13, xlii. i, and Dan. vii. 13, as having, like Psalm ii. 7, a Messianic sense. According to Martini, the passage in the Midrash begins, מַסֵּרְפֵּר מַהְּךָ הַמִּשְׁכָּר שֶל מְשִׁיחַ. According to the printed text of the Midrash it is simply מַסֵּרְפֵּר מַהְּךָ. Consequently, in a recent work, this quotation of Martini's (found also in Schottgen) is held up as a palpable mistake; and we are told that no Messianic explanation is given by the M.T. on Ps. ii. 7, and that "it would be strange if it were, for the comment of the Midrash on the verse is expressly intended as מַשְׁאָבָת לִמְדִינֵי, an answer to the heretics [i.e. Christians], and does its best to refute the Messianic exegesis." But how do we know that there has been no alteration in the text since Martini's time? and why does the attempt to do away with the Christian Messianic interpretation, show that there could be no Messianic interpretation originally in the Jewish sense?

In the Zohar, Raya Mahemra (Numb. fol. 112b, col. 448), it is said: "Jacob put his hand cleverly and put the ox (i.e. Messiah ben Joseph) on his right, and the lion (i.e. Messiah ben David) on his left; and therefore the Lord said unto my lord, 'Sit thou at My right hand, 0 righteous one, over against Messiah, the son of Joseph' (thus rectifying Jacob's mistake by reversing' the place of each), and he said unto him, 'Sit at My right hand, the arm of Abraham, in the dispersion of Israel, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.'"

R. Saadyah (not the Gaon, but another Rabbi later than Rashi),

* The words really are "an answer to them that say that there is a Son to Him. And do Thou answer them, He saith not 'Thou art a Son to Me,' but 'Thou art My Son.'"
commenting on Dan. vii. 13, "And behold there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto the Son of Man," writes (I give the quotation from Martini): "This is the Messiah our Righteousness, as it is written, 'Jehovah said unto my lord' (Ps. cx.); 'And He gave unto Him power' (Dan. v. 14); as it is written (Ps. ii. 7), But I have set my king,' &c."

Ver. 2. According to Bereshith Rabba, cap. 85 (on Gen. xxxviii. 18), the sceptre of the kingdom which the Lord sends out of Zion is the King Messiah of whom Isaiah (xi. 1) speaks: "There shall go forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse." So according to Bemidbar Rabba (cap. 18, near the end), "The rod of Aaron is preserved, that it may be in the hand of King Messiah, which is the meaning of the rod of Thy strength." And according to Yelamdenu (Yalqut Shime'oni), the Messiah will smite the nations with the same rod or sceptre.

Ver. 3. The words "From the womb, of the morning," &c., are applied in Bereshith Rabba to the Messiah, as follows: "R. Borachia says: God spake to the Israelites: 'Ye say unto Me, We are orphans and have no father (Lam. iv. 3). The Redeemer (Goel) likewise, whom I shall raise up for you, hath no father,' for it is said (Zech. vi. i 2), 'Behold a man whose name is the Branch (Zemach), and he shall branch out of his place.' And so saith Isaiah (liii. 2): 'He groweth up before Him as a shoot.' It is of the same also that David speaks in Ps. cx. 3, 'From the womb of the morning Thou hast the dew of Thy youth'" (Martini, fol. 594).

Ver. 4. In Bereshith Rabba, on Gen. xiv. 18 (Martini, fol. 654), it is remarked of Melchizedek, king of Salem, "This is what the Scripture says (Ps. cx. 4), 'The Lord bath sworn and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.' And who is this? It is the King righteous, and bringing salvation—the King Messiah, as in Zech. ix. 9, 'Behold thy King cometh to thee: He is righteous, and bringing salvation.' But what means, 'He brought forth bread and wine'? It is the same as Ps. lxxii. 16, 'There shall be abundance of corn in the land;' and this it is which is written, 'He was a priest of the Most High God.' The Targum on this verse runs: "For Thou hast been appointed prince of the age to come, and that for Thy merit's sake, because Thou art a righteous King."*

* These passages are not in the work commonly known as the Bereshith Rabba. But Martini quotes from the B. R. of Rabbi Moses Haddarshan, and a Jewish convert, Hieronymus a S. Fide, "quotes also from a Genesi magno antiquissimo," and his quotations, though varying in some minor points, agree in the main with those of Martini. Pusey, Introduction to "Jewish Interpreters of Isaiah liii," p. xxxii.
Ver. 6. On the words "He will judge among the nations," it is
said in the book Zohar (Gen. fol. 38b, 39a), "The Holy One—
blessed be He!—hath determined to clothe himself with purple
garments, i.e. dyed with the blood of the slain righteous among
Israel, that he may judge the nations, as the Psalm saith, 'He
shall judge.'" See also R. 'Aqibah.

Ver. 7. The Midrash Tehillim on "He shall drink of the brook
in the way" is, "In the time to come [the age of the Messiah],
streams of blood shall flow from the wicked, and the birds shall come
to drink of the stream of blood, as it is written, 'He shall drink.'"
See the authorities in Raym. Martini, Pudio Fidei; Schottgen, De
Messia, p. 246.

It is not surprising, however, to find that by many of the Rabbis
this line of interpretation was abandoned. So long as the Psalm was
admitted to be a Messianic Psalm, the argument based upon it by
our Lord and His Apostles was irresistible. Accordingly, we find as
early as the second century that the interpretation common among
the Jews was that which explained the Psalm of Hezekiah. Both
Justin Martyr in his Dialogue with Trypho (§ 33, 83), and Tertullian
in his Treatise against Marcion (lib. v. cap. 9), set themselves to meet
this as the then current Jewish application. The Rabbis of Justin's
days interpreted the words "sit thou on My right hand" as a com-
mand to Hezekiah to sit on the right side of the Temple, safe under
the Divine protection, when the messengers of the king of Assyria
came to him with the threat of their master's vengeance.* Chry-
sostom tells us that the Jews of his time held that these words were
addressed, not to the Messiah, but to Abraham, or Zerubbabel, or
David. The Rabbis of the middle ages all agree in repudiating the
Messianic interpretation. Rabbi Solomon Isaki (Rashi) mentions
that some of the earlier Rabbis expounded the Psalm of Abraham,
whom in Gen. xxiii. the children of Heth called "my lord." He
himself attempts to carry out this exposition in the most extraordinary
way; interprets the "enemies" of ver. 2 of the four kings mentioned
Gen. xiv. (because of their connection with the history of Melchizedek),
and finds an allusion in the "corpses," ver. 6, first to the carcasses of
the animals which Abraham divided, Gen. xv., and then to the dead
bodies of the Egyptians at the Red Sea, Exod. xiv. Immediately
after he suggests another application of the Psalm to David, and on
ver. 6 yet another to Hezekiah and the destruction of the Assyrians.

* Conf. Tertullian (ut supra): "Dicunt denique (Judi) hunc Psalmum
in Ezechiam cecinisse, quia is sederit ad dextram templi, et hostes ejus
avetterit Deus et absumpserit; Propter ea igitur etc. ante luciferum ex
utero generavi te, in Ezechiam convenire, et in Ezechiae nativitatem."
Ibn 'Ezra and Qimchi argue that David is the subject of the Psalm, explaining the Inscription to mean not "of David," but "for or concerning David." The former sees a reference to the war with the Philistines, 2 Sam. xxi. 15-17, when David, having nearly lost his life, his men sware unto him, saying, "Thou shalt not go forth with us any more to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel." In accordance with this, Ibn Ezra explains the address in the first verse of the Psalm to mean, "Remain safe in thy stronghold of Zion, trusting in My help; go not forth to battle; I will subdue thine enemies for thee, even when thou art not present in the battle."

[PSALM OF DAVID.]

1 THE oracle of Jehovah unto my lord:
"Sit Thou at My right hand,

1. SIT THOU AT MY RIGHT HAND,  

\textit{i.e.} on My throne. The expression denotes that the person thus honored occupied the second place in the kingdom, taking rank immediately after the king, and also sharing as viceroy in the government. The custom was a common one in antiquity. We find allusion to it both amongst the Arabs and the Greeks. The viceroys of the ancient Arab kings sat on the right hand of the king. Ibn Cotaiba says: "The \textit{Ridafat} is the dignity of sitting next to the king. But the \textit{Radaf} (he who holds rank after the king) sits on his right hand, and if the king drinks, the Radaf drinks next, before all others, and if the king goes out upon an expedition, the Radaf sits on his seat and acts in his room till he returns, and if the king's army goes forth to war, the Radaf receives a fourth part of the booty."—\textsc{Eichhorn}, \textit{Monum. Antiquiss. Hist. Arabum}, p. 220.

Similarly the Greek Poets spoke of their gods as \textit{σύνεδροι, πάρεδροι σύνθρωνοι} with Zeus. So Pindar \textit{(Fragm. Ed. Schneider, p. 55)} speaks of Minerva as associated with Zeus in his sovereignty, and receiving his commands for the other gods: \textit{δεξιάν κατά χείρα τοῦ πατρός καθεξομένην, τὰς ἐντολὰς τοῖς θεοῖς ἀποδέχεσθαι}, on which Aristotle observes that Minerva was \textit{αγγέλου μείζων}, and that she \textit{ἄγγέλων ἄλλῳ ἄλλα ἐπιτάττει, πρώτη παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς παραλαμβάνουσα}. And Callimachus \textit{Hymn. in Apoll. ver. 28} says that Apollo is able to reward the chorus, if they sing to please him, because he sits at the right hand of Zeus. \textit{δύναται γάρ, ἐπεὶ Δί τεξιὸς ἔσται}. In both these passages it is clear that this session at the right hand of Zeus indicates not merely a mark of honour conferred, but actual participation in the royal dignity and power.

It is true that we have no exactly parallel instance in the O.T. When Solomon placed Bathsheba on his throne, and gave her a seat at his right hand (i Kings ii. 19), this was done as a mark of honour, not as associating her with himself in the government. So also in Ps. xlv. 6 [10], the queen consort stands at the right hand of the king as the place of honour—though possibly there the expression may denote more than this, may signify her joint sovereignty, for the Tyrians are said to entreat her favour with gifts, ver. 12 [13]. The same mark of honour was conferred by the king of Syria on Jonathan, I Macc. ii. 19. There is a more nearly
PSALM CX.

Until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool."

2 The sceptre of Thy strength shall Jehovah stretch forth out of Zion (saying):

| parallel passage in Matt. xx. 20, &c. (comp. Mark x. 35, &c.), where the mother of Zebedee's children asks for her two sons that they may sit one on the right hand and the other on the left of our Lord in His kingdom. Ewald indeed supposes that the king is represented as sitting in the war-chariot, at the right hand of Jehovah. This no doubt agrees with the martial character of the Psalm, but it does not agree so well with the language of ver. 2. It is evident that in the Psalm not an occasional honour, but a permanent dignity is meant, for Jehovah is to aid the King in effecting the subjugation of his enemies: he is to sit at Jehovah's right hand till that subjugation is effected. If, then, this be the meaning, if the solemn address "Sit Thou at My right hand" is equivalent to saying, "Be Thou associated with Me in My kingly dignity, in My power and universal dominion," then the best comment on the passage is to be found, as even some of the Jewish interpreters have seen, in Dan. vii. 13, 14, where "one like the Son of Man comes with the clouds of heaven, and is brought unto the Ancient of Days, and there is given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve Him." The two passages, the one from the Psalm and the other from Daniel, are, in fact, combined by our Lord Himself, when standing before the high priest He says, "Hereafter ye shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of God, and coming in the clouds of heaven." The same interpretation is given by St. Peter; Acts ii. 34-36. Comp. Ephes. i. 20-22; Heb. i. 13, 14. |
| from the words of this verse that Christ must reign until (i.e. only until) He has put all enemies under His feet, and that then His mediatorial reign will cease, and He will give up the kingdom to God, even the Father. But this sense is not necessarily conveyed by the use of the conjunction "until." It does not follow that what takes place until a certain limit is reached must cease immediately afterwards. Thus, for instance, in cxii. 8, "He shall not be afraid until he see his desire upon his enemies;" Gen. xxviii. 15, "I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of;" Deut. vii. 24, "There shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them,"--the "until" is clearly not to be pressed as if it were equivalent to "only until, not afterwards." See also Gen. xlix. 10. The context must determine in each case whether the "until" is inclusive or exclusive of a time subsequent to the limit mentioned, and here the general tenour of the Psalm does not seem to favour a restriction to previous time. This is accordingly one of those instances in which a peculiar turn is given in the N.T. to the language of the Old. See the remarks of Calvin quoted in the notes on xcv. 11, civ. 3. |
| THY FOOTSTOOL, lit. "a stool for Thy feet," an emblem of complete subjection; comp. viii. 6 [7], xviii. 38 [39]. The allusion is probably to the custom of conquerors placing their feet on the necks of the conquered. See Josh. x. 24, 25. |
| 2. Having announced the oracle which he has received by Divine revelation, the Poet turns to address the King, and declares by what means he is to conquer, viz. by the help of God, and the willing courage and self-sacrifice of his own people. |
"Rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies."

3 Thy people offer themselves willingly in the day that Thou warrest.

The Son of David has His royal seat in Zion, the city of David. Thence, by the grace of God, He shall give laws to the world, for Jehovah Himself, whose vicegerent He is, in whose strength He rules, holds and sways His sceptre. So the throne of even the earthly king is in like manner called the throne of Jehovah, 1 Chron. xxviii. 5, xxix. 23.

THE SCEPTRE OF THY MIGHT, i.e. of "Thy kingly majesty," as in Jer. xlvi. 17; Ezek. xix. 14. Chrysostom plays upon the word ἐδέσις (LXX.) as a rod of strength and consolation, as in xxiii. 4; a rod of chastisement, as in ii. 9, I Cor. iv. 21; a symbol of kingly rule, as in Is. xi. 1, Ps. xlv. 6 [7]. It was by this rod, he says, that the disciples wrought when they subdued the world in obedience to the command, "Go and make disciples of all nations; "a rod far more powerful than that of Moses, "for that divided rivers, this brake in pieces the ungodliness of the world." And then with profound truth he adds, "Nor would one err who should call the Cross the rod of power; for this rod converted sea and land, and filled them with a vast power. Armed with this rod, the Apostles went forth throughout the world, and accomplished all that they did, beginning at Jerusalem."

The Cross, which to men seemed the very emblem of shame and weakness, was, in truth, the power of God.

RULE THOU, or, "Have dominion," the same word as in lxxii. 8. The imperative contains in itself a prediction or promise of fulfilment, See for the same use of the imperat. xxxvii. 3, Gen. xx. 7. These words are probably (as many of the best commentators suppose) addressed by Jehovah to the King. Others think that the Poet himself thus speaks.

IN THE MIDST OF THINE ENEMIES. Rosenmuller well explains: "Hostes tuos non quidem protinus delebit Jova, sed tuae potentiae metu injecto continebit. Qui Davidem hac oda cani existimant, illi vicinos Palæstinae populos indicari volunt, hoc sensu: imperabis, quamvis circum circa hostes, Philistæi, Ammonitæ, Moabitaæ, alii, sint; coll. 2 Sam. iii. 18. In medio i.e. medios inter hostes, ut sensus sit: quamvis terrarum orbitis hostibus tuis repletus sit, non tamen hi impediere poterunt, quominus regnum tuum in eorum medio propagetur."

3. THY PEOPLE. In the midst of His enemies, the King has His own faithful adherents. God, who holds the sceptre of His Anointed, and assures Him of victory, has also given Him a willing people, working in their hearts by His Spirit joyfulness and courage, and ready self-sacrifice. Comp. Is. xxviii. 5, 6, "In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory . . . and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate."

OFFER THEMSELVES WILLINGLY, lit. "are free-will offerings," i.e. give, devote themselves as a willing sacrifice. Comp. for the form of expression cix. 4, "I am prayer," and for the sacrificial sense of the word Exod. xxxv. 29, Lev. xxii. 18, 21, 23, Am. iv. 5. This interpretation harmonizes best with the priestly character assigned both to the warriors and to their leader. Otherwise the word often loses its sacrificial meaning; and so here many render, "Thy people are most willing," lit. "are willing-nesses," (plur. for sing. as more emphatic, comprising every possible aspect of the idea contained in the word, alacrity, readiness,
devotion in every form). They are no hireling soldiery; they serve not of constraint nor for filthy lucre. For this sense of the word, see the notes on li. 12 [14], liv. 6 [8], and comp. Hos. xiv. 4 [5], "I will love them freely." The reflexive form of the verb from the same root is used in like manner in Jud. v. 2, 9, of the people "willingly offering themselves" for the war against Jabin and Sisera.

IN THE DAY THAT THOU WARREST lit. "in the day of Thy host," i.e. in the day Thou mustest Thy host to the battle; or we may render, "in the day of Thy power," for the word occurs in both significations; for the former, see for instance Exod. xiv. 28, Deut. xi. 4, 2 Kings vi. 15; for the latter Ps. 32 [33], 39 [40].

IN HOLY ATTIRE. Comp. xxix. 2, xcvi. 9. The youthful warriors who flock to the standard of the king are clad in holy attire, combatants in a holy war. Comp. Is. xiii. 3, 4, "I have commanded My sanctified ones, I have also called My mighty ones for Mine anger. The Lord of hosts mustereth the host of the battle." (See also I Sam. xxv. 28; Jer. vi. 4, "Sanctify ye war against her;" li. 27, "Raise a standard, blow a trumpet among the nations, sanctify the nations against her.") But more is implied perhaps than this. The "holy garments" are priestly garments. They who wear them are priestly warriors, in the train of a priestly leader. If so, the imagery is the same as in Rev. xix. 14, where it is said that "the armies in heaven followed Him (whose name is called the Word of God) upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." The garments of Aaron and the priests were of linen, Exod. xxviii. 39, 42, Lev. vi. 10 [3], xvi. 4, and they were called "holy gar-

ments," Exod. xxviii. 4, Lev. xvi. 4. The Hebrew word there rendered garments is different from that employed in this, and the two parallel passages in the Psalms, but apparently the same thing is intended. Some have supposed that the allusion is to a solemn religious service held before going out to battle, but we have no evidence of the existence of any such custom.

Instead of "in holy attire," another reading found in several MSS. is "on the holy mountains." This reading, which only involves the slightest possible change in a single letter, is as old as Jerome, who has in monlibus sanctis. It would describe the armed host as going forth to the battle from the mountain ridge on which Zion lay (see on lxxvi. 4), and from which Jehovah stretches out the sceptre of His Anointed.

FROM THE WOMB OF THE MORNING. According to the Massoretic punctuation, these words belong to the preceding member, "In holy attire, from the womb of the morning," the principal accent being after "Thou warrest," and the next chief accent after "morning." It is clear, however, that they belong to the figure of the dew, and the only question is, whether the words "in holy attire" should be connected with the previous noun, "Thy people," or with the following, "Thy youthful dew,"—a question of little importance. Another rendering of the words is possible. A comparison may be implied, "More than the dew from the womb," &c., the construction being the same as in iv. 7 [8], where see note.

DEW OF THY YOUTH, or, "Thy youthful dew." Elsewhere the word (yalduth) means the time of youth, as in Eccl. xi. 9, 10; and so it has been understood here, the object being thus to mark the vigour and
Jehovah hath sworn, and will not repent:

prowess of the leader, as the dew denotes fresh and early beauty. But the parallelism requires us to take "Thy youth" here in a collective sense, = "Thy young men," "thy youthful warriors." Ibn 'Ezra makes the parallelism yet more complete by rendering n'dabhoth "willingnesses" ver. 3, as if it were geshem n'dabhoth, "a bountiful rain " lxviii. 9 [10], and explains "If Thou needest to make war, Thy people shall go forth to Thee as plentiful showers." [It would be quite possible to render the line "Thy youth is (or, cometh) to Thee as the dew." ]

This has been adopted by Mendelssohn. His disciple, Joel Brill, in his Biur, or Commentary on Mendelssohn's translation, observes: "The force of the figure is, that they shall flow to Him, and hasten to serve Him, as fruitful showers do the field. The meaning is repeated in the next hemistich, which is as if the Psalmist had said, 'In the day of Thy battle Thy young men are to Thee (as) dew from the womb of the morning.' And how beautiful is the figure which likens the act of men who make to the battle to drops of rain, and the act of young men who are anxious to try their strength in battle to drops of dew, which are smaller and finer than rain."

The dew which, especially in the East, falls so copiously, is most probably employed here as a figure denoting infinite multitude. Comp. the use of the figure in 2 Sam. xvii. 11, 12, "Therefore I counsel that all Israel be gathered to thee . . . as the sand that is by the sea for multitude . . . and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground," &c. Others find the point of comparison here in the brightness and freshness of the dew; and this may be suggested by the figure as well as multitude. In Mic. v. 7 [6] the point of comparison seems to be different: "And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from Jeho-

vah, as showers upon the grass that turneth not for man nor waiteth for the sons of men." Here the point is, that the dew, like the rain, is a wonderful gift of God, with which man has no concern.

The Greek and Latin Fathers, following the rendering of the LXX. and Vulg. (see Critical Note), build on this verse the doctrine of the eternal generation of the Son, and His oneness of nature with the Father.

4. This verse contains the great central revelation of the Psalm. How weighty it is, and of how vast import, may be inferred from the solemnity of the introduction "Jehovah hath sworn" (see on the Divine oath, Heb. vi. 13, 17, I 8), and this is carried to the very highest pitch by the addition of the words "And will not repent," i.e. the decree is absolutely immutable (for God Himself is said to have repented, Gen. vi. 6). It is the solemn inauguration of the Messiah in time to the priestly office. It is the first intimation of the union of the kingly and priestly functions in His person. See the latter typical representation of the same truth in Zech. vi. 12, 13. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews dwells on the significance of each expression in this verse: "with an oath" —"for ever"—"after the order of Melchizedek."

(I) He lays stress on the fact that this solemn inauguration into the priestly office was by an oath, which was not the case with the institution of the Levitical priest. This, he observes, is a proof that Christ is Mediator of a better covenant than that of Moses, Heb. vii. 20-22.

(2) He argues that as the priesthood rests on an unchangeable foundation, so it is in its nature unchangeable: a Priest for ever.

"He, because He abideth for ever, hath His priesthood unchangeable," vii. 23, 28.

(3) He enlarges upon all those
points in which Melchizedek, rather than Aaron, was the most fitting type of Christ; passing over, however, in entire silence that which in the Patristic and Romish expositors holds a prominent place, the bringing forth of bread and wine. Another and essential feature of the type which is implied in Heb. vii. is too often overlooked, viz., that the priesthood of Melchizedek was not only before the law, but was a Gentile priesthood, and therefore the most fitting type of a universal priesthood.

5-7. The martial strain of ver. 2-4 is resumed. There the might of the King and his army were described, here the conflict and the victory. It is remarkable how these earthly images, this warlike tone predominates, considering the language of ver. 4. The priestly character of the monarch, the very name of Melchizedek, who was not only king of righteousness, but king of Salem, that is, king of peace (Heb. vii.), would have led us to expect anything but the picture of a battle-field covered with corpses and a leader in full pursuit of his enemies. Still it must not be forgotten that we have a parallel example in the New Testament. See Rev. xix. 11-16.

5. THE LORD (Adonai). This form of the plural is never used except as a Divine Name. The Targum gives as the equivalent here "the Shekhinah of Jehovah." Is this name here applied to Jehovah or to the King? Many expositors argue that the King must be meant; for (1) it is hardly probable that in so short a Psalm the King should first be said (ver. 1) to be at the right hand of Jehovah, and then that in ver. 5 Jehovah, on the contrary, should be said to be at the right hand of the King. (2) There is apparently no change of subject to the end of the Psalm, and in the 7th verse it is quite clear that the King is the subject: it is he, and not Jehovah, who drinks of the brook in the way. Hence it has been inferred that as the Messiah is called Adonai, we have here a testimony to His divine nature.

On the other side it has been argued that (1) the name Adonai is never elsewhere given to the Messiah, or to any but God: (2) that the expression "in the day of His wrath" is more naturally to be interpreted of God than of the Messiah; see ii. 12, where that is threatened which is here fulfilled; (3) that when, in ver. 1, the King sits at the right hand of Jehovah, this is a session on the throne, indicating equal rank and honour; whereas in ver. 5 Jehovah is said to stand at the right hand of the King, a different phrase altogether, and one denoting help, succour, and the like, both phrases being legitimately employed to express a distinct meaning; (4) that the change of subject (in ver. 6 or 7), though abrupt, is only what is found in other Psalms, and is characteristic of Hebrew poetry.

Where the arguments are so nearly balanced, it is difficult to decide, although most of the recent expositors—even those who hold to the Messianic interpretation—understand by Adonai, ver. 5, not the Messiah, but Jehovah. It should be observed, however, that there is no reason why the King who is called Elohim (God) in Ps. xlv., should not be called Adonai (Lord) in this Psalm. On the other hand, to assume a change of subject, whether that change is to be introduced at the beginning of ver. 6 or ver. 7 (see below), is perfectly justifiable; and it is more justifiable in this instance, because Jehovah and the King are so closely
Hath smitten through kings in the day of His wrath.
6 He shall judge among the nations,
   He hath filled (them) with corpses,\(^d\)
   He hath smitten through the heads over wide lands.\(^e\)
7 Of the brook shall He drink in the way;
   Therefore shall He lift up (His) head.

associated, that what the one does
the other may be said to do. It is
Jehovah's throne on which the
King sits, it is Jehovah's hand
which wields the King's sceptre:
Jehovah discomfits the King's ene-
mies, and the King pursues them in
their flight. It may be remarked,
further, that throughout the Psalm
the address is directed to the King
and Priest, and that in cix. 31, Je-
hoovah "stands at the right hand"
of the poor to succour and defend
him, as here at the right hand of
the King.

Taking this view, however, it is
still difficult to say whether the
King is the subject of both verses
6 and 7, or only of ver. 7. Hupfeld,
Bunsen, and Ewald think that the
King is not introduced till ver. 7,
which they regard as a single scene
taken from the war. But I confess
Reinke's objection to this view
appears to me to be weighty, viz.
that such a scene standing by itself
has no meaning. We must first
see the warrior in the battle, or we
cannot understand why he should
drink of the brook in the way. I
prefer, therefore, regarding the King
as the subject of ver. 6.

KINGS. There may, perhaps, be
an allusion to the glorious victories
of old, such as that of Moses,
Num. xxi.; of Joshua, Josh. x.; of
Deborah, Jud. v. 3, 19; of Gideon,
Jud. viii. Comp. Ps. lxviii. 12 [13].
If so, this would account for the use
of the past tense "Hath smitten
through," all God's judgements hav-
ing been judgements executed on be-
half of His Anointed. But as the
future tenses are interchanged with
the past in the next two verses, it
seems better to regard the former as
indicating that the victory is yet
future, while the latter imply that
it is represented so vividly to the
Poet's eye that he can conceive
of it as already accomplished.

6. THE HEADS. The word is
singular, but used apparently in a
collective sense, either literally as
in lxviii. 21 [22], or metaphorically
of rulers, princes. See the same
ambiguity in Hab. iii. 14. The older
expositors, adhering to the singular,
"the head over the wide earth,"
suppose Satan to be meant, who
is called "the god of this world,"
others, "over a great country."
On the construction, see in Criti-
cal Note. Some interpreters, as
Mendelssohn and Delitzsch, take
"Rabbah " here as a proper name,
supposing that David's war with
Ammon was the historical occasion
of the Psalm. The former renders:
(He shall judge the nations) . . .
who hath but now smitten the head
of Rabbah: the latter, He breaks
in pieces the head over the land of
Rabbah. But the land of Ammon
would no more be called the land
of Rabbah, than the land of Judaea
would be called the land of Jeru-

7. OF THE BROOK, or, "torrent."
The victorious leader, who has
made so terrible a slaughter that
the field of battle is covered with
corpses, is now seen pursuing his
enemies. Wearyed with the battle
and the pursuit, he stops for a
moment on his way to refresh him-
self by drinking of the torrent rush-
ing by, and then "lifts up his
head," derives new vigour to con-
tinue the pursuit.
The word is used in almost every instance of the immediate utterance of God Himself, more rarely of that of the prophet or inspired organ of the Divine revelations, as of Balaam, Num. xxiv. 3, 15; of David, 2 Sam. xiii. 1. Once only is the word used apparently in a catachrestic sense of the evil inspirations of the wicked man, xxxvi. 1 [2], where see note a.

This verse has been altogether misinterpreted by the LXX. They render: 


They must have read j~m.;fi for j~m.;fa, j~yTik;liy; for j~t,dul;ya rHawa.mi, and j~yw,dq; for wd,qo. The words 7th lFa j~l; they have passed over altogether. In rendering tObdAn; by a]rxh>, rule, dominion, they connected it with bydAni, a prince. Etymologically this is defensible, for the two ideas of nobleness and freedom are readily and naturally connected. But the noun tOBdAn; can only mean either willingness (plur. and sing.) or free-will offerings. The Vulg. carried the blunder further by translating a]rxh prinicipium: "Tecuin principium in die virtutis tuae in splendoribus sanctorum: ex utero ante luciferum genui te." The Syr. confounding lFa with hl,FA, the young of an animal (i Sam. vii. 9), a young child, Is. lxv. 25, has: "In the splendour of holiness have I begotten thee as a child (son) from the womb of old" (reading like the LXX. rHawami, and interpreting it as = Md,q,.mi). All these renderings point to the eternal generation of the Messiah as the Son of God, and have so been explained by the Greek and Latin Fathers. Jerome follows Symmachus (év dresiν a’γιοις) in adopting the reading ’P yyer;haB; which has the support of many MSS. and some editions (the interchange of T and Σ being very common), and is preferred by some of the ablest critics, though, I think, on hardly sufficient grounds. He renders: "Populi tui spontanei erunt in die fortitudinis tuae: in montibus sanctis quasi de vulva orietur tibi ros adolescentiae tuae." The latter part of the verse is rendered by Aquila: 

áπο μήτρας ἔξωθρισμένης [ἐξ ὑφερισμένου] σοι δρόσος παιδιότητός σου. Symm. ὡς κατ’ ὅρθρον σοι δρόσου ἢ νεότης σου. Th. ἔκ μήτρας ἀπὸ πρωῒ (σοι δρόσος) νεότητάς σου. S. ἐκ γαστρός ζητήσουσί σε, δρόσος νεανικότητές σου, which seems to anticipate the more recent interpretations.

In the other passages where it occurs, the phrase ’D Y means because of, a meaning which Hupfeld would retain here, "because of Melchizedek," i.e. so far as the type is the ground of the antitype. Others (as Herder and Geiger, Urschrift, &c. p. 29) take the final i as a suffix: "Thou art a Priest for ever—I swear it by My word—a (second) Melchizedek." It is however, far simpler and more natural, although no other instance of like usage can be adduced, to take ’D Y in the sense of the LXX. κατὰ τήν ταξιν. So the Syr. and so Jerome, Secundum ordinem. Except in this phrase and in the passages above quoted, ἘΠΚ only occurs once in the Bible, Job v. 8, though it is common enough in Rabbinical literature.
The second accus. is understood, "He hath filled them (i.e. the nations) with corpses," the verb being transitive, as often. Others make of אֹמֵר an adjective governing וַיָּרָם, "(it, i.e. the field of battle, or the land, is) full of corpses, as in lxv. 10, מָיִם, "full of water."

The prep. may either depend on the verb, "He hath smitten over a wide extent of country," &c., or it may depend on פַּנּוֹ, "head over, i.e. prince over a wide territory," like וַיְהִי בָּשָׁם וַשָּׁמֵאָה, &c., but here the former is clearly to be preferred.

A. I subjoin the following paraphrase of the Psalm:

"Thus saith Jehovah,—it is His revelation that I hear, it is His word addressed to one who, though He be my son, is yet my Lord I give Thee honour and dignity equal to my own, I associate Thee with Myself in kingly rule and dominion, until I have subdued every enemy who shall dare to lift himself against Thee."

Then turning to the King who has thus been solemnly placed on the throne of Jehovah, and who rules as His vicegerent in Zion, the Psalmist says: "From Zion, Thy royal seat, shall Jehovah Himself, on whose throne Thou sittest, stretch out the sceptre of Thy dominion. So close shall be the fellowship between Him and Thee. Thou shalt sit on His throne, He shall wield Thy sceptre, His might shall be Thy might, His kingdom shall be Thy kingdom, and Thou shalt not only subdue Thine enemies, but before they are yet vanquished Thou shalt rule in the midst of them. When Thou goest forth to war, Thine own people shall flock with glad and willing hearts to Thy standard. They shall come clad, not in armour, but in holy vestments as ministering priests, for Thou hast consecrated them to be Thy priestly-soldiers. They shall come a youthful host, in numbers numberless as the dew, bright and fresh as the dew from the womb of the morning.

"Yet another solemn word concerning Thee have I heard. It is a word confirmed by an oath, the oath of the Most High, which cannot be broken. By that oath He hath made Thee Priest as well as King; King Thou art, Priest Thou shalt be henceforth; Priest not after the law of a carnal commandment, or by descent through the Levitical priesthood, but after the order of Melchizedek,—Priest therefore not of the Jew only, but of the Gentile also,—Priest not for a time, but for ever."

Then, looking on the leader, the host, the conflict, the Poet
exclaims: "The Lord, the God of hosts who is with Thee, 0 King, who is at Thy right hand to succour and give Thee the victory in the battle, hath already crushed the rival monarchs that dispute Thy sway. Thou shalt be a judge and ruler among the nations whom He has given Thee as Thine inheritance. The vast battle-field is strewn with the corpses of Thy foes. Far and wide hast Thou extended Thy conquests, vanquishing one leader after another; and Thou shalt reap the fruit of Thy victories like a warrior who, pressing hotly on the rear of his enemies as they flee before him, scarcely pauses for a moment to snatch a hasty draught from the wayside brook, and then with renewed ardour, with head erect and kindling eye, continues the pursuit. Thus shall victory be crowned, and not a foe remain."

B. The Bishop of St. David's [i.e. the late Bishop Thirlwall] has favoured me with the following valuable remarks on this Psalm, which he has kindly allowed me to publish:--

"I think it will be convenient first to consider the Psalm by itself, just as if no reference had been made to it in the New Testament, and then to see how our conclusions about it must be modified by our Lord's language.

"(i.) I think there can be no doubt that, whoever was the author, it must be considered as a Messianic Psalm, a picture of a state of things which had not been fully realized either in the literal or the spiritual sense, before the coming of Christ. This character of the Psalm, as manifested by its contents, would not be more strongly marked if it is considered as the work of David: and the only question is whether, without some special revelation, beyond what would have been required for any other author, he could have spoken of the person described in it as his ‘Lord.’ I will only say that it does not appear to me inconceivable, but quite natural, that he should so style one who answered to the description given of the future victorious King. Only I am not sure that there is anything in that description that might not be accounted for without any peculiarly distinct consciousness—some consciousness the writer must have had, whoever he was—in David's mind, partly by the promises which he had received (2 Sam. vii.), and partly by traditional expectations of the coming Great One.

(ii.) How, then, is the case altered by our Lord's reference to the Psalm? Here we find ourselves in the presence of two opposite theories as to our Lord's ordinary intellectual state. According to that which invests Him with the fulness of divine as well as human knowledge, there is, of course, no room for doubt about the authorship of the Psalm. You, however, seem willing to admit that of
Neander, Meyer, and others (among the rest, Pressense, *Vie de Jesus*), that our Lord was not habitually conscious of facts, such as ‘matters of literary criticism,’ which did not fall within the range of His human knowledge. But then arises the question whether, even on this theory, we are not compelled to suppose that He would not have argued as He does with the Pharisees on the Psalm, if a certain knowledge of its real authorship had not been supernaturally infused into Him for the special occasion. This leads us to inquire what His argument was. And here it is to be observed that, strictly speaking, it was no *argument* at all. Still less was it an argument proving that the Christ was foreseen by David to be the Son of God. As far as our Lord's words go, they are simply questions, and questions which might have been put by one who wished to suggest to the Pharisees that they were mistaken in believing that David was the author of the Psalm. Nothing of course could be farther than that from our Lord's intention (though I see from Afford that De Wette actually thought so). But if He did not take, but stand on, the same intellectual level, in this respect, with the Pharisees, can it be said that His question, if David was not really the author of the Psalm, tended to mislead them, and therefore that this was a case in which, if He had needed a supernatural revelation of the truth, He must have received one? I must own, that is not at all clear to me. But that which most perplexes me is the difficulty I find in understanding the precise drift of our Lord's questions, or why they should have had the effect of putting the Pharisees to silence. One would think that they could have been at no loss for an answer, according to the current Messianic notions of the day. They knew that Messiah was to be of the lineage of David. They also believed that He was to be a greater than David, though the precise degree of His superiority might be open to doubt. But this might suffice to remove the appearance of inconsistency between David's language and His relation to the expected Messiah. Nor does it appear elsewhere that the question between our Lord and His opponents was, who and what the Messiah was to be, but whether He was the Messiah. If the Pharisees had not believed that the Psalm related to the Messiah, the question would have been futile. The argument, whatever it may have been, turns upon that, quite as much as it does upon David's authorship, and though the title of *Lord* implied a dignity higher than David's, it can hardly be said to carry so much as the sitting on Jehovah's right hand, or even as the everlasting priesthood. But if so, the alleged occasion for a supernatural infusion of superhuman knowledge seems to lose almost all its importance, as the only result would be the addition of a title, which could
have no such meaning except in the mouth of David, but which is
thrown into the shade by other attributes which do not depend on
the supposition of his authorship.

"On the whole, the conclusion to which I am led, as far as the
great obscurity and imperfection of the data permit me to draw any,
is that we are left very much in the same position with regard to the
Psalm as if our Lord had not asked those questions about it; and
that though we may be at liberty, we are not ‘compelled’ to attach
any greater weight to it than it would have if it was not written by
David. All that ‘falls to the ground’ in our Lord's ‘argument’ is a
particular which does not seem to have any bearing upon doctrine,
and to be indeed immaterial."

PSALM CXI.

THIS Psalm and the next are framed exactly on the same model.
They are both alphabetical Psalms. In both, the letters of the alphabet
mark not only the beginning of verses, as in other Psalms, but the
beginning of each several clause of the verses. In both, there are
exactly twenty-two lines, each line consisting usually of three words,
and in both the order of the alphabet is strictly preserved, which is
not the case in other alphabetical Psalms (see, for instance, xxv.,
xxxiv., xxxvii.). Finally, so exactly does the structure of the two
Psalms correspond, that the first eight verses in both consist each of
two lines, and the last two verses of three lines.

But the Psalms answer to one another not only in structure, but in
thought. The same significant phrases occur in both, and occur in
such a way as to mark the mutual relation of the two Poems. In
the 111th the mighty deeds, the glory, the righteousness of Jehovah
are celebrated in the assembly of the upright. In the 112th the
righteousness, the goodness, the blessedness of the upright themselves
are described and enlarged upon. The one sets forth God, His work
and His attributes; the other tells us what are the work and character
of those who fear and honour God. Thus in cxii. 3 it is said of
Jehovah that "His righteousness standeth fast for ever;" in cxii. 3,
the same thing is affirmed of the man that feareth Jehovah. In cxii.
4, it is declared of Jehovah that "He is gracious and of tender com-
passion;" in cxii. 4, the same character is given of the upright. In
the 111th Psalm the faithfulness of Jehovah to His covenant is magnified (ver. 5, 9), in the 112th the faithfulness of the righteous man, his trust in Jehovah is exhibited (ver. 7, 8).

In spite of the acrostic arrangement by which the writer has chosen to fetter himself, this Psalm is more than a mere string of gnomic sentences. The thoughts have a real inner connection. The Psalmist begins by declaring that with his whole heart he will give thanks to God, and because to keep his thankfulness and his ascription of praise to himself would be to rob God of half His honour, therefore will he give utterance to his feelings, and give utterance to them in the fitting place, "in the congregation of the upright." Abundant subject for such praise is to be found in the works of God: the more these are studied, the more will their marvellous and unsearchable character be seen, and the greater the delight which will be experienced in the study. Everywhere the glory of God will be traced, everywhere will the footsteps of His unchangeable righteousness be discovered. At all times His works testify of Him, rebuking the apathy and forgetfulness of men, and calling them to Him who is "gracious and of tender compassion."

He has shown His goodness in never failing to supply the need of His people: He gave them manna in the wilderness, He gave them the spoil of the heathen in Canaan: He thus kept with them the covenant which He had made of old with their fathers. Not unmindful of other nations, it is to His people that He has specially revealed Himself; He has given them their promised inheritance. As in His works so in His commandments, as in His providence so in His word, the same truth and faithfulness are visible. Therefore His commandments cannot fail; they remain the sure everlasting pillars of His kingdom. The great seal of all is the redemption which He accomplished for His people. He who brought them out of Egypt will never suffer His covenant to fail.

Is it not the highest wisdom to fear such a God as this, so great in His works, so true in His word, so faithful to His covenant? To fear God and to keep His commandments is the whole of man, to praise Him man's highest employment both now and for ever.*

I Hallelujah!

* With this Psalm begins another series of Hallelujah Psalms, cxi. cxiii., cxv.-cxvii.
In the council of the upright and in the congregation.

Great are the works of Jehovah,

Sought out of all them that have delight therein.

His doing is honour and majesty,

And His righteousness standeth fast for ever.

He hath made a memorial for His wonderful works;

Gracious and of tender compassion is Jehovah.

He hath given meat to them that fear Him,

1. COUNCIL. See on xxv. note g. A narrower and more intimate circle is implied than in the word "congregation" which follows. In xxv. 14 the word occurs in the sense of "secret," i.e. "secret converse," and in lv. 14 [151 in a similar sense. See note on this last passage.

2. THE WORKS OF JEHOWAH, i.e. specially His mighty deeds on behalf of His people. These are said to be--

Sought out, the objects of earnest and devout meditation and study, studied that they may be known, studied that they may be lived. The same law holds of God's revelation in His word as of His revelation in nature. They only who search diligently and who have a delight therein can discover His wonders either in the one or the other. For if what Origen says of the final revelation is true, ἑπειμφῇ γὰρ οὐ μόνον ἵνα γρατσθῇ, άλλα ἵνα καὶ λάθη (Contr. Cels. ii. 67), it is no less true, λαθαίνει ἵνα γνώσθῃ.

3. HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS STANDETH FAST FOR EVER. Comp. cxii. 3, where the same is said of the righteousness of the man who fears Jehovah, and hath delight in His commandments. See also xix. 9.

4. A MEMORIAL. Comp. Num. xvi. 40, [xvii. 5]; Josh. iv. 6, 7.

FOR (or "belonging to") His WONDERFUL WORKS. By means of all that He has so marvellously wrought on behalf of Israel, He has reared, so to speak, a monument to His glory.

5. MEAT, or "food," as in Prov. xxxi. 15, Mal. iii. 10, often in the sense of "prey" or "booty." "The use of this word," says Mr. Grove, "especially when taken in connection with the words rendered 'good understanding' in ver. 10, which should rather be as in the margin, 'good success,' throws a new and unexpected light over the familiar phrases of this beautiful Psalm. It seems to show how inextinguishable was the warlike predatory spirit in the mind of the writer, good Israelite and devout worshipper of Jehovah as he was. Late as he lived in the history of his nation, he cannot forget 'the power' of Jehovah's 'works' by which his forefathers acquired the 'heritage of the heathen;' and to him, as to his ancestors when conquering the country, it is still a firm article of belief that those who fear Jehovah shall obtain most of the spoil, of His enemies—those who obey His commandments shall have the best success in the field."—Dict. of the Bible, Art. MEAT.

To the above may be added the probable allusion to the deliverance from Egypt, and the occupation of Canaan in ver. 9. It is doubtful, however, whether the rendering "good success" in ver. 10 is correct. Delitzsch, on the other hand, supposes that by the "memorial" is meant the Festivals, which were instituted to keep alive the remembrance of God's mighty works in the days of Moses, and by the "food," the meal accompanying the sacrifices, and the Paschall feast.
He remembereth His covenant for ever.

6 Ὑ The power of His works hath He shewed to His people,

\( \mathfrak{V} \) To give them the heritage of the nations.

7 Ὑ The works of His hand are truth and judgement;

\( \mathfrak{J} \) Faithful are all His statutes;

8 Ὑ They are upheld for ever and ever,

\( \mathfrak{Y} \) They are done in truth and uprightness.

9 Ὑ He hath sent redemption to His people;

\( \mathfrak{V} \) He hath commanded His covenant for ever;

\( \mathfrak{P} \) Holy and fearful is His Name.

10 Ὑ The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom,

\( \mathfrak{W} \) A good understanding have all they that do them:

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[It is with reference to this verse, doubtless, that Luther calls the Psalm "an Easter or Paschal Psalm."] Theodoret, Augustine, and others understand by this "food," in the N. T. sense, the Eucharist, and the Psalm has been accordingly used as a Eucharistic Psalm. It is a curious instance of the way in which a word may draw to itself a whole train of thought with which it has really no connection.

6. To GIVE, or, the infin. may be used gerundially, as often "giving."

8. UPHELD, not however by any external prop, but by their own inherent power: comp. the use of the word cxii. 8; Is. xxvi. 3 (where the E. V. has "stayed").

UPRIGHTNESS. The neuter adj. used thus in connection with a noun preceding is peculiar (see evii. 20).

9. HE HATH SENT. There is, probably, an allusion to the redemption from Egypt, and in the next member to the Sinaitic covenant. Then Jehovah revealed Himself as the holy and the awful God. But here, and throughout the Psalm, I have rendered the past tenses as perfects, because the reference is evidently not exclusively to the past, but also to the still present results of the "redemption" and the "covenant."

HE HATH COMMANDED. The verb is used, as in cv. 8, in its original sense of appointing, establishing.

10. THE BEGINNING, or, "chief part, principal thing." Comp. Job xxvi.i. 28; Prov. i. 7, ix. 10. Augustine beautifully says, "Pro deliciis autem omnibus hujus saeculi, quales vel expertus es, vel augere ac multiplicare augendo notes, immortalium deliciarum matrem concupiscite sapientiam: sed Initium sapientiae timor Domini. Delectabit illa, et ineffabiliter procul dubio delectabit castis atque eternis veritis amplexibus: sed prius tibi donanda sunt debita, quam premia tlagi-tanda. Initium ergo sapienticae," &c.

A GOOD UNDERSTANDING, or perhaps rather "understanding of, insight into, that which is good."

Comp. Prov. iii. 4, xiii. 15; 2 Chron. xxx. 22.

THEY THAT DO THEM. The reference of the plur. pron. "them" can only be to the "statutes" mentioned in ver. 7, 8. See the note on
His praise endureth for ever.


a דַּעַת, pass. part. only here; not merely worthy of being sought out, as in other passive forms, like דַּעַת, דַּעַת, sought, but the subject of diligent investigation, earnest pursuit, &c. מַעַּלְקָה, not "according to all their desires" (as the sing., I Kings ix. 11), i.e. so that they find in it their highest satisfaction; for the plur. of מַעַּלְקָה does not mean wishes, desires, but precious things (Prov. iii. 15, viii. 11), and מַעַּלְקָה after a pass. can only point out the author or subject. Hence this is plur. of מַעַּלְקָה. It is true this appears elsewhere in the form מַעַּלְקָה, as xxxv. 27, xl. 15, but that is really an incorrect form of the stat. constr., with the vowel retained, contrary to the rule (Gesen. § 133, Rem. 1, 2). In like manner we have מַעַּלְקָה, Ps. xxxv. 26. There is, indeed, no parallel case where the first radical takes Segol. Usually a guttural first radical has Pathach or short Chireq, as מַעַּלְקָה, מַעַּלְקָה, &c., but this is of no importance, as the guttural in other forms is found with a Segol. Besides, though the long vowel might be retained in the stat. constr., it would naturally fall away before the grave suffix מַעַּלְקָה. The rendering given in the text is supported by the Syr., Chald., Jerome, Qimchi, Luther, Calv., Ges., &c." The LXX. ἐξεξητημένα εἰς πάντα τὰ θελήματα αὐτοῦ. Chrysost. Ἑλλαζόνα ἐξητησίωμα, et paulo post: Τί δὲ ἐστιν, ἐξεξητημένα κ.τ.λ. Ἑκριβωμένα, φησί, καθάπερ καὶ ἔτερος ἐρμηνευτής εἴπε, παρασκευασμένα, ἁπαρασκευασμένα κ.τ.λ. Α. scrutata ab omnibus qui complacuerunt sibi in iis. E. scrutata εὐ πάσῃ τῇ χρείᾳ αὐτῶν. Vulg. "Exquisita in omnes voluntates ejus." Jer. "Exquirenda in cunctis voluntatibus suis."

PSALM CXII.

ON this Psalm, see the Introduction to Psalm cxi. In its general character it resembles Psalms i. and xxxvii. In the Vulgate the title is "Conversio Aggaei et Zachariae."

I Hallelujah!

Happy is the man that feareth Jehovah,

That delighteth greatly in His commandments.

His seed shall become mighty in the earth,

1. Comp. 1. E, 2. monly used of warlike strength and
2. MIGHTY. The word is com- prowess, but sometimes also in a
The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in his house,
And his righteousness standeth fast for ever.

There ariseth a light in the darkness for the upright;
(He is) gracious, and of tender compassion, and righteous.

Well a is it with the man who dealeth graciously and lendeth,
He shall maintain his cause in judgement;
For he shall not be moved for ever;
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

more general sense of wealth, substance, &c. So Boaz is called "a mighty man of wealth," Ruth ii. 1; and Kish, I Sam. ix. 1; see also 2 Kings xv. 20.

3. WEALTH AND RICHES. So in the Proverbs these are said to be the gift of Wisdom to them that love her. See iii. 16, viii. xxii.


His RIGHTEOUSNESS, &c. It seems a bold thing to say this of anything human, and yet it is true; for all human righteousness has its root in the righteousness of God. It is not merely man striving to copy God. It is God's gift and God's work. There is a living connection between the righteousness of God and the righteousness of man, and therefore the imperishableness of the one appertains to the other also. Hence the same thing is affirmed here of the human righteousness which, in cxi. 3, is affirmed of the Divine.

4. A LIGHT FOR THE UPRIGHT. Comp. xcvi. 11, "Light is sown for the upright."

In the next clause of the verse the three adjectives occasion some difficulty. Although they are in the singular number, whilst "the upright" in the preceding line is plural, it seems most natural to take them as intended further to describe the character of the upright. The first two epithets, elsewhere applied only to Jehovah, are so applied in cxi. 3, and the relation of the two Psalms makes it almost certain, therefore, that they are here applied to His servants. See also Matt. v. 45, 48 Is. lvii. 7. The change from the plural to the singular is certainly unusually harsh, as the three epithets are loosely strung together, without anything to mark their reference; but this may be accounted for in some measure by the requirement of the alphabetical arrangement.

Others take the three attributes as in apposition with the noun "light" in the preceding clause, God Himself being the "Light"(as in xxvii. 1: comp. Is. x. 17, lx. 1-3; Mal. iv. 2 [iii. 20]): "There hath arisen a Light, viz. He who is gracious," &c.

5. LENDETH, see xxxvii. 21, 26, HE SHALL MAINTAIN, &c.: mentioned as an instance of his happiness, which is then confirmed by what follows, ver. 6, cxxxiii. 5, in the courts of judgement, cxl. 2, Prov. xvi. 10.

6. IN EVERLASTING REMEMBRANCE (comp. Prov. X. 7), or "shall have an everlasting memorial," see cxi. 3.
7  Ṣ Because of evil tidings he shall not fear;
   ḫ His heart is established, trusting in Jehovah.
8  Ṣ His heart is upheld, he cannot fear,
   ḫ Until he see his desire upon his adversaries.
9  Ṣ He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor,
   ḫ His righteousness standeth fast for ever;
   Ṣ His horn shall be exalted with glory.
10 Ṣ The wicked shall see (it) and be grieved,
    Ṣ He shall gnash his teeth and melt away;
    Ṣ The desire of the wicked shall perish.

7. Further evidence of the happiness of such a man—a clear conscience and a heart that trusts not in itself but in God, and thus is raised above all fear. The epithets "established," "trusting," "upheld," are all strikingly descriptive of the true attitude of faith, as that which leans upon and is supported by God. The two last are combined also in Is. xxvi. 3.

9. HE HATH DISPERSED. The verb occurs in Prov. xi. 24 in the same way, of the free and active exercise of charity. This verse is quoted by St. Paul when exhorting the Corinthians to liberal contributions on behalf of the poor, 2 Cor. ix. 9.

10. BE GRIEVED, filled with vexation, irritated. SHALL GNASH HIS TEETH, as in xxxv. 16, xxxvii. 12. MELT AWAY, i.e. through jealousy and annoyance.

a  ואֹה, here not in a moral sense good, but rather in a physical sense fortunate, happy, as in Is. iii. 10; Jer. xlv., 17; Eccl. viii. 12, 23. It is not necessary, however, to make it a noun, as Qimchi does (as in xxv. 13). The expression 'א 'ע. is exactly equivalent to 'א 'ש. 'א, ver. 1, and the article is absent before 'ש. 'א, in both cases, because it is defined by the attributes which follow.

b  נֵן 3 pret. Niph. pausal form (as in Ex. xvi. 21) of נֵן or נֵן. Usually the pausal substitute for Tsere is Pathach; here we have Qametz, probably as lengthened from the form נֵן, as in the plur. נֵן. Comp. also the use of the suffixes נֵנ and נֵנ, instead of נֵנ, cxviii. 10.
WITH this Psalm begins "the Hallel" which was sung at the three Great Feasts, at the Feast of Dedication, and at the New Moons. At the Feast of the Passover it was divided into two parts, the first of which, consisting of Psalms cxiii., cxiv., was sung before the meal, that is, before the second cup was passed round; and the second, consisting of Psalms cxv.-cxviii., after the meal, when the fourth cup had been filled. This last, probably, was "the hymn " which our Lord and His Apostles are said to have sung ( ὕμνησαντες, Matt. xxvi. 30, Mark xiv. 26), after His last Passover.

Paulus Burgensis styles Psalms cxiii.-cxviii. Alleluia Judaeorum magnum, and this has been a very usual designation. But according to the ancient Jewish tradition this series of Psalms is called simply "the Hallel," or sometimes "The Egyptian Hallel," whereas the name "Great Hallel" is given to Psalm cxxxvi. (See Delitzsch, from whom the above is taken.)

The Psalm may be said to be a connecting link between the Song of Hannah and the Magnificat of the Virgin.

It may be viewed as consisting of three strophes.

1. The first exhorts to the praise of Jehovah as the one great object of praise. Ver. 1-3.
2. The second sets forth His greatness. Ver. 4-6.

The second and third of these divisions, however, are closely connected, and, in fact, run into one another.

I HALLELUJAH!

Praise, 0 ye servants of Jehovah,
Praise the Name of Jehovah.

2 Blessed be the Name of Jehovah
From this time forth and for evermore.

1. SERVANTS OF JEHOVAH; all found, but with the clause trans-posed), cxxxvi. 22.
Israel as a nation consecrated to His service; comp. lxix. 36 [37], cxxxv. 1 (where this same verse is of xxix. 1.
The rhythm of this verse is that
3 From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same 
The Name of Jehovah be praised.

4 Jehovah is lifted up above all nations, 
   His glory is above the heavens.
5 Who is like Jehovah our God 
   Who setteth His throne on high,
6 Who stoopeth down to see 
   (What is) done in the heaven and in the earth?
7 He raiseth the miserable from the dust, 
   (And) lifteth up the poor from the dunghill,
8 That He may set (him) with princes, 
   (Even) with the princes of His people,
9 Who maketh the barren woman to keep house,

| 3. BE PRAISED. This rendering seems preferable in the context, though we might render "is praised," or "is worthy to be praised," as in xviii. 3 [4], xlviii. 1, "greatly to be praised"; but here the participle depends on the verb in the jussive. |
| 4. ABOVE THE HEAVENS. De Wette remarks that this goes beyond what we find elsewhere in describing the exaltation of Jehovah; that in Ps. xviii., for instance, He inhabits the lower atmospheric heaven, and in Ps. lxviii., He is throned in Zion, whereas here He is lifted high above the sphere of creation. But he must have forgotten such passages as viii. 1 [2], and lvii. 5 [6], 11 [12]. |
| 5. SETTETH HIS THRONE ON HIGH, lit. "maketh high to sit; "as in the next verse, "maketh low to see." The same antithesis occurs cxxxviii. 6. It denotes not merely the omniscience of God, but His greatness and his condescension. Comp. vii. 4 [5], and the striking expansion of the same thought, Is. lvii. 15. |
| 6. STOOPETH DOWN TO SEE, &c. This verse might also be rendered, "Who looketh low down,—vaileth or lowereth his regard,—upon the heavens and the earth," the construction of the verb and prep. (2 פֶּן) being the same as in Gen. xxxiv. 1, Jud. xvi. 27. Some commentators would connect the second hemistich of this verse with the first clause of ver. 5, "Who is like Jehovah our God in the heaven and in the earth?" (as in Deut. iii. 24), taking the two intervening clauses as parenthetical; but this is quite unnecessary. The rendering given above may be adopted, or the ellipsis may be supplied as it is in the E.V. |
| 7. This and the next verse are almost word for word from the Song of Hannah, I Sam. ii. 8. |
| 9. The curse of barrenness was so bitter a thing in Jewish eyes, that its removal was hailed as a special mark of Divine favour. The allusion to it here was suggested, doubtless, by Hannah's history, and by the strain of Hannah's song already quoted: see I Sam. ii. 5. |

MAKETH THE BARREN WOMAN,
As a joyful mother of children.\(^b\)

Hallelujah!

\[&c.: \text{lit. "maketh her who is the barren of the house to dwell," i.e. maketh her who through barrenness has no family to have a family, and so a fixed, settled habitation in the land. A barren woman might be divorced, or another taken besides her; but, having children, her posi-}
\]
tion in the house is sure. The use of the phrase in lxviii. 6 \([7]\) is somewhat different, as there the word "house" means the place of abode; here, the family. Compare the expression "to make a house;"

Ex. i. 21; 2 Sam. vii. 11.

\[^a\text{The final Chireq, Yod or Chireq companinis as it is called, or long connecting vowel, in this and the two following participles, and also in the Hiph. infin. (ver. 8), is the vowel originally employed to mark the relation of the genitive. The old form of the stat. constr. had for its termination 'either Cholem, as in מיתא אצא, Gen. i. 24, or Chireq, as in the compound names אלייאר, סרפס אדנ and many others, in the participle espaço, Gen. xlix. 11, ובשא, ib. 12, and in some prepositions, as מני, ליתא, סרפס (poet).}
\]

The termination \(i\) is found (a) with the first of two nouns in the stat. constr., whether masc., as in Deut. xxxiii. 16, Zech. xi. 17, or fem. as in Gen. xxxi. 39; Ps. cx. 4. It is found also (b) when the stat. constr. is resolved by means of a prep. prefixed to the second noun, as in the passage already quoted, Gen. xlix. 11; in Ex. xv. 6; Obad. 3; Hos. x. 11; Lam. i. 1; Ps. cxxiii. 1, and in the K'ithib, Jer. xxii. 23, li. 13; Ezek. xxvii. 3. It occurs (c) even where a word intervenes between the two which stand in the genitival relation, as in ci. 5; Is. xxii. 16; Mic. v. 14. The fact that this long vowel usually draws to it the accent shows that it is no mere euphonic (paragogic) addition, but that it is really a connecting vowel marking the relation of the gen. case. Hence it may be regarded as a connecting link between the Semitic and Indo-Germanic languages.

In this and other late Psalms (see for instance cxxiii. 1, cxiv. 8, where we have both the Chireq and the Cholera, and perhaps cxvii. 1) an attempt seems to have been made to bring back the old termination, but without regard always to its original signification. Thus in ver. 8 of this Psalm it is appended even to the Hiph. infin., a form which occurs nowhere else.

\[^b\text{Hupfeld and Olsh. condemn the article as incorrect. Delitzsch says: "The Poet brings the matter so vividly before him, that he points, as it were, with his finger to the children with which God blesses her."}
\]

According to Ibn. 'Ez. הרכ in the first hemistich is not in construction, but absolute. If so we may render: "Who setteth the barren woman in a house."
PSALM CXIV.

THIS is perhaps the most beautiful of all the Psalms which touch on the early history of Israel. It is certainly the most graphic and the most striking in the boldness of its outlines. The following remarks may perhaps illustrate the connection and plan of the Poem.

1. In structure it is singularly perfect. This rests upon the common principle of pairs of verses, and thus we have four strophes, each consisting of two verses: each of these verses, again, consists of two lines, in which the parallelism is carefully preserved.

2. The effect is produced, as in Psalm xxix., not by minute tracing of details, but by the boldness with which certain great features of the history are presented.

3. A singular animation and an almost dramatic force are given to the Poem by the beautiful apostrophe in ver. 5, 6, and the effect of this is heightened in a remarkable degree by the use of the present tenses. The awe and the trembling of nature are a spectacle on which the Poet is looking. The parted sea through which Israel walks as on dry land, the rushing Jordan arrested in its course, the granite cliffs of Sinai shaken to their base—he sees it all, and asks in wonder what it means?

4. Then it is that the truth bursts upon his mind, and the impression of this upon the reader is very finely managed. The name of God, which has been entirely concealed up to this point in the poem (even the possessive pronoun being left without its substantive, "Judah was His sanctuary, Israel was His dominion"), is now only introduced after the apostrophe in ver. 5, 6.

"The reason seems evident, and the conduct necessary, for if God had appeared before, there could be no wonder why the mountains should leap and the sea retire; therefore, that this convulsion of nature may be brought in with due surprise, His name is not mentioned till afterward; and then, with a very agreeable turn of thought, God is introduced all at once in all His majesty."

We have no clue to guide us to the age of the Psalm, or the occasion for which it was written, except that perhaps the forms in ver. 8, which are found in other late Psalms, may be taken to indicate a date after the Exile.

* Spectator, No. 461.
1 WHEN Israel went forth out of Egypt,
   The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
2 Judah became His sanctuary,
   Israel His dominion.

3 The sea saw and fled,
   Jordan turned backwards;
4 The mountains skipped like rams,
   The hills like young sheep.
5 What aileth thee, 0 thou sea, that thou fleest;
   Thou Jordan, that thou turnest backwards?
6 Ye mountains, that ye skip like rams;
   Ye hills, like young sheep?
7 Before the Lord tremble, 0 earth,
   Before God (the God) of Jacob.
8 Who changed the rock into a pool of water,
The flint-stone into a fountain of waters.

These miracles are selected as the most striking proofs of "God's absolute creative omnipotence, and of the grace which changes death into life." They are, moreover, parallel miracles like the two mentioned in ver. 3, and thus the poetical effect is heightened.

a יִשְׂרָאֵל. "Judah" is here feminine, in accordance with the general principle that lands and nations are feminine.

b יִשְׂרָאֵל. On the termination see xciii. note a. The final Chireq, however, in this instance, is not strictly that of the stat. constr., for the participle here has the article prefixed, and therefore cannot be in construction. But it is one of the instances in which, as has been remarked in the note referred to, the later language adopted the termination without regard to its original use.

In יִשְׂרָאֵל, on the other hand, we have a genuine instance of the old termination of the stat. constr. This final Cholem, however, is by no means so widely used as the final Chireq. With the exception of this place, and Num. xxiv. 3, 15, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, it is found only in the phrase כַּהֲנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲרוּם (or אֲרוּם חַשְׂרוֹנָה), which first occurs Gen. i. 24.

PSALM CXV.

THIS is evidently one of the later liturgical Psalms. It was probably composed for the service of the Second Temple, whilst yet the taunts of their heathen adversaries were ringing in the ears of the returned exiles, and whilst yet contempt for the idolatries which they had witnessed in Babylon was fresh in their hearts.

The Psalm opens with a confession of unworthiness and a prayer that God would vindicate His own honour against the scoff of the heathen. Ver. 1, 2.

It exalts Him, the Invisible, Omnipotent, absolutely Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and pours contempt upon the idols and their worshipers. Ver. 3-8.

It bids all Israel, both priests and people, put their trust in Him...
who is alone worthy of trust, the help and shield of His people.
Ver. 9-12.

It promises that Jehovah shall give His blessing to them that thus trust in Him, and calls upon them in return to give Him thanks for ever. Ver. 12-18.

Ewald's conjecture that the Psalm was intended to be sung whilst the sacrifices were offered, and that at ver. 12 the voice of the priest declares God's gracious acceptance of the sacrifice, is not improbable. He gives ver. 1—11 to the congregation, ver. 12-15 to the priest, ver. 16-18 to the congregation. But it seems more likely that the change of voices comes in at ver. 9, and that, as Tholuck supposes, in each of the verses 9, 10, 11, the first line was sung as a solo, perhaps by one of the Levites, and the second by the whole choir.

The LXX., Syriac, Arabic, and Ethiopic have strangely enough, and in defiance of all probability, joined this with the preceding Psalm, and then have restored the balance by dividing Psalm cxvi. into two parts. Even in some Hebrew MSS. Psalms cxiv. and cxv. are found written as one Psalm. But the very structure of Psalm cxiv., its beauty and completeness in itself, are sufficient to make us wonder what caprice could have led to such an arrangement.

(The Congregation.)

I NOT unto us, 0 Jehovah, not unto us,
But unto Thy Name, give glory,
Because of Thy loving-kindness, because of Thy truth.

2 Wherefore should the nations say:

| 1. NOT UNTO US. The repetition of the words expresses the more vividly the deep sense of unworthiness, the unfeigned humility which claims nothing for itself. LOVING-KINDNESS . . . TRUTH. The two great characteristic attributes of God, even in the Old Testament; though in contrast with the Law as given by Moses, St. John could say, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ αληθεία διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο, John i. 17. | Both these attributes of God would be assailed if the taunt of the heathen should be allowed to pass unsilenced. It is God's glory which is at stake. "Deo itaque," says Calvin, "gratiam suam objiciunt (fideles), deinde fidem, quarum utramque manebant impiae calumniae, si populum quern aeterno foedere sibi devinixerat, et quem adoptaverat gratuita misericordia, frustratus esset." 2. Now is not a particle of time, |
"Where now is their God?"

3 But our God is in the heavens;
   He hath done whatsoever He pleased.
4 Their idols are silver and gold,
   The work of men's hands.

as might be inferred from the rendering of the E.V., but an interjection used in taunt as well as in entreaty, &c.

3. BUT, or "and yet." See the same use of the conjunction in ii. 6.
   The answer to the taunt of the heathen, who, seeing no image of Jehovah, mocked at His existence.
   First, He is in heaven, invisible indeed, yet thence ruling the universe; next, He doeth what He will, in fine contrast with the utter impotence of the idols of the heathen. The last expression denotes both God's almighty power and His absolute freedom. This, truthfully accepted, does away with all a priori objections to miracles.

4. SILVER AND GOLD, i.e. however costly the material, this adds no real value to the image; it is, after all, man's workmanship. This seems to be the thought: otherwise the Psalmist would have said "wood and stone "rather than" silver and gold." This agrees also with what follows. "Though they may be of costly materials, they are but of human workmanship; though they may have the form and members of man, they are lifeless."

De Wette remarks that "the Jew, who was accustomed to see no image of the Deity, fell into the error (often perhaps purposely) of confounding the idols of the heathen with the gods whom they represented, and of which they were only the symbols. The Israelite of the ten tribes, who had his symbols of Jehovah Himself, could not have made such a mistake." But it may be replied, in the first place, that the Jews had any real existence; they were as much the creatures of man's imagination as the idols were of his art. In the next place, the heathen worship itself was not careful to maintain the difference between the symbol and the thing symbolized, and the great mass of worshipers probably drew no distinction between them. "Non habent Siculi deos ad quos presentur," says Cicero. On which Calvin remarks: "Barbare hoc diceret, nisi hoc infixa fuisset opinio vulgi animis, deorum ccelestiuin figuras sibi ante oculos versari in ere, vel argento, vel marmore."

Even the refined teaching of the Church of Rome does not save the ignorant and the unlettered from absolute idolatry.

Augustine has here some admirable remarks on idol-worship, and the various attempts made to distinguish between the image and the deity it represented. But he concedes the real existence of the gods as demons: "Alis itaque locis et contra ista divinae Letis vigilant ne quisquam dicat, cum irrisa fuerint simulacra, Non hoc visibile cola, sed numen quod ilic invisibiliter habitat. Ipsa ergo numina in alio psalmo eadem Scriptura sic damnat: Quoniam dii gentium, inquit, daemonia; Dominus autem caelos fecit. Dicit et Apostolus: Non quad idolum sit aliquid, sed quoniam quae immolant genies, daemoniiis immolant, et non Deo," &c. The whole passage is well worth reading as a masterly analysis of idol-worship.

We have the same description of these dumb and deaf and dead gods in cxxxv. 15-18, probably bor-
5 A mouth have they, but they speak not;  
Eyes have they, but they do not see.
6 They have ears, but they hear not;  
A nose have they, but they do not smell.  
7 They have hands, but they handle not;  
Feet have they, but they walk not;  
They do not utter any sound with their throat.
8 Like unto them are they that make them,  
Every one that putteth his trust in them.

(Levites and Choir.)

9 0 Israel, trust in Jehovah!  
He is their help and their shield.

rowed from this passage. Comp.  
Deut. iv. 28, and the sarcastic picture in Is. xliv. 9-20.  
5. A MOUTH. The picture is of a single image.  
7. THEY HAVE HANDS, lit. "As for their hands, they handle not (with them); As for their feet, they do not walk (therewith:);" or, "With their hands they handle not; With their feet they walk not." The construction is changed, and we have nominative absolutes, followed by the conjunction introducing the apodosis. See for the same construction Gen. xxii. 24; Prov. xxiii. 24; Job xxxvi. 26.  
8. U TTER ANY SOUND. The verb may mean only to speak, as in xxxvii. 30; Prov. viii. 7; but the rendering in the text approaches more nearly to the root-signification of the word, "do not utter even an inarticulate sound." So Ibn. 'Ezra and Qimchi.  
8. LIKE UNTO THEM. So true it is, not only that as is man so is his god, but the reverse also, as is the god so is his worshiper. Comp. Is. xlv. 19, where what is elsewhere said of the idols is said of the worshipers, that they are "emptiness" (tohu); and observe the use of the verb "to become vain," 2 Kings xvii. i 5; Jer. ii. 5, applied in like manner to idolaters. They who, turning away from God's witness of Himself in the visible creation, worshipt the creature rather than the Creator, received in themselves the sentence of their own degradation, "their foolish heart became darkened." They became blind and deaf and dumb and dead, like the idols they set up to worship.  
ARE, or "become." By the LXX., Jerome, and the Syriac the verb is rendered as an optative, "May they become," &c., which, however, is less forcible.  
9. The change in the strain of the Psalm here must unquestionably have been accompanied by a change in the music. And it appears highly probable, as has been said, that the first line of this and the two following verses was sung as a solo by some of the Levites, and the second line, or refrain, which occurs in each verse, "He is their help and their shield," by the choir.  
TRUST IN JEHOVAH., in contrast with the "trust" of the previous verse. Trust in Jehovah, for He is not like the idols, He is the living
10 0 house of Aaron, trust ye in Jehovah!
   He is their help and their shield.
11 Ye that fear Jehovah, trust in Jehovah!
   He is their help and their shield.

(The Priest.)
12 Jehovah (who) hath been mindful of us will bless,—
   He will bless the house of Israel,
   He will bless the house of Aaron.
13 He will bless them that fear Jehovah,
   Both small and great.
14 Jehovah increase you more and more,
   You and your children!
15 Blessed be ye of Jehovah,
   The Maker of heaven and earth.

(The Congregation.)
16 The heavens are Jehovah's heavens;

God, "the help and the shield"
(comp. xxxiii. 20) of them that
trust in Him. Trust in Jehovah,
for He hath been mindful of us in
times past, He will bless us in time
to come (ver. 12). The threefold
division, Israel—house of Aaron—
they that fear Jehovah, is the same
as in cxviii. 2, 3, 4. In cxxxv. the
house of Levi is added.
10. First the people at large are
exhorted to this trust, then the
priests—because to them was con-
fided the worship of Jehovah, with
them it rested to keep it pure, and
they might naturally be expected
to lead the people in the path of
holy trust.
11. YE THAT FEAR JEHOVAH.
This has been understood of pro-
selytes of the gate, in accordance
with the later Jewish and New Test.
usage, as in the Acts, σεβόμενοι τὸν
Θεόν, or simply σεβόμενοι. Comp.
Acts xiii. 43, 50. But in other places
in the Psalms the phrase occurs of
all Israel; see xxii. 23 [24], ciii. 11,
13, 17, and it is better to under-
stand it so here.
12. (WHO) HATH BEEN MINDFUL
. . .WILL BLESS. So the LXX.
μνημεῖος, and Jerome recordatus,
and so Ibn. 'Ez. takes וַיְהִי as a
relative. The past is the pledge of
the future. Again the same three
classes are mentioned as in the
three preceding verses.
This blessing, thus promised (ver.
12, 13) and thus supplicated (ver.
14, 15), was sung, as Ewald con-
jectures, by the priest. But see
Introduction to Ps. cxviii.
xxx. 24; Deut. i. 11; 2 Sam.
xxiv. 3.
15. MAKER OF HEAVEN AND
EARTH. The title has reference to
the impotent idols before described.
16. The words in this and in the
next verse are simple enough, but
But the earth hath He given to the children of men.

17 The dead praise not Jah,
Neither all they that go down into silence;
18 But we will bless Jah
From henceforth even for ever,
Hallelujah!

their connection with the rest of the Psalm is not very clear. Perhaps it may be traced thus: In ver. 15 Jehovah is said to have made heaven and earth. Then in ver. 16 these are distributed: heaven is His abode; earth is the abode of man. But the mention of heaven and earth suggests the thought of another region, that unseen world below where none can praise God as they do on this fair earth which He has given to the children of men. But what the dead cannot do, we will do,—we to whom our God has given the earth, we to whom He has been a help and a shield, we whom He has blessed and will bless, we with thankful hearts will never cease to show forth His praise.

17. Comp. cxviii. 17; Is. xxxviii. 18. 19.

PSALM CXVI.

IN this Psalm one who has been in peril of death (ver. 3, 9, 15) gives thanks to God with a full heart for the deliverance which has been vouchsafed to him. Beginning with the expression of a love to God called forth by His mercy, the Psalmist then passes in review all God's goodness, till he feels that it surpasses infinitely not only all his deserts, but all adequate power of acknowledgement (ver. 12); and he concludes by declaring that in the most public manner, before the assembled congregation, he will confess how great the debt he owes, and bind himself solemnly to the service of Jehovah.

The Psalm is evidence of the truth and depth of the religious life in individuals after the return from the Exile; for there can be little doubt that it must be assigned to that period. Many words and turns of phrases remind us of earlier Psalms, and especially of the Psalms of David. His words must have laid hold in no common degree of the hearts of those who were heirs of his faith, and have sustained them in times of sorrow and suffering; and nothing would be more natural than that later Poets should echo his strains, and mingle his words with their own when they poured forth their prayers and praises before God.
1 LOVE (Him) because Jehovah heareth
   My voice and my supplications,
2 Because He hath inclined His ear unto me,
   Therefore as long as I live will I call (upon Him).
3 The cords of death compassed me,
   And the pains a of the unseen world gat hold upon me.
   I found distress and sorrow:
4 Then I called upon the name of Jehovah,
   "0 Jehovah, I beseech Thee, b deliver my soul."
5 Gracious is Jehovah and righteous;
   Yea, our God showeth tender compassion.
6 Jehovah preserveth the simple:
   I was in misery and He saved c me,
7 Return unto thy rest, d 0 my soul,
   For Jehovah hath dealt bountifully with thee.

1. I LOVE. The verb stands alone without any expressed object, as if the full heart needed not to express it. The object appears as subject in the next clause, from which it is readily supplied: "I love Jehovah, for He heareth," &c. The writer is fond of this pregnant use of the verb without an object expressed. See ver. 2, "I call," and ver. 10, "I believe." For the sentiment, comp. xviii. 1 [2], "Tenderly do I love Thee." The rendering, "I am well pleased that," &c. has no support in usage.

   On this first verse Augustine beautifully says: "Cantet hoc anima quae peregrinatur a Domino, cantet hoc ovis ilia quae erraverat, cantet hoc filius ille qui mortuus fuerat et revixit, perierat et inventus est; cantet hoc anima nostra, fratres et filii carissimi."

2. AS LONG AS I LIVE, lit. "in my days." The phrase, "in my days will I call," is certainly hard, and 2 Kings xx. 19 (Is. xxxix. 8), to which Del. refers, is not a real parallel. Still, as the LXX. and Jerome evidently had the reading, it is probably the true one, and we need not adopt any of the conjectural emendations which have been proposed.

   3. The later Psalmists would naturally often use David's words as the best expression of their own feelings, especially in seasons of peril and sorrow. See xviii. 1-6 [2-7].

   GAT HOLD UPON, lit. "found," as in cxix. 143.

   5. Instead of saying directly "Jehovah answered me," he magnifies those attributes of God which from the days of His wonderful self-revelation to Moses (Ex. xxxiv. 6), had been the joy and consolation of every tried and trusting heart. See Introduction to ciii. The epithet "righteous " is added here, as in cxii. 4.

   6. THE SIMPLE. LXX. τα νηπια. The very simplicity which lays them most readily open to attack is itself an appeal for protection to Him who "showeth tender compassion."

   7. The deliverance vouchsafed in answer to prayer stills the tumult of the soul. The REST is the rest of confidence in God.
8 For Thou hast delivered my soul from death,
Mine eye from tears,
My foot from stumbling.

9 I will walk before Jehovah
In the land of the living.

10 I believe;—for I must speak;e
I was greatly afflicted.

11 I said in my confusion,
"All men are liars."

12 How shall I repay unto Jehovah
All His bountiful dealings f with me?

13 I will take the cup of salvation,
And call on the name of Jehovah.

9. THE LAND OF THE LIVING,
lit. "the lands," but the plural may
be only poetic amplification. In
xxvii. 13 (comp. lvi. 13 [14]), we
have the singular.

10. The E.V., "I believed, therefore have I spoken," follows the
LXX. ἐπίστευσα, δι' ἐλαύνσα, a ren-
dering which is also adopted by
St. Paul, 2 Cor. iv. 13, in illustration
of the truth that a living faith in
the heart will utter its convictions
with the mouth. But the Hebrew
will not admit of such a rendering.
For the various explanations, see
Critical Note. That given in the
text may be thus explained: "I
believe"—emphatic, i.e. I do be-
lieve, I have learnt trust in God by
painful experience—"for I must
speak"—I must confess it, "I even
I (pron. emphatic) was greatly
afflicted; I myself (pron. emphatic
as before) said," &c. This gives
the due prominence to the repeated
pronoun, and moreover a satisfac-
tory sense is obtained. Kay ren-
ders: "I believed in that I spake."

The Psalmist declares that he
stays himself upon God ("I believe"),
for he had looked to himself, and
there had seen nothing but weak-
ness; he had looked to other men
and found them all deceitful, trea-
cherous as a broken reed. Comp.
lx. 11 [13], lxii. 9 [10], cviii.. 8, 9.
There is an allusion to this passage
in Rom. iii. 4.

11. The first member is the same
as in xxxi. 22 [23].

CONFUSION, or, "rashness."

13. THE CUP. Many see in the
word an allusion to the "cup of
blessing" at the Paschal meal
(Matt. xxvi. 27), and this would ac-
cord with the sacrificial language
of ver. 14, 17. It is true there is
no evidence of any such custom at
the celebration of the Passover in
the Old Test.; but as the custom
existed in our Lord's time, the only
question is as to the time of its in-
troduction. If it was introduced
shortly after the Exile, this Psalm
may very well allude to it. It may
however have been earlier, there
being, according to the Rabbis, no
sacrificial gift (Korban) without
libations (the two are joined in
Joel i. 9). They tell us, that the
saying that wine was that which
cheereth God and man (Jud. ix. 13)
was the blessing pronounced em-
phatically over the cup. Others
understand by "the cup," in a figur-
ative sense, the portion allotted to
man, whether of prosperity, as in
xvi. 5 [6], xxiii. 5, or of adversity, as
14 My vows unto Jehovah will I pay,
Yea, in the presence of all His people let me (pay them).

15 Precious in the sight of Jehovah
Is the death of His beloved.
16 I beseech Thee, Jehovah—for I am Thy servant,
I am Thy servant, the son of Thine handmaid;
Thou hast loosed my bonds.

17 I will sacrifice unto Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
And I will call upon the Name of Jehovah.
18 My vows will I pay unto Jehovah,
Yea, in the presence of all His people let me (pay them),
19 In the courts of Jehovah's house,
In the midst of Thee, Jehovah! Hallelujah!

in xi. 6 [7], lxxv. 8 [9]. So the Arabs speak of "the cup of death," "the cup of love," &c. Then the meaning of the verse will be, "I will accept thankfully and with devout acknowledgement the blessings which God gives me as my portion."

14. LET ME (PAY THEM). I have endeavoured thus to render here, and in ver. 18 (the refrain), the interjection which is used in beseeching. It is a part of the same interjection which occurs in ver. 4 and
16. and which is there rendered "I beseech Thee." A fondness for these forms is characteristic of the Psalm.

15. PRECIOUS . . . . IS THE DEATH, i.e. it is no light thing in the sight of God that His servants should perish. The more obvious form of expression occurs lxxii. 14, "precious is their blood in His eyes."

16. SON OF THINE HANDMAID. Comp. lxxxvi. 16; 2 Tim. i. 5.

a מַלְלָא; a later word, which occurs besides in the sing. cxviii. 5, and in the plur. מַלְלַא מַלְלָא, Lam. i. 3. In these other passages it means narrowness, straitness, as of a narrow place, whereas here an abstract sense is required. The word does not also seem very suitable to מַלְלָא. In the original passage מַלְלָא is the word employed, and hence Hupf. would read here מַלְלָא, nets, referring to similar forms in Job xix. 6; Eccl. vii. 26.

b מַלְלָא with מ, as in five other places, instead of מל, compounded of מ and מ; is accentuated both Mil'el and Mil'ra. Properly speaking, in beseeching it is anna, Mil'ra; in asking questions, annah, Mil'el.
c יִתְנְשְׁוּ. For this form, with the ה retained, see lxxxi. 5 [6].

d נְתֵנָה. The plur. masc. occurs only here, the plur. fem. in two other places instead of the sing. The noun means primarily a resting-place. and then rest (xxiii. 2). The plur. is used to denote rest in its fulness.

On the form of the fern. suffix in this word, and in יִתְנְשְׁוּ in the same verse, and again in בֵּיתָנָה, ver. 19, see on ciii. note a.

e אָמַתְנְתָהוּ. The construction of this clause is extremely difficult.

In all other instances where נְתֵנָה follows the Hiph. of נָמָא it means "that," but in all other instances the subject of the verb in the subordinate clause is different from that in the principal clause; e.g. Ex. iv. 5, "that they may believe that Jehovah hath appeared," &c. But we could not render here, "I believe that I should speak." Hence various renderings have been proposed: (I) "I believe when I speak," i.e. when I break forth into the complaint which follows in the next clause. (So Hupfeld.) Similarly Ewald: "I have faith, when I speak." For this use of the verb speak, comp. xxxix. 3 [4]. (2) "I believed when I spoke (thus);" the next hemistich, "I was greatly afflicted," being independent, and not an expression of what he said. (3) "Credidi, quum haec loquuturus essesm," Jun. and Trem. (4) Delitzsch remarks that the rendering "I have believed, that I should yet speak," i.e. yet have to praise God's goodness (רְבָּרָן, as in xl. 6), would yield a good sense, that in his deepest affliction he yet kept his faith, which was first silent and then spake, whereas unbelief first speaks and at last is silent, yet this interpretation is not satisfactory because it leaves the connexion between the parallel members too slight and loose. And as נְתֵנָה can only mean either "that" (Job ix. i6) or "suppose that" = "if" (Hab. i. 5) or "for," nothing is left but to render, "I have believed, for I spake (or must speak)." This, however, gives a suitable sense. If he looked at himself (obs. the emphatic pron. ynixE), he found himself in the deepest affliction, unable to help himself: if he looked to men he must confess to himself (obs. the repetition of the pers. pron. ynixE) that all confidence placed in man was vain. Hence, despairing alike of himself and of other men, he believed in God. אָמַתְנְתָהוּ thus stands absolutely, "I stayed myself upon God, in the depth of my own misery, and in the absence of human help." Hitz. rejecting such renderings as those of Ew.: Ich habe Glauben, wann ich rede, of Del: Ich fasste Glauben, denn ich musste sprechen, &c., as contrary to grammar, thinks that the construction here is like that in Jer. xii. 1: "Thou art (too) righteous that (נְתֵנָה) I should plead with thee." He appeals to similar constructions in Arabic and in Greek writers. So here he renders: to. Ich vertraue als dass ich spräche: ich bin gebeugt sehr. 11. Ich hatte gedacht in meiner Bestürzung alle Menschen sind Lügner. He connects this with ver. 9 thus: I shall live through God's mercy, and I confide therein so that in what may befall me, I will not suffer myself to be led away into any expression of faint-heartedness. I have too much faith in Him to complain how I am bowed down." Before this, on the contrary, he had been in a state of trepidation (ver. 11): I had thought that all men are liars;—I had lost all confidence in men; but Jehovah dealt bountifully
with me (ver. 7), and how can I repay Him (ver. 12)? Reuss renders: Je croyais, bien que je dusse dire: Je suis dans un profond abaissement. Je disais dans mes alarmes, Tous les hommes sont trompeurs. Rejecting the interpretation of the LXX. on grammatical grounds, he observes: "L’auteur veut évidemment affirmer sa foi, ferme malgré la situation clans laquelle il se trouvait et malgré l’impossibilité de s’en rapporter aux hommes. Pour compléter sa pensée il faut ajouter : et ma confiance n'a point été trompée." Of the Verss. the Syr.-Hex. has in the text, " I have believed ; therefore have spoken;" but in the margin, "I believed that I should speak," or, perhaps, "because I must speak."

The LXX. ἔπιστευσα, διὸ ἐλαλήσα. Jerome: Credidi propter quod [h. quia] locutas sum. The Syr. has merely the conjunction, "I believed and I spare, and I was greatly afflicted."

This Aramaic plural suffix occurs only here in Biblical Hebrew (Ges. § 91, 2, Obs. 2).

The form seems adapted to the following נ, to express the inward earnestness of wish; see the same form ver. 18, and again the use of נָ, ver. 16. It is more difficult to account for the termination -ָ in נָּּ, ver. 15, which, as an accusatival termination, can have no force. Del. calls it "a pathetic form" for נָ, but the fondness for this termination is a peculiarity of the writer.

The prep. instead of the accus. after the trans. verb is an Aramaic construction, but not necessarily one of the signs of the later date of the Psalm, as the construction occurs sometimes in the earlier Books.

PSALM CXVII.

THIS short Psalm may have been a doxology intended to be sung after other Psalms, or perhaps at the beginning or end of the Temple service. In many MSS. and editions it is joined with the following Psalm, but without any sufficient reason.

10 PRAISE Jehovah, all ye nations,
Laud Him, all ye peoples!

2 For His loving-kindness is mightily shown towards us,

2. LOVING-KINDNESS... TRUTH,
These two great attributes of God (see on cxv. 1), as manifested to Israel, "towards us," are to be the subject of praise for the heathen, an indication of those wider sympathies which appear to have manifested themselves after the Exile. Hence the first verse is quoted by St. Paul, Rom. xv. 11, together with
And the truth of Jehovah is for ever.
Hallelujah!

Deut. xxxii. 43, "Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with His people," as showing that in the purpose of God the Gentiles were destined to be part-takers, together with the Jews, of His mercy in Christ.

The only instance of this form in Biblical Hebrew. Elsewhere, either ἀνάφημα (Gen. xxv. 16; Num. xxv. 15), or more commonly ἀνάφημι.

PSALM CXVIII.

IT is evident that this Psalm was designed to be sung in the Temple worship, and was composed for some festal occasion. Its liturgical character is shown by the formula with which it opens and closes, "O give thanks unto Jehovah," &c.; by the introduction of different voices, which may be inferred in ver. 2-4; and by the frequent repetition of certain lines as a refrain in the former half of the Psalm, which can leave little doubt that it was constructed with a view to antiphonal singing. The allusions in the latter part, and especially ver. 24, "This is the day which Jehovah hath made," &c. point to some great festival as the occasion for which it was written. Its general character, and the many passages in it borrowed from earlier writers, render it probable that it is one of the later Psalms, and we may assume that it was composed after the return from the Captivity.

Four different occasions have been suggested for which it might have been written:

1. The first celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh month of the first year of the Return, when nothing but the altar had, as yet, been erected for the worship of God, Ezra iii. 1—4. (Ewald.)

2. The laying of the foundation-stone of the Second Temple in the second month of the second year, Ezra iii. 8-13. (Hengstenberg.)

3. The completion and consecration of the Temple in the twelfth month of the seventh year of Darius, Ezra vi. 15-18. (Delitzsch.)

4. The extraordinary celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles after the completion of the Second Temple, recorded in Neh. viii 13-18. (Stier.)
The following conclusions may help us to decide:--

1. The use of the Psalm in the ritual of the Second Temple leads to the conclusion that it was composed originally for the Feast of Tabernacles. For the words of the 25th verse were sung during that Feast, when the altar of burnt-offering was solemnly compassed; that is, once on each of the first six days of the Feast, and seven times on the seventh day. This seventh day was, and is to this day, called "the great Hosannah" (Save now, ver. 25); and not only the prayers for the Feast, but even the branches of willow-trees, the myrtles, and the "Citron" (fruit of the tree of Hadar), or Ethrag, together with the palm-branch (Lulab), were called " Hosannas " (חָסְדָּאֵה). On the seventh day, after the three מִרְיָם (kinds of plants, i.e. Ethrag, myrtle, and palm-branch) are laid aside, the "Hosha'nah" still plays a part.

2. In the next place, it seems equally clear that the Psalm supposes the completion of the Temple. The language of verses 19, 20, "Open me the gates of righteousness," "This is the gate of Jehovah," and the figure employed in ver. 22, "The stone which the builders rejected is become the head stone of the corner," cannot be easily explained on any other supposition. The allusions in verses 8—12 to the deceitfulness of human help and the favour of princes, as well as to the active interference of troublesome enemies, are exactly in accordance with all that we read of the circumstances connected with the rebuilding of the Temple. The most probable conclusion therefore is, that the Psalm was composed for the first celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, after the completion of the Second Temple. (Nehemiah viii.)

Dr. Plumptre, who, like Ewald, supposes the Psalm to have been originally composed for the first Feast of Tabernacles after the Return, suggests that it may subsequently have been used with adaptations at the later great gatherings of the people. He thus in fact combines the different views which have been held as to the occasion for which the Psalm was written. He thinks it may possibly have been written by one of the two prophets of that time, and draws attention to the prominence in Zechariah of parables and illustrations drawn from the builder's work: the "stone" of iii. 9, iv. 7; the "house" and "timber" of v. 4. 11; the "line" of i. 16; the "carpenters" of i. 20; the "measuring-line for the walls of Jerusalem" of ii. 1; the "plummet" in the hand of Zerubbabel of iv. 10. "The Prophet lives as it were among the works of the rising Temple." (Biblical Studies, p. 274.) Comp. ver. 19 and 22 of the Psalm.
Ewald distributes the Psalm between different voices, giving ver. 1—4 to the choir, ver. 5—23 to the leader of the choir, ver. 24, 25 to the choir, ver. 26, 27 to the priest, ver. 28 to the leader of the choir, ver. 29 to the choir. But, as Delitzsch observes, the priests took no part in the singing of the service; they blew with the trumpets, but the singers and the players on the stringed and other instruments of music were Levites. The Psalm, therefore, should be distributed between the Levites and the congregation, the lines containing the refrains being probably sung antiphonally by the latter. Delitzsch thinks it more certain that the Psalm consists of two parts, the first of which, ver. 1-19, was sung by the festal procession, led by priests and Levites, on the way to the Temple; the second, ver. 20—27, by the Levites, who received the procession at the Temple gate. Finally, ver. 28 would be the response of those who had just reached the Temple, and ver. 29 would be sung by all, both Levites and those who formed the procession.

A similar arrangement of the Psalm is suggested in the Midrash (Shocher tovoh,) but there "the men of Judah" form the procession, which is received by "the men of Jerusalem." In Tal. B. Pesachim 119a the Psalm is assumed to be intended for antiphonal singing.

The congregation speak of themselves sometimes in the singular, sometimes in the plural, but it is not necessary to assume that in the former case the words were always sung by a single voice and in the latter by many. It is more probable that in some portions of the Psalm, although it was intended for public worship, the personal feelings of the writer were uppermost. There is the same change, for instance, in the "Te Deum," and such variations are perfectly natural. On the other hand, we may take it for granted, that in the first four verses the lines would be sung antiphonally, the precentor, perhaps, singing the first line of each verse, and the choir taking up the refrain, "For His loving-kindness," &c.

1 O GIVE thanks to Jehovah, for He is good,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
2 Let Israel now say,
   That His Loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.

1-4. Comp. Ezra iii. 11, where the same refrain is found as the burden of the psalmody which was sung at the laying of the foundations of the second Temple. This is so far in favour of Hengstenberg's view as to the occasion on which the Psalm was first sung. See introduction to the Psalm.

2. THAT or rather "for" as in ver. 1. It is the same particle. The words "for His loving-kindness endureth for ever," are in fact a quotation, a refrain such as
3 Let the house of Aaron now say,
That His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
4 Let them now that fear Jehovah say,
That His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
5 Out of (my) straitness I called upon Jah,
Jah answered a me (and set me) in a large place.\(^b\)
6 Jehovah is on my side, I am not afraid;
What can man do unto me?
7 Jehovah is on my side, to help me,
Therefore I shall see my desire upon them that hate me.

8 It is better to find refuge in Jehovah,
Than to put any trust in man:
9 It is better to find refuge in Jehovah,
Than to put any trust in princes.

10 All nations compassed me about;
In the name of Jehovah will I cut them off.\(^c\)
11 They compassed me about, yea, they compassed me about;
But in the name of Jehovah will I cut them off.
12 They compassed me about like bees,
They were extinguished like a fire of thorns:

Jehoshaphat's singers were directed to sing, 2 Chron. xxv. 21.
  6. Borrowed from lvi. 9, II [10, 12].
  7. To HELP ME, or "as my Helper." Comp. liv. 4 [6], where see note. Exod. xviii. 4.
  8, 9. See lxxii., xxxiii., 16-19, and comp. cxlvi. 3.
  The allusion is probably to the hostility of the Samaritans and the Persian satraps during the building of the Temple. The Jews had learnt by painful experience how little they could trust in princes, for the work which had been begun under Cyrus had been threatened under Cambyses, and had been suspended under the pseudo-Smerdis, and it was not till Darius came to the throne that they were allowed to resume it (Ezra iv.).
  10. ALL NATIONS, i.e. the neighbouring tribes, who harassed the returning exiles, the four times repeated "compassed me about" marking their close and pertinacious hostility.
  12. LIKE BEES. See the same figure, Deut. i. 44.
  WERE EXTINGUISHED. Others "they blazed up" (so Leeser), the Pael being taken here in the private sense which the Piel sometimes has, as for instance in li. 7 [9], Is. V.
  2. So the LXX. ἐξεκαυθησαν ὤς πῦρ ἐν ἄκανθαις. Vulg. exarserunt.
  FIRE OF THORNS, quickly blazing up and as quickly dying out. Comp. lviii. 9 [10].
PSALM CX VIII.

In the name of Jehovah will I cut them off.
13 Thou didst thrust sore at me, that I might fall,
   But Jehovah helped me.
14 Jah is my strength and my song;
   And He is become my salvation.
15 The voice of joyous song and salvation
   Is in the tents of the righteous:
   The right hand of Jehovah doeth valiantly.
16 The right hand of Jehovah is exalted,
   The right hand of Jehovah doeth valiantly.
17 I shall not die but live,
   And I shall tell forth the works of Jah.
18 Jah hath chastened me sore,
   But He hath not given me over unto death.
19. Open to me the gates of righteousness,
   I will enter into them, I will give thanks to Jah.

13. THOU DIDST THRUST SORE, or perhaps "Thou didst indeed thrust, &c. . . . but," for the emphasis in the repetition of the verb (infin. absol.) belongs, as Hupf. remarks, not merely to the idea contained in the verb, but rather to the whole sentence, and implies an opposition, as here in what follows. The words are an apostrophe to the enemy, here addressed as an individual.

14. In the first line there is a reminiscence of Israel's song of triumph at the Red Sea, Ex. xv. 2 (comp. Is. xii. 2).

15. TENTS. "We can imagine," says Dr. Plumptre, "with what special force the words [of this verse] would come to those who then were, or had but recently been keeping their Feast of Tabernacles, dwelling in the temporary huts which they constructed of the branches of the olive and the fir-tree, the myrtle and the palm, and rejoicing in the great deliverance which God had given them."—

17. "Ad se redit, laetusque exclamat," remarks Rosenmuller. And certainly the personal feeling of the Psalmist seems here to predominate, though the Psalm is so manifestly liturgical, and therefore intended to represent the feelings of the congregation, that the personal experience includes that of the nation at large. Each one of those redeemed captives may take up the words and utter them as his own, and the whole nation as one man may adopt them also. Nationally and individually they are alike true.

19. THE GATES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. The gates of the Temple are so called with reference to the service of God, and the character He requires of His worshipers. This is evident from the next verse, "The righteous shall enter into it." Comp. v. 4 [5], "Evil cannot dwell with Thee," i.e. in Thy house; xv. 1, 2, "Who may dwell on Thy holy mountain? He that walketh perfectly and worketh righteousness,"
20 This is the gate of Jehovah;
The righteous shall enter into it.
21 I will give thanks unto Thee, for Thou hast answered me,
And art become my salvation.
22 A stone which the builders rejected
Is become the head (stone) of the corner.

&c. See also 3—6. What David had declared to be the necessary condition of all acceptable worship in Zion was felt to be perpetually true.

The demand "Open to me," may be understood either (1) literally, in which case it is best explained as the words of the singers in the festal procession when they reach the Temple gates (see Introduction to the Psalm); or (2) figuratively as implying the readiness and alacrity with which the Psalmist will go to the house of God, there to offer his sacrifices and to utter his thank-givings. Comp. Is. xxvi., 2, "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation may enter in," where righteousness is made the condition of entrance into "the strong city" or God's building, as here into the holy place.

To this day, the words of this verse are used at the dedication of a new synagogue.

22. A STONE. The imagery is drawn obviously from the building of the Temple. "Some incident in the progress of the works had probably served as the starting-point of the parable. Some stone—a fragment, we may conjecture, of the Old Temple, rescued from its ruins—has seemed to the architects unfit for the work of binding together the two walls that met at right angles to each other. They would have preferred some new blocks of their own fashioning. But the priests, it may be, more conversant with the traditions of the Temple, knew that that was the right place for it, and that no other stone would answer half as well.

The trial was made, and the issue answered their expectations. Could they fail to see that this was a type and figure of what was then passing in the history of their nation? Israel had been rejected by the builders of this world's empire, and seemed now about to be once more 'the head of the corner.'" (Biblical Studies, p. 275.) They had been despised by their heathen masters, but now, by the good hand of their God upon them, they had been lifted into a place of honour. They, rejected of men, were chosen of God as a chief stone of that new spiritual building which Jehovah was about to erect, the temple of the world, the foundation of which was to be laid in Zion.

In Matt. xxii. 42—44 (Mark xii. 10, it, Luke xx. 17), our Lord applies the words of this and the next verse to Himself. The quotation was, it would seem, purposely taken from the same Psalm from which the multitude had just before taken their words of salutation (see on ver. 25, 26), as they went forth to meet Him and conduct Him in triumph into Jerusalem. But there is more than an application of the words. Israel is not only a figure of Christ, there is an organic unity between Him and them. Whatever, therefore, is true of Israel in a lower sense, is true in its highest sense of Christ. Is Israel God's "first-born son?" the name in its fulfilment belongs to Christ (Matt. ii. 15) if Israel is "the servant of Jehovah," he is so only as imperfectly representing Him who said, "My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work." If Israel is the rejected stone made the head of the corner, this is far
23 This is Jehovah's doing,
   It is marvellous in our eyes.  
24 This is the day which Jehovah hath made,
   Let us exult and be glad in it.
25 We beseech Thee, 0 Jehovah, save now,
   We beseech Thee, 0 Jehovah, send now prosperity.

...this is the day which He hath made." The prayer of the next verse falls in best with the latter interpretation.

25. WE BESEECH THEE. Comp. cxvi. 4, 16.
   SAVE NOW, or rather, "Save, I pray" (Hosanna). The particle of entreaty is repeated in each member of this verse, so that altogether it occurs four times, as if to mark the earnestness of the petition. The English word "now" is not, therefore, a particle of time, but a particle of entreaty.

With this word "Hosanna," and words from the next verse, "Blessed be He that cometh," &c., the multitude welcomed Jesus as the Messiah, the Psalm being perhaps already recognized as a Messianic Psalm. According to the Midrash, the first hemistich of this verse was said by "the men of Jerusalem from within," "welcoming the men of Judah," i.e. the caravans of pilgrims coming up to the feast: the second, by "the men of Judah from without," in reply. So in the next verse the men of Jerusalem say the first hemistich: "Blessed be He," &c., and the men of Judah, "We have blessed you," &c. [In this case we must interpret the latter part of the clause, You that are of the house of Jehovah.] In ver. 27, the men of Jerusalem say, "Jehovah is God," and the men of Judah from without answer, "And He showeth us light:" the one say, "Bind the sacrifice," &c., and the others, "My God, I will exalt Thee." Then both together open their mouth and praise and glorify God, saying, "Oh give thanks," &c. (ver. 29).
26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of Jehovah,  
We have blessed you from the house of Jehovah.

27 Jehovah is God, and He showeth us light;  
Bind the sacrifice with cords,  
Even unto the horns of the altar.

28 Thou art my God, and I will give Thee thanks,  
(Thou art) my God, (and) I will exalt Thee.

29 Oh give thanks to Jehovah, for He is good,  
For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.

| 26. According to the accents the rendering would be "Blessed in the name of Jehovah be he that cometh," the formula being the same as in the priestly blessing, Num. vi. 27; Deut. xxii. 5; 2 Sam. vi. 18. Comp. Ps. xxxiv. 8. FROM THE HOUSE OF JEHOVAH, the priests standing there to bless those who entered. 27. SHOWETH US LIGHT, in allusion to the priestly blessing, "Jehovah make His face shine (lighten, the same verb as here) upon thee." Comp. iv. 6 [7]. THE SACRIFICE. The word commonly denotes the feast; here, in Ex. xxiii. 18, Mal. ii. 3, the victim offered at the feast. The E.V. gives this sense in Is. xxix. 11. UNTO THE HORNS OF THE ALTAR. The expression is apparently a pregnant one, and the sense is, "Bind the victim with cords till it is sacrificed, and its blood sprinkled on the horns of the altar." Delitzsch, on the other hand, renders "as far as the horns of the altar." Supposing the Psalm to have been written for the dedication of the Second Temple, he refers to Ezra vi. 17, where mention is made of the vast number of animals slaughtered on the occasion; hence he explains that the victims (taking the word sacrifice in a collective sense) were so numerous that the whole court of the priests was crowded with them, and that they reached as far as the horns of the altar. "The meaning is," he says, "bring your hecatombs and have them ready for sacrifice." But on this interpretation there is nothing appropriate in the mention of the horns of the altar. These have always a reference to the blood of the sacrifice. Luther has "Deck the feast with garlands (or boughs)," following the LXX. σωστήσασθε έφτην εν τοις πυκάζουσιν. Symm. has συνάδησατε εν πανηγύρει πυκάζωμα, and Jerome frequentat solennitatem in frondosis—all renderings which imply a belief, that the Psalm was intended for the Feast of Tabernacles. As regards this rendering, the word translated in the text cords may mean thick boughs, πυκάζωμα (see Ezek. xix. 11; xxxi. 3, 4), but the verb bind cannot mean deck or wreath.

α. This (and not α) is the usual vocalization, whether in pause or not; comp. I Sam. xxviii. 15, where it stands with Munach. Baer says here that α is "with Rebia Mugrash, and the Nun has Qametz according to the best MSS." The construction with τοπεραγναν is an instance of what is called the constructio praegnans. Comp. lxxiv. 7; 2 Sam. xviii. 19; Jer. xli. 7. Symm. ἐπηκουσέ μου εἱ εὐρυχώριαν.
b According to the Massoreth נ is not a separate word, but we are to read נ merely intensifies the form of the word, and the נ is expressly said to be without Mappik. Cf. Jos. xv. 28, 2 Sam. xii. 25, Jer. ii. 31, I Chr. iv. 18 (bis), viii. 24, 27. Song of Sol. i. 7, viii. 6, and see note on הלווה, Ps. civ. 35.

c הלמי. Hiphil (only here) of מול, which means elsewhere to *circumcise*, in Qal and Niphal. Hengst. would retain the signification here, as if the victory over the heathen, "the uncircumcised," were described under the figure of a compulsory circumcision. Such a form of expression does occur in the later Jewish history (Joseph. Arch. xiii. 9, I, 11, 3). Compare also the allusions in Gal. v. 12, Phil. iii. 2, and the forcible circumcision as a token of victory, i Sam. xviii. 25, 2 Sam. iii. 14. But this is quite out of the question here. The Hiph. may have the more general meaning *to cut off*, which is found in the Piel], xc. 6, and in the Hithpael, lviii. 8. Hupf. would read מלחין from הלח, sustinere), "I will repel them," in accordance with the rendering of the LXX.

As regards the punctuation, the correct texts of Solomon of Norcia, Heidenheim, and others, have מלחין, and so Gesen. would read, the Pathach in pause being the representative of the Tzere. Delitzsch observes, that such a change of vowel is remarkable, and he would account for it by supposing that, in such cases, as the vowel is already long and cannot be lengthened, it is sharpened (pointed) instead.

The affirmative י stands before this verb (instead of at the beginning of the sentence), as in cxxviii. 2. Compare the position of ל, lxvi. 18. Its use may be explained by an ellipse = "know that," "be sure that," as in an oath, I Sam. xiv. 44. See also Num. xiv. 3, &c.

d למס, with Nun expressed (as in Is. xxix. 2) and *Pe dagess*., whereas with ב and ו the aspirate is left, with but few exceptions, such as Gen. xxxv. 22.

e ינ. See on xvi. note k.

f רמה. Not an adj., as if from מזר, a root which does not exist, but either (I) 3 pret. Pal., or (2) Part. Pal. with loss of the כ (as מזר, Dan. viii. 13, ורלו, Is. iii. 12, and elsewhere), and retention of the vowel as in pause. The objection to (I) is, that then the accentuation ought to be מזרמה.

g מלה. For other instances of this form comp. Gen. xxxiii. 11; Deut. xxxi. 29; Jer. xlvii. 23; Is. vii. 14. יתדה, rhythmic *Mile'el* with *Dagesh* in the following word, as for instance in Gen. xix. 38; Ex. xvi. 24; I Sam. vi. 9; Prov. vii. 13, &c.
THIS is the longest and the most elaborate of the Alphabetical Psalms. It is arranged in twenty-two stanzas, according to the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Each stanza is composed of eight verses, each verse consisting of two members only, and each beginning with the same letter of the alphabet. Thus each of the first eight verses begins with the letter Aleph, each of the next eight with the letter Beth, and so on throughout the alphabet. In the third chapter of the Lamentations of Jeremiah a similar arrangement is adopted, but there the stanzas or groups consist only of three verses, each beginning with the same letter. Other instances of this acrostic arrangement occurring in the Psalter will be found enumerated in the Introduction to Psalm xxv. (See also the Introduction to Psalm cxi.)

The great subject of the Psalmist's praise is the Law of God. In this respect the Psalm may be said to be an elaborate expansion of the latter part of Psalm xix. The Massoretes observe, that in every verse but one, the 122nd, there is direct reference to the Law under some one of the ten names (supposed to allude to the Ten Commandments [Hebrew, Words]) word, saying, testimonies, way, judgment, precept, commandment, law, statute, faithfulness (or according to another reading, righteousness). In the 132nd verse, the word "judgment" occurs in the Hebrew, although apparently not as a synonyme of the Law: see note on the verse. In ver. 121, "judgement and righteousness," if not denoting the Law immediately, are employed with reference to the requirements of the Law.

The date of the Psalm cannot be fixed with anything like certainty, though it may probably be referred to a time subsequent to the return from the Babylonish captivity.

(a) The allusion to "princes" (ver. 23) and "kings" (ver. 46) who do not share the faith of the Psalmist, may be taken to denote that the Jews were subject at this time to foreign dominion.

(b) The Law of which he speaks as his daily study, as his delight and his counsellor, must obviously have been the written Law, and it may be inferred that it was now in the hands of the people. Whether this was the case to any extent before the Exile, we have now no means of ascertaining. After the Exile, copies of the Scriptures were multiplied. The efforts of Ezra and Nehemiah, which were directed
in the first instance to the collection of the Sacred Books (2 Macc. ii. 13), must have been directed eventually to their dissemination. Accordingly, we find that copies of "the books of the Law," or of "the book of the Covenant," were in the possession of the people at the time of the Maccabees (1 Macc. i. 55, 56). In the Psalm, the writer perhaps includes in "the word" of God, not only the Law, but other writings regarded as sacred. In Zech. vii. 12, "the former Prophets" are joined with "the Law."

(c) The general character of the Psalm, which is a meditation rather than a poem, as well as its place in the Collection, favours the supposition that it is one of the later Psalms.

(d) The alphabetical arrangement, it has also been argued, forbids our assigning it to an earlier period: "adapted for didactic rather than for lyric expression, it belongs," it has been said, "to an age no longer animated by the soul of poetry, but struggling to clothe its religious thoughts in a poetic form."* It is, however, far from certain that this acrostic device is of itself evidence of the decline of the poetic spirit. Some of the oldest poems in our own language are constructed on the principle of alliteration. It is the same in Welsh poetry. And unless the different stages of Hebrew poetry were more clearly marked than they are at present, its acrostic character can hardly be taken as settling the question of the date of any single Psalm.

The circumstances of the Psalmist may be inferred in some measure from the language of the Psalm itself. He is suffering from persecution. His enemies are men of rank and authority (ver. 21, 23), having both the power and the will to crush him (ver. 61, 69). His constancy is severely tried. He is exposed to reproach and contempt on account of his religion, and has reason to fear lest his hope and trust in God should be put to shame (ver. 6, 22, 31). He is solicited to give up his faith for gain, and even perhaps invited to join in idolatrous worship (ver. 36, 37). These things make him sad (ver. 25, 28), but he stays himself upon the word and promise of God. That word in all its varied aspects of law and promise, of precepts and judgements, had been his comfort in his affliction, his most precious possession, dearer to him than all earthly treasures; he had meditated upon it day and night; it had been a lamp to his feet and a light to his path. He had taken it for his rule of life, he longed to know it better, he prayed to have the veil taken off his eyes that he might behold its hidden wonders. These thoughts, and thoughts like these, recur again and again. He is never wearied of declaring

* The Psalms Chronologically Arranged, by Four Friends, p. 383.
his love of God's Law, or of praying for more light to understand it, more power to keep it, to keep it with his "whole heart." The frequency of this last expression is striking evidence of the earnestness of the writer: see on ver. 2. But there does not seem to be any thing like continuity, or progress of thought, or of recorded experience, in the several stanzas of the Psalm.*

Still, "if we would fathom the depth of meaning in the written Law of Israel, if we would measure the elevation of soul, the hope, the confidence even before princes and kings, which pious Jews derived from it, we must turn to this Psalm. Here is an epitome of all true religion, as conceived by the best spirits of that time. To such a loving study and meditation on the Law the Alphabetic arrangement is not inappropriate, and if the poem be necessarily somewhat cramped, it is nevertheless pervaded by the glow of love, and abounds in spiritual life." †

Delitzsch thinks that the Psalm must have been written by a young man, and appeals to ver. 9, and ver. 99, 100, as supporting this view. But the language of ver. 9 is rather that of one who, looking back on his own past life, draws the inference which he seeks to impress upon the young, that youthful purity can only be preserved by those who from their early years take God's word for their guide. Just so in Ecclesiastes xii. 1, it is the man of mature age and large experience who gives the wise and friendly counsel, "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth." The lesson in each case comes with double force, because it comes from the lips of one who speaks with the authority of experience. When it is said in verses 99, 100 of this Psalm, that the Psalmist is wiser than his teachers, wiser than the aged, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that he is not advanced in life. It is plain that the writer is not an old man, as Ewald would have us believe, or he would not compare his knowledge of the law with the knowledge of the aged. But it does not follow that he is a young man. The teachers whom he has outstript may have been those whose disciple he once was, not those whose disciple he still is; or he may refer to authorized teachers to whom he listened because they sat in Moses' seat, though he felt that they had really nothing to teach him. Indeed the whole strain of the Psalm, in the depth and breadth of spiritual life, and the long

* Delitzsch thinks that he discovers a leading idea in each stanza, and thus endeavours to link the several stanzas together, but his analysis does not appear to me to be very successful. To a certain extent, freedom of thought and expression must have been fettered by the requirements of the alphabetical order. But, after all, what is rhyme but a fetter?
† The Psalms Chronologically Arranged, p. 385.
acquaintance which is everywhere implied in it with the word of God, can leave us in no doubt that it was written by a man who was no longer young, who had at least reached "the middle arch of life."

_Aleph._

1 Α ΒLESSED are the perfect in the way,
Who walk in the law of Jehovah.
2 Α Blessed are they that keep His testimonies,
That seek Him with the whole heart,
3 Α (Who) also have done no iniquity,
(Who) have walked in His ways.
4 Α Thou hast commanded Thy precepts,
That we should keep (them) diligently.
5 Α 0 thata my ways were established
To keep Thy statutes.
6 Α Then shall I not be ashamed,
While I have respect unto all Thy commandments.
7 Α I will give thanks to Thee with uprightness of heart,
When I learn Thy righteous judgements.
8 Α I will keep Thy statutes:
0 forsake me not utterly.

_Beth._

9 ב Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his path?
By taking heed (thereto) according to Thy word,b
10 ב With my whole heart have I sought Thee:
0 let me not wander from Thy commandments.

2. WITH THE WHOLE HEART.
An expression characteristic of this Psalm. Comp. ver. 10, 34, 58, 69, 145.

6. ASHAMED, i.e. put to shame, my hope being frustrated. This is the shame meant, not shame of conscience in comparing a man's life with the requirement of the Law.

HAVE RESPECT UNTO, lit. "look upon," i.e. with care and thought, so as to make them the rule of life.

7. JUDGEMENTS; here and throughout this Psalm not used of God's acts of judgement, but merely as the equivalent of "law," "precepts," and the like, utterances as of a Judge and Lawgiver, and found in this sense even in the Pentateuch, Ex. xxv. 1, xxiv. 3; Lev. xviii. 4, 5.
11 In my heart have I laid up Thy word, 
That I might not sin against Thee.

12 Blessed art Thou, O Jehovah: 
Teach me Thy statutes.

13 With my lips have I told 
Of all the judgements of Thy mouth.

14 In the way of Thy testimonies I have rejoiced, 
As much as in all manner of riches.

15 I will meditate in Thy precepts, 
And have respect unto Thy paths.

16 In Thy statutes will I delight myself; 
I will not forget Thy word.

Gimel.

17 Deal bountifully with Thy servant that I may live, 
So will I keep Thy word.

18 Open Thou mine eyes, 
That I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.

19 I am a sojourner in the earth: 
Hide not Thy commandments from me.

20 My soul breaketh for the longingc 
(That it hath) unto Thy judgements at all times.

---

11. IN MY HEART. See Luke ii. 19-51. It is to me no merely out-
ward rule of conduct: it is a power 
and a life within.

WORD, or rather "saying," "speech," distinct from the word 
employed, for instance, in ver. 9, lxxvii. 18. Both words are con-
stantly interchanged throughout the 
Psalms.

14. ALL MANNER OF RICHES. 
Comp. what is said of the incom-
parable worth of wisdom, Prov. ii. 4, iii. 13-15, viii. 10, 11, 19, xvi. 16, xxii. 1; Job xxviii. 15-19.

17. THAT I MAY LIVE: Or the 
construction may be, "Let me live 
(or, if I live), so will I," &c. The 
gift of life, if vouchsafed, shall be 
devoted to the keeping of God's 
word.

18. WONDROUS THINGS; an ac-
knowledgegment of treasures in the 
Divine word not seen by common 
eyes, needing, indeed, spiritual dis-
cernment and heavenly unveiling; 
hence "Open Thou."

19. A SOJOURNER, here there-
fore but for a short time (see on 
xxxix. 12), and needing for that 
time Divine teaching. Hence the 
prayer "Hide not," i.e. reveal, 
show me the inner sense and true 
application of, "Thy command-
ments."

20. BREAKETH, lit. " is broken," 
as expressive of the intensity of the 
desire, which seems to pervade the
21. Thou hast rebuked the proud that they are cursed,
Which do wander from Thy commandments.

22. Remove from me reproach and contempt;
For I have kept Thy testimonies.

23. Princes also have sat and talked against me,
But Thy servant meditateth in Thy statutes.

24. Thy testimonies also are my delight,
And my counsellors.

Daleth.

25. My soul cleaveth unto the dust:
Quicken Thou me according to Thy word.

26. I have told my ways, and Thou answeredst me:
Teach me Thy statutes.

27. Make me to understand the way of Thy precepts,
So shall I meditate of Thy wondrous works.

28. My soul melteth away for heaviness:
Stablish Thou me according unto Thy word.

29. Remove from me the way of falsehood,
And with Thy law be gracious unto me.
30 ¶ I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
    Thy judgements have I laid (before me)
31 ¶ I have stuck unto Thy testimonies:
    0 Jehovah, put me not to shame.
32 ¶ I will run the way of Thy commandments,
    When Thou shalt enlarge my heart.

He.
33 ¶ Teach me, 0 Jehovah, the way of Thy statutes,
    And I shall keep it unto the end.
34 ¶ Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law,
    That I may keep it with my whole heart.
35 ¶ Make me to walk in the path of Thy commandments;
    For therein do I delight.
36 ¶ Incline my heart unto Thy testimonies,
    And not to covetousness.
37 ¶ Turn away mine eyes from seeing vanity;
    In Thy way quicken Thou me.
38 ¶ Confirm Thy promise unto Thy servant,
    Who is (devoted) to Thy fear.
39 ¶ Turn away my reproach which I am afraid of;
    For Thy judgements are good.

32. ENLARGE MY HEART, i.e. ex-
pand it with a sense of liberty and
joy, as in Is. lx. 5; 2 Cor. vi. 11, 13.
See on ci. 6.

36. MY HEART, to which answers
in the next verse "mine eyes," as
representing the senses through
which the forbidden desire is kin-
dled in the heart. Comp. Is. xxxiii.
15; Job xxxi. I, 7.

37. COVETOUSNESS, or, rather, "gain
unjustly acquired." LXX. πλεονε-
ξίαν. Stanley, on I Cor. v. 10,
thinks that from the connection of
πλεονεξία with idolatry, it may be
used in the sense of sensuality, which
so often accompanied idolatry, and
he sees a similar connection here,
vanity in the next verse being a
term of idolatry. However, the

38. PROMISE, or "saying." See
on ver. 11. The second member
of the verse might also be rendered:
"Which (promise) is for Thy fear," i.e. either (a) is given to them that
fear Thee; or (b), which has the
fear of Thee for its aim and object
(cxxx. 4), tends to cherish a holy
fear.

39. The train of thought seems
Behold, I have longed after Thy precepts: 
In Thy righteousness quicken Thou me.

Vau.

Let Thy loving-kindness also come unto me, 0 Jehovah, 
Thy salvation, according to Thy saying.
So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me;
For I trust in Thy word.
And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth;
For I have waited for Thy judgements.
So shall I keep Thy law continually,
(Yea) for ever and ever.
And I shall walk at liberty;
For I have sought Thy precepts.
And I will speak of Thy testimonies before kings,
And will not be ashamed.
And I will delight myself in Thy commandments,
Which I love.
My hands also will I lift up unto Thy commandments, which I love;
And I will meditate in Thy statutes.

| to be: Keep me from the reproach of breaking Thy commandments, for those commandments are not grievous, but good, sweet, and full of blessing to one who longs after them as I do. Or "the reproach" may be that of his enemies (ver. 42), who taunt him as the servant of God. |
| 41. The vowel-points both of the verb and the noun suggest a plural, although the Yod of the plural is wanting in the noun. Similarly in ver. 43 the vowels suggest the plur. "judgements." See Critical Note b. |
| 43. The sense seems to be, "Give me the power faithfully to witness for Thy truth, and so to answer him that reproacheth me" (ver. 42). |
| 45. AT LIBERTY, lit. "in a wide space," where there is nothing to check or hinder freedom of action, as in cxviii. 5. |
| 46. BEFORE KINGS. It may be inferred that the Psalm was written whilst Judah was in subjection to foreign rule. The viceroy’s of the Persian king may be meant. |
| 48. MY HANDS WILL I LIFT UP. The expression denotes the act of prayer, as in xxviii. 2, lxiii. 4 [5], cxxxiv. 2, exli. 2. Comp. Lam. iii. |
| 41, "Let us lift up our heart with our hands." Here it would seem |
49 ✝ Remember the word unto Thy servant,  
Upon which Thou hast caused me to hope.  
50 ✝ This is my comfort in my affliction,  
For Thy word hath quickened me.  
51 ✝ The proud have had me greatly in derision;  
(Yet) have I not swerved from Thy law.  
52 ✝ I have remembered Thy judgements of old, 0 Jehovah,  
And have comforted myself.  
53 ✝ Burning indignation hath taken hold upon me,  
Because of the wicked that forsake Thy law.  
54 ✝ Thy statutes have been my songs  
In the house of my pilgrimage.  
55 ✝ I have remembered Thy name in the night, 0  
Jehovah,  
And have kept Thy law.

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<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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<tr>
<td>49</td>
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**Notes:**
- 49. THE WORD, apparently some special word of promise which had been his stay in his affliction, and had roused him to new hope and courage (ver. 50).  
  UPON WHICH, or perhaps, "seeing that," "because."
- 50. MY COMFORT. Comp. Job vi. 10, the only other place where the word occurs. It is the "word" (ver. 49) which is his comfort. Others render the ver. "This is my comfort, &c. . . . that Thy word hath quickened me."
- WORD, lit. "saying." See on ver. 11. Or the construction may be: "This is my comfort . . . that Thy word," &c. Here, as is evident from the mention of "affliction"—and indeed throughout the Psalm—the verb "quicken" is used not merely in an external sense of "preservation from death" (Hupf.), but of "reviving the heart," "imparting fresh courage," &c.
- 51. HAVE HAD ME IN DERISION, i.e. probably both on account of his misery and his trust in God. The verb is from the same root as the noun "scorners," "mockers," in i. 1. Comp. for the same connection between the spirit of pride and the spirit of irreligious scoffing, Prov. xxi. 24.
- 52. JUDGEMENTS, in the same sense as throughout the Psalm, God's righteous laws which He revealed OF OLD, which are ever true and ever in force.
- 53. BURNING INDIGNATION. See on xi. note c. Kay connects it with הַזָּרָה the ה being inserted, "fainting," "drooping," &c. LXX. ὀξυμαία, Vulg. defectio. The action of the Simum may either be regarded as a burning, parching wind, or in its effects, as producing faintness.
- 54. PILGRIMAGE, or rather, "sojourning." from the same root as the noun in ver. 9, where see note. In this earth I am but a passing
This I had,
   Because I kept Thy precepts.

Cheth.

"Jehovah is my portion,"
   I said that I would keep Thy words.

I entreated Thy favour with (my) whole heart;
   Be gracious to me according to Thy promise.

I thought on my ways,
   And turned back my feet unto Thy testimonies.

I made haste, and delayed not
   To keep Thy commandments.

The cords of the wicked have been wound about me,
   (But) Thy law have I not forgotten.

At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee,
   Because of Thy righteous judgements.

I am a companion of them that fear Thee,
   And of them that keep Thy precepts.

The earth, 0 Jehovah, is full of Thy loving-kindness:
   Teach me Thy statutes.

Teth.

Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant,
   0 Jehovah, according unto Thy word.

56. THIS I HAD. It is not clear
to what "this" refers. If to what
   goes before, it may be to the re-
   membrance of God's Name. Other-
   wise we must render: "This has
   been (vouchsafed) to me, this has
   been my reward, that I have kept
   Thy precepts," i.e. such has been
   the gift of Thy grace.

57. This is the arrangement ac-
   cording to Baer's text. According
   to others, "I said" belongs to the

first member: Jehovah is my por-
   tion, I said, that I might keep,
   &c., the verb "I said" being thrown
   in parenthetically, as in Is. xlv. 24;
   Lam. iii. 24, and like inquam in
   Latin.

   THAT I WOULD KEEP, or "in
   keeping."

58. I ENTREATED THY FAVOUR.

   61. WOUND ABOUT, Or "en-
   tangled," so the LXX. περιεπλάκησαν.
   Jer. implicaverunt. Vulg. circum-
   plexi sunt.
66 ¶ Teach me good perception and knowledge,
   For I have believed Thy commandments.
67 ¶ Before I was afflicted I went astray,
   But now do I keep Thy saying.
58 ¶ Thou art good, and doest good:
   Teach me Thy statutes.
69 ¶ The proud have forged a lie against me;
   I, with (my) whole heart, will keep Thy precepts.
70 ¶ Their heart is gross as fat:
   As for me, in Thy law do I delight.
71 ¶ It is good for me that I have been afflicted,
   That I might learn Thy statutes.
72 ¶ The law of Thy mouth is better unto me
   Than thousands of gold and silver.

Yod.

73 ¶ Thy hands have made me and fashioned me:
   Give me understanding, that I may learn Thy
   commandments.
74 ¶ They that fear Thee will be glad when they see me;
   For in Thy word have I hoped.
75 ¶ I know, O Jehovah, that Thy judgements are righteous,
   And that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me.
76 ¶ Let, I pray Thee, Thy loving-kindness be for my
   comfort,

66. GOOD PERCEPTION, lit."good-
   ness of perception" or discern-
   ment; the fine taste and delicate
   feeling which are like a new sense.
So St. Paul prays for the Church
at Philippi, that their "love may
abound more and more in
knowledge and in all perception," εὖ
ἐπιγνώσει καὶ πάση αἰσθήσει. The
two words correspond to the two
Hebrew words here; but the latter,
αἰσθησίς, marks in the Epistle (chap.
i. 9) the delicate tact by which
Christian love should be character-
ised. Here the Psalmist prays
rather for a fine sense or apprehen-
sion of God's words.

69. THE PROUD. The same
overbearing, tyrannical oppression
already mentioned ver. 51, 61.
   HAVE FORGED, lit. "have patched
up." Comp. Job xiii. 4, xiv. 17.
   70. FAT. For the figure as
   expressive of want of feeling,
see xvii. 9 [10], Ixiii. 6 [7]; Is. vi. 10.
   71. IT IS GOOD FOR ME. See
ver. 67.
   75. RIGHTEOUS, lit. "righteous-
   ness."
67. The same
overbearing, tyrannical oppression
already mentioned ver. 51, 61.
   70. FAT. For the figure as
   expressive of want of feeling,
see xvii. 9 [10], Ixiii. 6 [7]; Is. vi. 10.
   71. IT IS GOOD FOR ME. See
ver. 67.
According to Thy saying unto Thy servant.

77. Let Thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live;
For Thy law is my delight.

78. Let the proud be ashamed, for they have subverted me by falsehood:
As for me, I meditate in Thy precepts.

79. They that fear Thee will turn unto me,
And they shall know Thy testimonies.

80. Let my heart be perfect in Thy statutes,
That I be not ashamed.

_Caph._

81. My soul hath failed for Thy salvation;
In Thy word have I hoped.

82. Mine eyes have failed for Thy word,
Saying, "When wilt Thou comfort me?"

83. For I am become like a bottle in the smoke:
(Yet) do I not forget Thy statutes.

84. How many are the days of Thy servant?
When wilt Thou execute judgement on them that persecute me?

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He prays that he may have God's "loving-kindness" and His "tender mercies" as his comfort in the midst of affliction. Comp. Heb. xii. 11.

79. WILL TURN, Or there may be the expression of a wish, "Let them turn."

THEY SHALL KNOW, i.e. by their own experience. Such is the reading of the present text, but if we accept the Masoretic correction the second member of the verse will be: "And they that know Thy testimonies."

80. PERFECT, i.e. whole, undivided.

83. A BOTTLE IN THE SMOKE, i.e. a skin bottle for wine. The figure is generally supposed to denote the misery and affliction of the Psalmist who compares himself to one of these wine-skins blackened and shriveled and rendered useless by the smoke of the fire in which it is hung. Rosenm. sees a reference to the custom of the ancients to hang skins full of wine in the smoke, in order to mellow the wine. In this case, the figure would denote the mellowing and ripening of the character by affliction. But the first interpretation is the more probable.

84. How MANY. Comp. xxxix. 4 [5]. It is an argument why God should take speedy vengeance on his enemies, that he may see it executed before he dies.
85 k The proud have digged pits for me,
Who are not after Thy law.
86 k All Thy commandments are faithfulness:
They persecute me wrongfully; help Thou me.
87 k They had almost consumed me upon earth;
But as for me, I forsook not Thy precepts.
88 k Quicken me after Thy loving-kindness,
So shall I keep the testimony of Thy mouth.

Lamed.
89  For ever, 0 Jehovah,
Thy word is settled in heaven.
90  Thy faithfulness is unto all generations;
Thou hast established the earth, and it standeth fast.
91  For Thy judgements, they stand fast (unto) this day;
For all things are Thy servants.
92 k Unless Thy law had been my delight,
I should then have perished in my affliction.
93  I will never forget Thy precepts;
For by them Thou hast quickened me.
94  I am, save me;
For I have sought Thy precepts.
95  The wicked have waited for me to destroy me;
(But) Thy testimonies do I consider.
96  I have seen an end of all perfection;
Thy commandment is exceeding broad.

89. IN HEAVEN, as marking its unchanging, everlasting character, as in lxxxix. 2 [3].
91. FOR THY JUDGEMENTS, i.e. "with reference to Thine ordinances or laws, they (i.e. heaven and earth) stand fast."
     ALL THINGS, lit. "the whole," i.e. the universe.
96. ALL PERFECTION. If this rendering is correct, the meaning is obvious. There is nothing upon earth to which there does not cleave some defect. But perhaps the clause should rather be rendered: "I have seen an end, a limit, to the whole range (or compass) of things;" a meaning which may be defended by the use of the similar word in Job xxvi. 10, xxviii. 3, and which harmonizes with the next clause "Thy commandment is exceeding
Mem.
97 how I love Thy law:
   It is my meditation all the day.
98 Thy commandments make me wiser than mine enemies;
   For they are ever with me.
99 I have more understanding than all my teachers;
   For Thy testimonies are my meditation.
100 I understand more than the aged;
   For Thy precepts have I kept.
101 I have refrained my feet from every evil path,
   That I might keep Thy word.
102 From Thy judgements have I not turned aside;
   For THOU hast taught me.
103 How sweet are Thy sayings unto my taste,
   (Yea, sweeter) than honey to my mouth.
104 Through Thy precepts I get understanding;
   Therefore I hate every path of falsehood.

Nun.
105 Thy word is a lamp unto my foot,
   And a light unto my path.
106 I have sworn, and am steadfastly purposed
   That I will keep Thy righteous judgements.
107 I am afflicted very greatly;
   Quicken me, O Jehovah, according unto Thy word,

broad," has no limits, whilst all other things are bounded by a narrow compass.
   BROAD. Comp. Job xi. 7-9.
   98. MAKE ME WISER, i.e. teach me a different wisdom and a better wisdom than theirs; not one which consists in policy, or craft, or human prudence. So, too, as he is wiser than his enemies, he is wiser than his teachers (ver. 99), wiser than the aged (ver. 100), and his wisdom is that practical wisdom which consists in the fear of the Lord, and which leads him to eschew all evil (ver. 101).
   FOR THEY i.e. Thy commandments.
   102. THOU HAST TAUGHT ME. This is the secret of all the previous boast, this is the source of all his wisdom.
   103. SAYINGS. The verb is plural, see on ver. 41, and note b.
108. Accept, I beseech Thee, O Jehovah, the freewill offerings of my mouth, And teach me Thy judgements.
109. My soul is continually in my hand; Yet I do not forget Thy law.
110. The wicked have laid a snare for me; Yet have I not strayed from Thy precepts.
111. Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever For they are the rejoicing of my heart.
112. I have inclined mine heart to perform Thy statutes For ever, (even unto) the end.

Samech.

113. I hate them that are of double mind, But Thy law do I love.
114. Thou art my hiding-place and shield: I have hoped in Thy word.
115. Depart from me, ye evil doers, That so I may keep the commandments of my God.
116. Uphold me according unto Thy saying, that I may live, And let me not be ashamed of my hope.
117. Hold Thou me up, and so I shall be saved, And have respect unto Thy statutes continually.
118. Thou hast made light of all them that wander from Thy statutes; For their deceit is falsehood.
119 ֔ Thou hast put away all the wicked of the earth like dross; Therefore I love Thy testimonies.

120 ֔ My flesh trembleth for terror of Thee, And because of Thy judgements I am afraid.

Ain.

121 ֔ I have done judgement and righteousness; Leave me not to mine oppressors.
122 ֔ Be surety for Thy servant for good; Let not the proud oppress me.
123 ֔ Mine eyes fail for Thy salvation, And for Thy righteous saying.
124 ֔ Deal with Thy servant according to Thy loving, kindness, And teach me Thy statutes.
125 ֔ I am Thy servant, give me understanding, That I may know Thy testimonies.
126 ֔ It is time for Jehovah to act; (For) they have broken Thy law.
127 ֔ Therefore I love Thy commandments Above gold, yea, above fine gold.

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119. LIKE DROSS, i.e. by the fire of Thy judgement. Comp. Jer. vi. 28—30; Ezek. xxii. 18—20; Mal. iii. 2, 3.

120. TREMBLETH or "shuddereth," strictly used of the hair as standing erect in terror (comp. Job iv. 15).

121. JUDGEMENT AND RIGHT-EOUSNESS, apparently terms employed with reference to the Law. It is equivalent to saying, "I have kept Thy law."

122. BE SURETY, as in Is. xxxviii. 14; Job xvii. 3. This and ver. 132 are the only two verses in the Psalm which contain no allusion to the Law. The Talmud, however, understands by "good" in this ver. "the Law." (T. B. Berachoth 5a). 126. To ACT. The verb is used absolutely of God's acts of judgement, as in Jer. xviii. 23; Ezek. xxxi. II. So the LXX. καὶ ὁ τὸν ἴησαν τῷ Κυρίῳ, which has been rendered, "it is time to sacrifice to the Lord," in defiance of all usage, as well as the whole character of the Psalm. It ought not to be necessary to say that ποιεῖν in Greek of itself no more means to sacrifice than "make" in English.
128 Therefore I esteem all Thy precepts concerning all
(things) to be right;
(And) I hate every false way.

Pe.

129 Wonderful are Thy testimonies;
Therefore hath my soul kept them.

130 The revelation of Thy words giveth light,
It giveth understanding unto the simple.

131 I opened my mouth and panted;
For I longed for Thy commandments:

132 Turn Thee unto me, and be gracious to me,
As Thou usest to do unto those that love Thy Name.

133 Establish my steps in Thy saying,
And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Redeem me from the oppression of man,
That I may keep Thy precepts.

135 Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant,
And teach me Thy statutes.

136 In rivers of water mine eyes run down,
Because they keep not Thy law.

Tsaddi.

137 Righteous art Thou, O Jehovah,
And upright are Thy judgements.

128. CONCERNING ALL THINGS.
These words are doubtful. See
Critical Note.

130. REVELATION, lit. "door," "opening," i.e. unfolding or un-
veiling, not entrance, as in E.V.

131. I OPENED MY MOUTH, an
expression denoting eager desire,
as in Job xxix. 23. Like one op-
pressed with burning heat, and
longing for some cool spring of
water, or some fresh breeze to fan
his brow.

132. AS THOU USEST, lit. "ac-
cording to the judgement of (be-
longing to) them that love Thy
Name," which may mean "as is
just to them." But the word mishpat
"judgement" is frequently used in
the sense of "custom," a sense
readily derived from that of "law,"
"enactment," &c.

133. HAVE DOMINION, as in xix.
13 141

136. IN RIVERS OF WATER: see
the same phrase Lam. iii. 48, and
for the construction Gesen. § 138,
1, Obs. 9
138 Thou hast commanded Thy testimonies in righteousness
And exceeding faithfulness.

139 My zeal hath consumed me;
Because mine adversaries have forgotten Thy words.

140 Thy saying is tried to the uttermost,
And Thy servant loveth it.

141 I am small and despised;
(Yet) do not I forget Thy precepts.

142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,
And Thy law is truth.

143 Distress and anguish have gotten hold upon me;
Thy commandments are my delight.

144 Thy testimonies are righteousness for ever;
Give me understanding, that I may live.

Koph.

145 I called with (my) whole heart:
"Answer me, Jehovah, so will I keep Thy statutes."

146 I called upon Thee: "Save me,
So will I keep Thy statutes."

147 Early in the morning twilight did I cry;
I hoped in Thy word.

148 Mine eyes prevented the night-watches,
That I might meditate in Thy promises.

149 Hear my voice according unto Thy loving-kindness;

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138. IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FAITHFULNESS. The nouns may either be used adverbially, or they may be accusatives in apposition, "as righteousness," &c.

139. Comp. lxix. 9 [10].

140. TRIED, lit. " fined," as metals are in the furnace, and hence pure, free from all admixture of dross, true. Comp. xii. 6 [7].

147. EARLY, lit. "I was before-hand in the twilight." The verb means "to anticipate," "to go to meet," with the accus. (as in xvii. 13); and used absolutely, as here, it must mean "I rose early." It is the same word as the word rendered "prevented" in the next verse. It is difficult to find an English expression suitable for both. We might say: "I was before-hand with the dawn." "Mine eyes were before-hand with the night-watches."
0 Jehovah, quicken me according to Thy judgements.

150 ¶ They draw nigh that follow after mischief;
They are far from Thy law.

151 ¶ THOU art nigh, 0 Jehovah,
And all Thy commandments are truth.

152 ¶ Long since do I know from Thy testimonies
That Thou hast founded them for ever.

Resh.

153 ¶ Look upon mine affliction, and deliver me;
For I do not forget Thy law.

154 ¶ Plead my cause, and ransom me;
Quicken me according to Thy word.

155 ¶ Salvation is far from the wicked;
For they have not sought Thy statutes.

156 ¶ Many are Thy tender mercies, 0 Jehovah,
Quicken me according to Thy judgements.

157 ¶ Many are my persecutors and mine adversaries
I have not swerved from Thy testimonies.

158 ¶ I saw the faithless and was grieved,
Because they kept not Thy saying.

159 ¶ See how I love Thy precepts;
Quicken me, 0 Jehovah, according to Thy loving-kindness.

160 ¶ The sum of Thy word is truth,
And every one of Thy righteous judgements
(endureth) for ever.
161 Princes have persecuted me without a cause;  
       But my heart standeth in awe of Thy word.
162 I rejoice because of Thy saying,  
       As one that findeth great spoil.
163 As for falsehood, I hate and abhor it;  
       Thy law do I love.
164 Seven times a day do I praise Thee,  
       Because of Thy righteous judgements.
165 Great peace have they which love Thy law,  
       And there is no stumbling-block unto them.
166 I have hoped for Thy salvation, Jehovah,  
       And have done Thy commandments.
167 My soul hath kept Thy testimonies,  
       And I love them exceedingly.
168 I have kept Thy precepts and Thy testimonies;  
       For all my ways are before Thee.

169 Let my cry come near before Thee, 0 Jehovah;  
       Give me understanding, according to Thy word.
170 Let my supplication come before Thee;  
       Deliver me according to Thy promise.
171 Let my lips pour forth praise;  
       For Thou teachest me Thy statutes.

The LXX. wrongly, ἀρχῇ τῶν λόγων ορὼν. Still less defensible is the  
E.V., "from the beginning."
165. No STUMBLING-BLOCK.  
LXX. οὐκ ἔστιν αὐτῶς σκάνδαλον.  
Comp. the words of St. John, σκάν-  
δαλον οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν αὐτῷ (I John 11. 10). So we may supply here, "no  
stumbling-block in them," or "in their path." When God's law is  
loved, instead of being struggled against, the conscience is at peace,  
and the inward eye is clear; a man  
sees his duty and does it, free  
from those stumbling-blocks which  
are ever occasion of falling to  
others.
166. I HAVE HOPED. Comp. the  
words of Jacob, Gen. xlix. 18.  
168. FOR ALL MY WAYS. In  
saying "I have kept Thy pre-  
cepts," I make no vain boast, I  
say it as in Thy sight, who seest  
all my life.
170. PROMISE, lit. "saying," and  
again in ver. 172.
172. SING OF or perhaps "repeat," "echo."

176. According to the accents, the rendering would rather be, "I have gone astray; seek Thy servant as a lost sheep." In what sense can one who has so repeatedly declared his love of God's word, who has asserted that he has kept God's precepts, make this confession? The figure cannot be employed here in the same sense, for instance, in which it is employed in our Lord's parable. He who is the lost sheep here is one who does not forget God's commandments.

The figure, therefore, seems in this place to denote the helpless condition of the Psalmist, without protectors, exposed to enemies, in the midst of whom he wanders, not knowing where to find rest and shelter. But in the "I have gone astray," there is doubtless the sense of sin as well as of weakness, though there is also the consciousness of love to God's law, "I do not forget Thy commandments." Comp. with this xix. 12-14 [13-15]. The word rendered "lost" may be rendered "ready to perish."

a יָּפָה (whence יָּפָה, 2 Kings v. 3), compounded of יָּפָה and לְ (לְ)

= o si.

b כִּבְרֵךְ Many MSS. and Edd. have the plural, and again ver. 16, 17, 25, 28, 42, 101. The same is the case with מַרְפֵּה, ver. 11, 103, 148, 162. But there is no doubt that the sing. is to be preferred. It is otherwise with מַמְשַׁפְת, which is clearly a defective form, instead of the plur. מִמְשַׁפְת, 43 and 149. Comp. 37, 41, for similar forms.

The construction in מַרְפֵּה is that of the gerund.

c הָבְתָכְנָה, only here, instead of הָבְתָכְנָה, and so also the verb באָה occurs only in this Psalm, ver. 40, 174.

d הָבְתָכְנָה, not instead of הָבְתָכְנָה, from הָבְתָכְנָה, to roll away, as De Wette and others, referring to Josh. v. 9, but the same word as in ver. 18, from הָבְתָכְנָה (Piel), to uncover, which occurs with a twofold construction; either (1) with the accus. of the thing uncovered, as in ver. 18, "to uncover the eyes;" or (2) with accus. of the covering which is taken off, as in Is. xxii. 8. Nab. iii. 5, and so here: "uncover," i.e. take off from me, the reproach which lies upon me "as a cloak."
e, 3 sing. fem., not 2 masc. For this use of the sing. verb with the plur. noun see Ges. § 143, 3. The following קִנְיֵה shows that the law is regarded as a whole; "it maketh me wiser." However, the plur. punctuation of the noun may be an error. See note b. The Verss. generally take the verb as the E.V. does as 2d pers. "Thou through Thy commandments," &c.

כם פֶּנִים. This is usually rendered, "All (Thy) precepts concerning all (things)," and is defended by Ez. xlv. 30, "All firstlings of all (sorts)." See a similar expression, Num. viii. 16. The case, however, is not really analogous, as the phrase here does not mean "all precepts of all sorts;" and, besides, the absence of the pronoun is awkward: we want "Thy precepts." Hence the reading ought probably to be כל רֵפִים; and so Houb., Ew., Olsh., Hupf. And this is supported by the LXX., πρὸς πᾶσας τῶν ἑυταλάς σοὺ κατωρθοῦμαιν, and Jerome, in universa praecepta tua direxi. Others explain, "all precepts concerning the whole of things," i.e. all moral, universal laws in contradistinction to those of temporary character, as political, ceremonial, &c.

PSALM CXX.

WITH this Psalm begins a series of fifteen Psalms, all bearing the same title, "Songs of the goings-up" (E.V. "Songs of degrees"), and constituting originally, no doubt, a separate hymn-book—a Psalter within a Psalter. The different interpretations which have been given of the name will be found mentioned in the Introduction to Vol. I. p. 87.* Of these, the most probable is that which supposes that the Psalms to which this title is prefixed were intended to be sung by the caravans of pilgrims "going up" to keep the yearly feasts at Jerusalem. The collection in its present form must have been made after the return from Babylon some of the songs containing manifest allusions to the Captivity as still fresh in the recollection of the writers. All these odes have certain features in common. With one exception (the 132nd) they are all short— the utterance of a single thought or feeling, a sigh, a hope, a joy. They are alike in tone, in diction, in rhythm, the climactic form of the last recurring so often as to have led Gesenius to suppose that the title, "Song of ascents," was given to them owing to this peculiarity. They are all pervaded by the

* Mr. Armfield (The Gradual Psalms) has discussed the question anew, with special reference to the Jewish tradition. I hope to recur to it in the Appendix to this Volume.
same quiet, graceful, tender beauty, the charm of which was so felt by a Spanish commentator, that he does not hesitate to say, that this collection is to the rest of the Psalms what Paradise was to the rest of the world at its first creation.

The first in the collection is a prayer against the lying tongues of treacherous neighbours, whom the Poet compares, for their cruelty and perfidy, to the savage hordes of the Caucasus or of the Arabian desert. But whether the Psalmist thus pictures the heathen among whom he dwells in exile, or the wild tribes with whom no treaty can be kept, by whom he is beset on his way back from Babylon to Palestine, or the Samaritans,* Arabians and others, who after their return attempted, by false representations to the Persian monarch, to thwart the rebuilding of the Temple (Ezra iv.) and the fortification of the city (Nehem. ii.-iv.), it is impossible to say. The allusions are brief and obscure. Reuss says: "Ce psaume, le seul qui soit difficile à expliquer parmi ces chants de pélerinage, peut être regarde comme Pun des plus obscurs de tout le Psautier. Les idées y sont à peine indiquées, les images sont peu transparentes, et les allusions historiques sont pour nous autant d'énigmes."

[A PILGRIM SONG.]

1 UNTO Jehovah, when I was in distress,a
I called, and He answered me.
2 0 Jehovah, deliver my soul from the lying lip,
From the deceitful tongue.b
3 What shall He give c unto thee, and what shall He add unto thee,
0 thou deceitful tongue?

I. CALLED .. . ANSWERED. The verbs are in the past tense, but do not refer merely to a past occasion. Past experience and present are here combined. From the past he draws encouragement for the present.

3. GIVE . . . ADD. The phrase seems to mean: "What calamities shall He (or it) heap upon thee? How shall punishment upon punishment visit thee? Compare the somewhat similar expression in the formula of cursing, "God do so to

* It is indeed doubtful whether the Chaldee letters in Ezra iv. do relate to the obstacles offered by the Samaritans to the rebuilding of the Temple, or whether they are not rather to be referred to the opposition made to the rebuilding of the city walls under Xerxes and Artaxerxes, at a much later period, Neh. ii. &c. The chief enemies of the Jews at this time were not the Samaritans, but persons of other tribes,—Moabites, Ammonites, Philistines, all perhaps comprised under the general name of Arabians. See Neh. ii. to, 12, iv. 7.
4 Sharp arrows of the mighty,
With coals of broom.
5 Woe is me that I have sojourned in Meshech,
That I have dwelt beside the tents of Kedar.
6 My soul hath too long had her dwelling
   With him that hateth peace.
7 I am (for) peace,
   But when I speak, they are for war.
principal verb here is not הָתַּלּ, but הָתַּלּ. Those who make Jehovah the subject are again divided when they come to the next verse; for, instead of seeing in that verse the manner of punishment, some see in it a further description of the character of the tongue itself, as elsewhere the tongue is compared to a sharp sword, &c.

(b) Hence others take the tongue as the subject, and suppose that the person whose the deceitful tongue is, is addressed. The sense will then be: "What does a false tongue profit thee (0 thou liar)?" So far from that, thou only doest harm to others; and this harm is then expressed figuratively in the next verse, "for thou art as sharp arrows," &c. So the Chald., Qimchi, Calv., De Dieu, most of the older interpreters, Ros., De W. Here the pron. "thee" is taken generally of any one who speaks deceit.

2. Others refer the pron. to Jehovah. "What can a deceitful tongue profit Thee?" the argument being similar to that in such questions as in xxx. 9 [10], and ver. 4 again giving the reply: so far from profit, it is a pestilent mischief.

3. Once more, the pronoun may refer to the Poet himself, or some third person indefinitely, "What can the false tongue give thee? i.e. what harm can it inflict upon thee?" the poet turning this question upon himself, and the answer being that in ver. 4, "Surely much harm, for it is as sharp arrows," &c. According to this, חַּךְ is = הָתַּל, to work, in a bad sense, as Lev. xxiv. 19, 20; Prov. x. to, xiii. to, xxix. 25. But it may be questioned if חַּךְ with הָתַּל can have this meaning. In Lev. xxiv. it is followed by הָתַּל, in the other passages it stands absol., to effect, and therefore proves nothing.

Hupfeld, rejecting all these interpretations, separates ver. 3 entirely from ver. 4. To the former he gives the meaning: "What (real) good can a false tongue bring thee, how can it help thee, 0 thou who employest its arts?" and supposes (1) that not a slanderer, but a false friend or neighbour is pointed at, and (2) that the Poet is speaking not to himself so much as to a third person, and uttering a general sentiment. In ver. 4 he would read הָתַּלּ instead of הָתַּל, and would either understand הָתַּלּ as a proper name, the name of a tribe or a locality in which the broom was plentiful (as Rithmah, Num. xxxiii. 18, 19, one of the stations of the Israelites, doubtless took its name from the broom which grew there), or else that by tents of broom are meant poor hovels formed of broom, as a shelter for some needy desert-horde. He takes the verse, not in appos. with the preceding, but as an independent sentence: "Sharp are the arrows of the warrior, by the tents of the Rethamim," which of course is to be understood figuratively as expressive of the hostility of the neighbours of the Poet.

שָׁמָּה, only here with the termination שָׁמָּה, used pathetically. There is no need in such an interjection as this to assume, with Hupf., that it is an accus. termination like שָׁמָּה, for instance, cxvi. 15, in accordance with later usage.

דָּוָּה, with the accus., as in v. 5; Is. xxxiii. 15: Jud. v. 17.
e בְּרָה. See the same form lxv. 10, cxxiii. 4, cxxix. 1, 2. It belongs chiefly to the later language. Comp. 2 Chron. xxx. 17, 18.

f בָּדַּע. The verb here stands absolutely, as in xxxix. 4, cxvi. 10; there is no need to supply the object, "when I speak of peace." Nor is Ewald's rendering, "As for me, when I speak of peace," at all probable; for even if בָּדַּע can thus stand in the middle of the sentence, as in cxviii. to, II, cxxviii. 2 (comp. ד בָּדַּע cxli. 10), it is very unlikely that בָּדַּע should occupy such a position. The construction is the same as in cix. 4, where see note.

PSALM CXXI.

THIS beautiful Psalm is the trustful expression of a heart rejoicing in its own safety under the watchful eye of Him who is both the Maker of heaven and earth, and the Keeper of Israel. The Creator of the Universe, the Keeper of the nation, is also the Keeper of the individual. The one ever-recurring thought, the one characteristic word of the Psalm, is this word keep. Six times it is repeated in the last five verses of this one short ode. The beauty of this repetition is unfortunately destroyed in the Authorized Version by the substitution in the last three instances, in verses 7 and 8, of the verb "preserve" for the word "keep." For the use of the same word in the original is evidently designed,—designed to mark by this emphasis of iteration the truth of God's loving care for the individual, and so to banish all shadow of doubt, fear, anxiety, lest in the vast sum the unit should be forgotten.

Under what circumstances the Psalm was written is doubtful. Some (as Ewald and De Wette) suppose it to have been written in exile. The Psalmist turns his longing eyes towards the hills of his native land, or the hills which bounded his sight in the direction in which it lay, as Daniel opened his windows towards Jerusalem when he prayed. Others (as Hupfeld) understand by "the mountains" in ver. 1, not the mountains of Palestine at large, but the one mountain or mountain-group of Zion, as the dwelling-place of God, the plural being used as in cxxviii. 3, lxxxvii. 1, and leave it an open question whether the Psalmist was in exile, or merely at a distance from the sanctuary.

Others, again, have conjectured that this was the song sung by the caravans of pilgrims going up to the yearly feasts, when first they
came in sight of the mountains on which Jerusalem stands. At evening, as they are about to make preparations for their last night's encampment, they behold in the far distance, clear against the dying light of the western sky, the holy hill with its crown of towers. The sight fills them with a sense of peace and security, and from the midst of the band a voice begins: "I will lift up mine eyes to the mountains," &c. And another voice answers, "Surely He will not suffer thy foot to be moved. Surely He that keepeth thee will not slumber." And anon the whole company of pilgrims take up the strain: "Behold He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep; Jehovah shall keep," &c.

To-morrow, in the words of the next Psalm, they will sing, "Our feet are standing within thy gates, 0 Jerusalem."

It is not, however, absolutely necessary to assume different voices in the Psalm; there may be one voice only, the voice of the Poet speaking to his own heart,—speaking to it, in words that are not his own, heavenly strength and courage. That he is at a distance from the sanctuary, if not from Palestine, is clear. It is almost equally certain that there is no reference to "the special dangers of the desert" as encountered by the exiles on their return. The baneful influence of the sun and the moon (ver. 6) would not be peculiar to the desert, and I can see no allusion to "perils from lawless tribes by night" in ver. 3, 4. The expression, "thy going out and thy coming in," would surely describe naturally, not the life of a traveller passing through the desert, but the settled home life, with its usual occupations, whether in Palestine or in Babylon. Beyond this, and the words of ver. 1, we have nothing to guide us.

The Psalm has no marked divisions, but falls naturally into pairs of verses. The Inscription, "A song for the goings up," differs slightly from that which is prefixed to other odes of this collection.

[A PILGRIM-SONG.]

I LIFT up mine eyes unto the mountains;
Whence should my help come?

| I | THE MOUNTAINS, as already remarked in the Introduction, either those of Palestine, as in Nahum i. 15 [ii. I] and in Ezekiel, "the mountains of Israel;" or, the ridge on which lay Jerusalem and the Temple. Comp. for the plural, lxxxvii i, cxxxiii. 3; and for the | expectation of help from Zion, xiv. 7, "Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion;" xx. 2 [3], "Jehovah send thee help from the sanctuary, and uphold thee out of Zion." |
2 My help (cometh) from Jehovah,
The Maker of heaven and earth.
3 Surely He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;
   He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
4 Behold, He doth neither slumber nor sleep
   That keepeth Israel.
5 Jehovah is thy Keeper,
   Jehovah is thy shade upon thy right hand.
6 The sun shall not smite thee by day,
   Nor the moon by night.

relative. In Josh. ii. 4, the only passage where the word occurs as
a relative, it is really an indirect interrogative.

2. MAKER OF HEAVEN AND
   EARTH; a name of God occurring
   especially in these Pilgrim odes,
   and other later Psalms, as in cxv.
   15, cxxiv. 8, cxxxiv. 3, cxlv. 6.
   God's creative power and majesty
   were, especially during the Exile,
   impressed upon the heart of the
   nation, in contrast with the vanity
   of the gods of the heathen. Comp.
   Jer. x. 11, "Then shall he say unto
   them (i.e. the Jews to the Chaldeans),
   The gods that have not made the
   heavens and the earth, even they
   shall perish from the earth, and
   from under these heavens."

3. The Psalmist turns to address
   himself. First he utters the wish
   that God's watchful care may be
   extended to him; then the convic-
   tion that the Keeper of Israel, He
   who has been the God of his fathers,
   whose Hand has led the nation
   through all its eventful history,
   doth not—will not, cannot—slum-
   ber or sleep. Comp. cxxxi. 4; I
   Kings xviii. 27; Is. v. 27; Job
   vii. 20.

   SURELY HE SHALL NOT, as ex-
   pressing the conviction of the
   speaker (see Critical Note). It
   must be confessed that the optative
   rendering is somewhat weak. It
   does not seem very pertinent to
   express the wish that God may not

slumber. Or if we assume that
the Psalm was designed for anti-
phonial singing, then ver. 4, is the
answer to ver. 3, "you need not
fear that He should sleep. He
cannot slumber."

4. SLUMBER . . . SLEEP. There
   is no climax in these words, as
   some have supposed. Etymologi-
   cally, the first is the stronger word,
   and it occurs lxxvi. 5 [6] (where see
   note) of the sleep of death. In this
   instance there is no real distinction
   between the two. Possibly there
   may be an allusion to the nightly
   encampment, and the sentries of
   the caravan.

   5. THY SHADE, as a protection
   against the burning rays of the sun.
   Comp. xci. 1, "shall abide under
   the shadow of the Almighty;" Is.
   xxv. 4, "Thou hast been a shadow
   from the heat;" xxxii. 2, "As the
   shadow of a great rock in a weary
   land."

   UPON THY RIGHT HAND. This
   is not part of the former figure: it
does not denote the south side (as
some would explain), as that on
which the sun would be hottest,
and therefore protection most ne-
cessary. It is rather a separate
figure, denoting generally succour,
help, &c. (as in cix. 31, cx. 5), i.e.
Jehovah standing upon thy right
hand to defend thee is thy shade.

6. Sun-stroke, a special danger
of the East. See 2 Kings iv. 18—
20; Jon. iv. 8; and comp. Ps. ciii.
7 Jehovah shall keep thee from all evil,
He shall keep thy soul.
8 Jehovah shall keep thy going out and thy coming in
From this time forth and for evermore.

4 [5], where the heart is said to be smitten like grass. In the same way the influence of the moon was considered to be very injurious to the human frame, in hot climates more particularly. De Wette refers to Andersen's Eastern Travels, Ewald to Carne's Life and Manners in the East, in proof that this opinion is commonly entertained. Delitzsch mentions having heard from Texas that the consequence of sleeping in the open air when the moon was shining was dizziness, mental aberration, and even death. The names given to persons of disordered intellect, σεληνιαζόμενοι, lunatici, "lunatics," arose of course from the wide-spread belief in the effects of the moon on those who were exposed to its influence. At the same time, this is only a popular belief. The injury is due not to the light of the moon, which is innocuous, but to the raw vapour and chilling mists after the intense heat of the day.

8. THY GOING OUT AND THY COMING IN; a phrase denoting the whole life and occupations of a man. Comp. Deut. xxviii. 6, xxxi. 2; I Sam. xxix. 6, &c. The three-fold expression, "shall keep thee . . . thy soul . . . thy going out and thy coming in" marks the completeness of the protection vouchsafed, extending to all that the man is and that he does. Comp. I Thess. v. 23, καὶ ὅλοκληρον όμων τὸ πνεῦμα, καὶ ἡ ψυχὴ καὶ τὸ σῶμα . . . τηρηθείη

a ἄν = μή, and must not, therefore, be rendered as if it were merely οὐ. Ewald takes it interrogatively, as μή is also used, "Surely He will not suffer thy foot to be moved?" Delitzsch takes it similarly, but without a question, as expressing the subjective view of the speaker. Such a rendering. "Surely He will not suffer," &c., is, I think, to be preferred to the optative rendering, "May He not," &c., which I adopted in former editions. See on xxxiv. 5, and I., note b (Vol. I. p. 41f). On the other hand, the optative rendering may be defended, especially as we have a similar transition from one form of the negative to the other in xxv. 1-3, where see note.

PSALM CXXII.

THIS Psalm, more emphatically than any in the collection to which it belongs, merits the title of a Pilgrim song. It was evidently composed with immediate reference to one of the three yearly festivals, when the caravans of pilgrims "went up" to the Holy City. The Poet is living in the country. As the time of the Feast draws near, his
friends and neighbours come to him, inviting him to join them in their visit to Jerusalem. It is with this picture that he begins his Poem. He tells us how his heart filled with joy as they bade him come with them "to the house of Jehovah." We see the procession starting; we see beaming eyes and happy faces, and hear the music of gladness with which the pilgrims beguile the tediousness of the journey. The next verse transports us at once to the Holy City itself. "Our feet have stood within thy gates;" the few words are enough. They have reached their journey's end; they are in the city which they love. Then the Poet tells us, first, the impression made upon his mind by her stateliness and her beauty, and next, how there comes crowding upon his memory the scenes of her earlier grandeur, the thought of all she had been as the gathering-place of the tribes of Jehovah, the royal seat of David and of his house.

Filled with these thoughts, inspired by these memories, he bursts forth into hearty, fervent prayer—the prayer of one who loved his country as he loved his God, with no common devotion—for the welfare of that city so glorious in her past history, that city with which all hopes for the future were so intimately bound up. And so the beautiful ode closes.

The Psalm is called in the title a Song of David. It is certainly possible that Psalms written by him might be comprised in a collection which formed a hymn-book for the pilgrims. It is possible, also, that David himself, although there was still a sanctuary at Gibeon, even after the Ark was brought to Zion, may nevertheless have encouraged the people to regard Jerusalem as the true centre of worship, and that the custom of keeping the annual feasts there may have begun during his reign. In fact, this seems most natural and most probable, when we remember how great and joyful an event was the bringing up of the Ark to Zion. There, henceforth, must have been "the heart of the Israelite religion." The expression in ver. 3 might also be explained very naturally of Jerusalem as it was in David's time,—"a city beautifully built, well compacted, adorned with palaces, and fortified." Still, in spite of Hengstenberg's remarks to the contrary, I cannot think that the expression "thrones of the house of David" would be a natural one in David's lips. The phrase points, surely, to a dynasty which has long been established: verses 4 and 5 are clearly a retrospect. "The great argument against the Davidic authorship," remarks Mr. Cox, very pertinently, "is the general tone of the second strophe (ver. 4, 5). Here the Poet uses the historic tenses, and is manifestly recalling a time long past in which the tribes went up to Jerusalem, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. But Jerusalem was only wrested from the Jebusites by
David. How then could he speak of it as the place in which for generations past, the Hebrew tribes had come before Jehovah?*

As most, if not all, of these Psalms belong to a period subsequent to the Captivity, we turn more naturally to that time as furnishing the occasion for the composition of this ode. But, even if we fix upon that as the most probable date, still the question arises, Is the whole Psalm a retrospect, or does it spring out of the new life of the people? Does it paint only the recollection of former pilgrimages in the days of Zion's first glory, or does it paint the feelings of one who sees the old state of things revived, and who joins the pilgrims going up now as they went up of yore?

Ewald supposes it to be a blessing on a party of pilgrims uttered by an old man returned from the Exile, himself unequal to a journey across the desert. "The departure of his friends reminds him of the alacrity with which he too had once obeyed a similar summons; his spirit is fired by sympathy with their enthusiasm, and he pours forth the praises of that city which from the earliest times had been recognized as the key-stone of the national unity, the civil and religious metropolis of the tribes."† Delitzsch takes a somewhat similar view, except that he supposes the Poet to be still in exile. But the Psalm is too bright, the pictures are too fresh, to lend any colour to either interpretation. There is none of that "deep sighing" of the exile or the old man looking back on a departed glory which must have made itself felt, none of that melancholy which breathes, for instance, in such a Psalm as the Forty-second, and even the Eighty-fourth. The gladness of the first verse is a gladness still warm at the heart of the Poet; the picture of the second is one the lines of which are not yet effaced from the eye of his mind. The reminiscences of the past, as he has heard the tale from others, or as he has read it in the words of other Psalmists and Prophets, mingle with the present, and Jerusalem, rising from her ashes, seems to him fair and stately, her bulwarks strong, and her palaces magnificent, as of old.

[A PILGRIM-SONG OF DAVID.]

1 I WAS glad when they said unto me,
   Let us go into the house of Jehovah.

1. I WAS GLAD WHEN; or, more them that were saying unto me,"
lit. "I rejoiced over, or because of, THE HOUSE OF JEHOVAH. His

* The Pilgrim Psalms, p. 64. I gladly refer to this work as a really valuable contribution to our exegetical literature on this portion of the Psalter.

† The Psalms Chronologically Arranged, by Four Friends, p. 292.
2 Our feet have stood
   Within thy gates, 0 Jerusalem.
3 Jerusalem that art built,
   As a city which is compact together!
4 Whither the tribes went up, the tribes of Jah,

joy was that he should worship there "in the presence of Jehovah." Ex. xxiii. 17.

2. HAVE STOOD. This maybe a strict perfect, implying that they are still standing. It is the lively expression of the satisfaction and delight of one who finds himself on this high day of festal joy within the sacred walls, mingling with the throng of worshippers who crowd the courts of the Temple, and taking his part, with a full sense of his privileges as an Israelite, in the solemn services of the Feast.

The rendering of the E.V., "shall stand," is clearly wrong. The only other possible rendering (see Critical Note) is one that would throw the whole scene into the past, "our feet once stood." It is the uncertainty attaching to this form which occasions so much difficulty in the interpretation of the Psalm.

3. BUILT. This has been explained in three different ways. (1) It has been closely joined with what follows, "built as a city which," &c. (2) It has been taken in the sense of "well-built, stately." (3) It has been understood emphatically to describe the city as rebuilt after the Exile, "which is built again," or, "0 thou that art built again." Of these, the last is preferable: (1) injures the parallelism, and (2) has no support in usage.

COMPACT. This has been understood by some to refer to the natural conformation of the ground on which the city stood. So Stanley, speaking of "those deep ravines which separate Jerusalem from the rocky plateau of which it forms a part," observes that they must have not only "acted as its natural defence, but must also have determined its natural boundaries. The city, wherever else it spread, could never overleap the valley of the Kedron or of Hinnom . . . The expression of compactness was still more appropriate to the original city, if, as seems probable, the valley of Tyropa on formed in earlier times a fosse within a fosse, shutting in Zion and Moriah into one compact mass, not more than half a mile in breadth."—Sinai and Palestine, pp. 172, 173.

Others, as Herder, suppose the epithet to mark the well-built city with its fine streets and long rows of contiguous houses, such an epithet being peculiarly appropriate and very natural in the lips of one who, accustomed only to the scattered dwellings of country villages, is struck with the compact line of stately buildings which form so imposing a feature of the capital. "This," he exclaims, "is indeed a city:"

"Urbem quam dicunt Romam, Meliboea, putavi Stultus ego huic nostrae similem." Herder accordingly renders, "Jerusalem, du dicht-gebaute Stadt! Wohnung an Wohnung ist in dir."

So the peasants and fishermen of Galilee were struck with admiration, and expected their Master, to share it with them as they exclaimed, "See what manner of stones and what buildings are here!" (Mark xiii.)

If, however, the Psalm refers, as is probable, to the city as rebuilt after the Exile, then the epithet alludes to the reconstruction of walls and houses; the city is compact, because there are no more waste places, no more gaps and heaps of ruin.

4. The Poet glances here, and in the next verse, at the earlier times,
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PSALM CXXII.

A testimony unto Israel,
To give thanks to the Name of Jehovah.

5 For there were set thrones for judgement,
The thrones of the house of David.

6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
They shall prosper that love thee.

7 Peace be within thy bulwarks,
Prosperity within thy palaces.

when Jerusalem had been the great
religious and political centre of the
nation, the dwelling-place of Jeho-
vah, to whose Temple all the tribes
were gathered at the three great
Feasts, and the seat of government
of kings of the house of David.
This had been its double glory.
It may be inferred, that he was
living at a time when all was
changed. There was still one sanct-
uary, but all Israel was not united
under one sceptre. It was no longer
all the tribes who went up, as they
had done of old; there was now no
throne of the house of David. In
fact, even after the disruption of the
kingdom under Jeroboam, the tribes
did not go up to keep the yearly
Feasts in Jerusalem. It was a part
of "the Machiavellian policy" of
that prince to put a stop to this
custom, lest such occasions should
be made the means of restoring the
national unity (1 Kings xii. 26).

TESTIMONY. The word seems
almost equivalent to "law" or
"statute," but there is in it also the
sense of a "witness" to the people
of their covenant relation to God.
The "law" is that, according to
which all males were to appear
before the Lord three times in the
year: Ex. xxiii. 17, xxxiv. 23;
Deut. xvi. 16; comp. Ps. lxxxi. 4,
5 [5, 6].

The words "a testimony for Is-
rael," are grammatically in apposi-
tion with the previous clause, "the
tribes went up," &c.

5. FOR. Jerusalem had become

the religious capital of the nation,
because it was already the civil
capital. The law had enjoined that
the, supreme tribunal should be in
the same place as the sanctuary
(Deut. xvii. 8, 9). But Jerusalem
was first the civil metropolis, "the
city of David" (2 Sam. v. 9, vi. 12,
16), before it became "the city of
God." To a Jewish mind, however,
the religious and the political im-
portance of the city were not so
much contrasted as identical;
Church and State were not two,
but one.

WERE SET, lit. "sit," more com-
monly used of those who sit on the
throne, but the verb may be used of
things without life to describe their
position; as of mountains, cxxv. 1;
in many passages, of cities; and
even of countries (Jer. xvii. 6; Joel
iv. 20).

THRONES FOR JUDGEMENT. The
king was also the judge: see on
lxxii. 1. Comp. 2 Sam. xv. 2; 1
Kings iii. 16, 17.

THE HOUSE O DAVID. The ex-
pression plainly points to succes-
sors of David, not to members of
his family associated with himself
in government, administration of
justice, &c.

6. PEACE . . . PROSPER, and in
the next verse PEACE . . . PROS-
PERITY, with a play of words in the
original (shalom shalvah), with an
allusion to the name of Jerusalem
(Yerushalaim).

7. BULWARKS . . . PALACES, as
in xlviii. 13 [14].
8 For my brethren and friends' sakes,
Let me now wish \( \text{d} \) thee peace.
9 For the sake of the house of Jehovah our God,
I will seek thy good.

<table>
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<th>8. The last four verses of the Psalm breathe a spirit of the noblest, most unselfish patriotism. Not for his own sake, but for the sake of his brethren—the people at large—and for the sake of his God, His temple and His service, he wishes peace to Jerusalem, and calls upon others to wish her peace. With love to Israel, and love to Jehovah, there is naturally united a warm affection for Jerusalem, a hearty interest in her welfare.</th>
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a. Strictly, this means, "I rejoiced \( \text{in, over, because of them that were saying unto me.} \)" The difference in sense between this and \( \text{when they said,} \) is that with the part. the persons who speak become more prominent, and the continuance of the action is marked The LXX. rightly, \( \text{επὶ τοῖς εἰρήκοσι} \) μου.

b. This compound tense may either be an imperfect, "were standing," "used to stand;" or a strict perfect, "have been standing, and now are standing." In this last case it may even be rendered as a present.

(i) \( \text{הוה,} \) with the part., is an imperfect, either (a) of habit, as Gen. xxxii. 22, "Whatever they did (part.) there, he was doing," i.e. was in the habit of doing; Jud. i. 7, "seventy kings were gathering (i.e. were in the habit of gathering) their meat under my table:" or (b) of continued past action simply, as Job i. 14, "the herd were ploughing."

(ii) \( \text{היה,} \) with the part., is a strict perfect in Is. lix. 2, "Your sins have been separating," i.e. have separated, and still do separate; Jer. v. 8, where \( \text{יסכמ יִזָמְכַל} \) probably means either "they have strayed," or "they have been fed to the full" (see Neumann, in loc.). In Is. xxx. 20 the same construction is used to express a prophetic future, i.e. a perfect transferred into the future, in which case it is followed by a future: "Your eyes have been seeing (i.e. assuredly shall see) . . . and your ears shall hear (fut.)."

c. The verb is used of the putting together of the coverings of the tabernacle, Ex. xxvi. Comp. \( \text{בֵּשָׁנִים} \) in Is. iii. 7, and \( \text{קְנֵש} \); Neh. iii. 38. The prefixed \( \text{שָׁנַה} \) is not a later form of the pron., for it is found in the song of Deborah. \( \text{הִנָּה} \) is the reflexive pron. used emphatically, as in cxx. 6.

d. This has been rendered (i) "Let me speak peace concerning thee," as lxxxviii. 3. LXX. \( \text{περι} \) σοῦ. So Del. who compares Luke xix. 42, \( \text{τὰ πρὸς εἰρήνην αὐτής.} \) (2) As Hupf. "let me speak peace in thee," i.e. in all my words, prayers, &c. wish that peace may be in thee; and God is said "to speak peace," lxxv. 9; comp. Esth. x. 3, where the prep. \( \text{ל} \) or \( \text{ל} \) is used; "to speak good," Jer. xii. 6, 2 Kings xxv. 28.

(3) "Let me speak: 'Peace be in thee.'" Hengst., Olsh.
ALSTED beautifully entitles this Psalm *Oculus Sperans*, "The Eye of Hope." "This," says Luther, "is a deep sigh of a pained heart, which looks round on all sides, and seeks friends, protectors, and comforters, but can find none. Therefore it says, 'Where shall I, a poor despised man, find refuge? I am not so strong as to be able to preserve myself; wisdom and plans fail me among the multitude of adversaries who assault me; therefore I come to Thee, O my God, to Thee I lift my eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens.' He places over against each other the Inhabitant of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth, and reminds himself that, though the world be high and powerful, God is higher still. What shouldest thou do, then, when the world despises and insults thee? Turn thine eyes thither, and see that God with His beloved angels and His elect looks down upon thee, rejoices in thee, and loves thee."

This Psalm is either the sigh of the exile, towards the close of the Captivity looking in faith and patience for the deliverance which he had reason to hope was now nigh at hand; or it is the sigh of those who, having already returned to their native land, were still exposed to "the scorn and contempt" of the Samaritans and others, who favoured by the Persian government, took every opportunity of harassing and insulting the Jews. Comp. Nehem. ii. 19, "They laughed us to scorn and despised us," with ver. 4 of the Psalm, "The scorn of them that are at ease, the contempt of the proud."

In structure the Psalm is noticeable for its number of rhymes, or rather (for these do not always mark the ends of lines or half lines) for the repetition at short intervals of the same terminal syllable (e.g. 'eyneynu, eloheynu, y'chonnenu, &c.). These, however, are apparently accidental, not intentional; rhyme, though frequent in modern Hebrew poems, being no characteristic of ancient Biblical poetry.

But "the Psalm needs no singular or exceptional charm. It is perfect as it stands. It is a little gem, cut with the most exquisite art. Few poems, inspired or uninspired, have been more admired or beloved. It has the charm of unity. It limits itself to one thought, or rather it expresses a single mood of the soul—the upward glance of a patient and hopeful faith. . . . This unity, moreover,
is blended with and enhanced by variety of expression. While the first strophe sounds and illustrates the single theme of the Psalm, the second, to use a musical term, is a variation upon it."—Rev. S. Cox, *The Pilgrim Psalms*, p. 69.

[A PILGRIM-SONG.]

1 UNTO thee do I lift up mine eyes,
0 Thou that art throned in the heavens?

2 Behold, as the eyes of slaves unto the hand of their masters,
As the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress;

So our eyes (look) unto Jehovah our God,
Until He be gracious unto us,

3 Be gracious unto us, 0 Jehovah, be gracious unto us,
For we are exceedingly filled with contempt.

4 Our soul is exceedingly filled
With the scorn of them that are at ease,
With the contempt of the proud.

1. Comp. cxxi. I.
2. AS THE EYES OF SLAVES, watching anxiously the least movement, the smallest sign of their master's will. The image expresses complete and absolute dependence. Savary (in his *Letters on Egypt*, p. 135), says: "The slaves stand silent at the bottom of the rooms with their hands crossed over their breasts. *With their eyes fixed upon their master* they seek to anticipate every one of his wishes." Comp. the Latin phrases, a *nutu pendere*, a *vultu*; ore, &c. Plautus (Aulul.) uses the expression of a slave, "oculos in oculis heri habere;" and Terence (Adelph.), "oculos nunquam ab oculis dimovere." In those passages, however, the ready obedience of the slave may also be denoted by his attitude. In the Psalm the eye directed to the hand of God is the *oculus sperans*, the eye which waits, and hopes, and is patient, looking only to Him and none other for help.

3. EXCEEDINGLY FILLED, or perhaps "has long been filled," lit. "has been filled to itself," the reflexive pronoun marking the depth of the inward feeling. (Comp. cxx. 6.) This expression, together with the earnestness of the repeated prayer, "Be gracious unto us," (shows that the "scorn" and "contempt" have long pressed upon the people, and their faith accordingly been exposed to a severe trial. The more remarkable is the entire absence of anything like impatience in the language of the Psalm. From the expression of trustful dependence with which it opens, it passes to the earnest, heartfelt *kyrie eleison* in which it pours out in a few words the trouble whence springs the prayer.
PSALM CXXIV.

a יבּיַֽוָּה. On this form, with the *Chireq compaginis*, see cxiii. note a.

b בַּֽוָּה, ver. 4, and cxx. 6, and is the older form of this word in its adverbial use. See Gen. xlv. 28; 2 Sam. xxiv. 16; 1 Kings xix. 4.

c יִלָּתְּךָ. The noun apparently in stat. constr. with the art., which is unusual, though according to Ges, § 108, 2, a.c., Ewald, § 290, d.e., this is allowable in certain instances, viz, either when the demonstrative power of the article is required, or when the connection between the noun and the following genitive is somewhat loose, so that the first forms a perfect idea by itself, while the second conveys only a supplemental idea relating to the material or purpose. It is on this latter principle that the art. stands here.

d יִרְויִירָאֹתְּן. According to the Q'ri, this is to be read as two words יִרְויִירָאֹתְּן. "proud ones of oppressors" (which, however, as נְבִיָּ does not occur, ought rather to be נְבִיָּ from נְבִיָּ), but quite unnecessarily. It is one word, a plur. from a form יִרְוִיְלָּה (from יִרְוִיְלָּה), as Gesenius, or יִרְוִיְלָּה, as Ewald takes it, like יִרְוִיְלָּה. The adjective, however, occurs nowhere else. According to Hupf., this is substantially the same form as the יִרְוִיְלָּה above, the terminations יִרְוִיְלָּה and יִרְוִיְלָּה being originally adverbial, and formed from a nunnated accusative.

PSALM CXXIV.

THE last Psalm was the sigh of an exile in Babylon, waiting in absolute trust and dependence upon God for the deliverance of himself and his people from captivity. This Psalm is the joyful acknowledgement that the deliverance has been vouchsafed. The next Psalm (the 125th) describes the safety of the new colony, restored to its native land, and girt round by the protection of Jehovah. Here, then, we have three successive pictures, or rather three parts of one and the same picture; for they are not only linked together, as representing successive scenes in one history, but they are also pervaded by one great master-thought, which lends its unity to the whole group. In each there is the same full recognition of Jehovah's grace and power as working both for the deliverance and the security of His people. In the 123rd Psalm, "The eye waits upon Jehovah, till He be gracious." In the 124th, "If Jehovah had not been on our side, men had swallowed us up alive... . Our help is in the name of Jehovah." In the I 25th, "The mountains are about Jerusalem, and Jehovah is round about His people."
There can be little doubt that this Psalm (the 124th) records the feelings of the exiles when the proclamation of Cyrus at length permitted them to return to their native land. Yet the figures employed are somewhat startling. The swelling waters rising till they threaten to sweep all before them is an image expressing, far more strongly than anything in the history would seem to warrant, the hostility of their conquerors to the Jews. The bird escaped from the broken snare is an image rather of sudden, unlooked for deliverance, than of a return so deliberate, so slow, in some instances apparently so reluctant, as that of the Jews from Babylon. The figures remind one rather of the earlier deliverance from Egypt. The Egyptians did "rise up" against them. Pharaoh and his chariots and his horsemen followed hard after them, and did seem as if about to swallow them up, when they were entangled in the wilderness. The waves of the Red Sea overwhelming their enemies might have suggested naturally the figure by which the might of those enemies was itself compared to swelling waters. The hasty flight might well be likened to the escape of the bird from the broken snare; the blow struck in the death of the first-born to the breaking of the snare.

Still the language of poetry must not be too closely pressed. Individuals may have felt strongly their oppression in Babylon. How keenly some had reason to remember their captive condition, we see from the 137th Psalm. And the providential means by which their deliverance was at last effected were unlooked for, and may have well taken them by surprise. The power of Babylon had been broken by Cyrus, and the conqueror had set them free. "When Jehovah turned again the captivity of Zion, then were we like unto them that dream." Moreover, we know how constantly both Prophets and Psalmists are in the habit of comparing the return from Babylon to the deliverance from Egypt. Twice had the nation been in bondage to other nations, in a strange land: twice had the yoke of its masters been broken; and, unlike as the circumstances may have been under which the two great acts of national redemption were accomplished, still the one was naturally associated in the minds and thoughts of the people with the other. And hence a Poet celebrating the one might almost unconsciously borrow his imagery from the other.

Mr. Cox, however, remarks: "In the ancient Oriental world, Babylon was much what the France of the first Napoleon was in the modern European world; and its capture by the hardy Persians of Cyrus was even more astonishing than the defeat of Napoleon by the English. It was the great military empire of antiquity, ‘that fierce and impetuous nation, which marched across the breadths of
the earth, to seize upon dwelling-places that were not its own.' . . .
That it should be overthrown by the poor hill tribes of Persia led by
Cyrus had indeed been predicted by Isaiah, but was nevertheless
well nigh as great a marvel to the Jews as to other Eastern races.
That the Lord should 'stir up the spirit of the king of Persia' to
proclaim Jehovah 'the God of heaven,' to affirm 'the Lord God of
heaven, who hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth, hath
charged me to build Him an house at Jerusalem,' and to set free as
many of His people as were willing to 'go up to Jerusalem and build
the house of the Lord God of Israel'—all this was so strange, so
unexpected, so far beyond the reach of hope, that when the Hebrew
captives heard it, they 'were like unto them that dream,' and could
not believe for wonder and joy. 'This was the Lord's doing,' none
but He could have done it, and it was marvellous in their eyes.'"

The exquisite beauty of the Poem consists not only in the striking
figures which are employed, but in the way in which these are
repeated and return upon themselves. "The effect is indefinitely
enhanced by the lingering repetition of phrase after phrase." And
"the whole Psalm is alive with joy, the joy of an escape, of a
triumph as wonderful as it was unexpected."

The title, which gives the Psalm to David, is evidently of no
authority. Delitzsch conjectures that the recurrence of certain words
found in the genuine Davidic Psalms may have led the collector to
assign this ode to him. In the LXX. and the Syriac it is anonymous.

But apart from the Aramaic colouring of the diction, which points
to a later time, the theme of the Psalm is obviously such a captivity
as David never experienced.

[A PILGRIM-SONG. OF DAVID.]

I IF Jehovah had not been on our side,—
Let Israel now say
2 If Jehovah had not been on our side,
When men rose up against us;
3 Then had they swallowed us up alive,
When their anger was kindled against us;

3. SWALLOWED US UP ALIVE.
Comp. iv. 15 [16]; Prov. i. 12; with
Num. xvi. 32, 33, where the phrase
is used of the company of Korah.
Or the figure may refer to the
ravening beast swallowing its
prey, the figure being repeated in
ver. 6, "a prey to their teeth." If
so, we have three images. "The
Babylonian beast had lost its prey,
4 Then had the waters overwhelmed us,
   The stream had gone over our soul;
5 Then there had gone over our soul
   The proudly-swelling waters.
6 Blessed be Jehovah,
   Who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.
7 Our soul is escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers;
   The snare is broken, and we are escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of Jehovah,
   The Maker of heaven and earth.
verb requires, with the old accus. termination, as cxvi. 15 (comp. cxx. 6, and Is. viii. 23, נַעֲרָבָא, where the accent is on the antepenultimate), which, however, has lost its meaning. In Num. xxxiv. 5, on the other hand, it is a real accusative, to the stream.

ד מָיִן מִזְיֶזֶה, only here, a later adjective form for the more common מָיִן חָזֵי (but not Aramaic), bearing the same relation to חָזָזֶה that יִזִּוֶב (see note c on last Psalm) does to יִזְזֶה.

PSALM CXXV.

THE exiles had been restored to their own land (see Introduction to last Psalm), but fresh perils awaited them there. Not only were they perpetually molested by the Samaritans and others in the rebuilding of the Temple and of the city walls, but they were troubled with internal dissensions. Ezra found the "abominations of the heathen" countenanced by the intermarriages of the Jews who returned from the Captivity with "the people of those lands," and was dismayed when he learnt that "the hand of the princes and the rulers had been chief in this trespass." Nehemiah, at a later period, had to contend against a faction within the city who had taken the bribes of the Samaritans. In rebuilding the walls, he did not trust the priests, the nobles, or the rulers, till he had begun the work (Neh. ii. 16, vi. 17). Even the prophets took part with his enemies against him. Shemaiah, he found, had been hired by Tobiah and Sanballat, and "the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets" had joined the plot, and sought "to put him in fear," and so to hinder his work (vi. 10-48).

To these plots and this defection on the part of many of the Jews themselves there is probably an allusion in ver. 3 and 5. On the other hand, the faith of the Psalmist rises above all these dangers. There is One who is the sure defence of His people, who is their bulwark as the mountains are the bulwark of Jerusalem.

[A PILGRIM-SONG.]

1 THEY that trust in Jehovah are as Mount Zion
   Which cannot be moved,

1, 2. Two images of the security of those who trust in Jehovah: (I) they stand firm as Zion itself, they are like a mountain which cannot
(But) is seated for ever.

2 As for Jerusalem, the mountains are round about her,
   And Jehovah is round about His people,
   From this time even for evermore.

3 For the rod of wickedness shall not rest upon the lot of
   the righteous,  

| be shaken; (2) they are girt as by a wall of mountains—a natural bulwark against all enemies. |
| --- |  |
| 1. IS SEATED, lit. "sitteth;" as spoken of a mountain "lieth" or "is situated," but here, with the following "for ever," used in a still stronger sense. Milton:--  |
| "From their foundations loosening to and fro, They plucked the seated hills." See on the use of this verb cxii. 5. |
| 2. MOUNTAINS ARE ROUND ABOUT HER. "This image is not realized," says Dean Stanley, "as most persons familiar with our European scenery would wish and expect it to be realized. Jerusalem is not literally shut in by mountains, except on the eastern side, where it may be said to be inclosed by the arms of Olivet, with its outlying ridges on the north-east and south-east." Viewed from any other direction, Jerusalem always appears "on an elevation higher than the hills in its immediate neighbourhood. Nor is the plain on which it stands inclosed by a continuous though distant circle of mountains like that which gives its peculiar charm to Athens and Innsbruck. The mountains in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem are of unequal height, . . . only in two or three instances . . . rising to any considerable elevation. Even Olivet is only 180 feet above the top of Mount Zion. Still they act as a shelter; they must be surmounted before the traveller can see, or the invader attack, the Holy City; and the distant line of Moab would always seem to rise as a wall against invaders from the remote east." It |
| is of these distant mountains that Josephus speaks (Bell. Judr. vi. v. 1) as "the surrounding mountains," συνη责任感 δὲ ἡ περαία καὶ τὰ πέρι ὀρη—Sinai and Palestine, pp. 174, 175.  |
| AND JEHOVAH, instead of "so Jehovah," &c., the comparison being formed by merely placing the two objects side by side, as so frequently in the Proverbs. IS ROUND ABOUT HIS PEOPLE. Comp. Zech. ii. 4, 5 [8, 9]. "Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls, for I, saith Jehovah, will be unto her a wall of fire round about." |
| 3. FOR introduces an example of God's protecting care—an example not taken from the past, but which faith anticipates and is sure of, as if already accomplished. THE ROD OF WICKEDNESS. The expression may refer to the Persian rule under favour of which the Samaritans and others annoyed the Jews. The rod or sceptre, De Wette urges, could not apply to the Samaritans, for they did not rule over the Jews. But it was through them that the tyranny of the Persian court made itself felt; and they contrived, moreover, to gain over a considerable part, and that the most influential part, of the Jews to their side. The fear was, as the next clause shows, lest in this state of things the defection should spread still more widely. REST, i.e. "lie heavy," so as to oppress, as in Is. xxv. 10, with a further sense of continuance of the oppression. THE LOT OF THE RIGHTEOUS is the Holy Land itself; comp. xvi. 5, 6. The consequence of a long continuance of this oppressive rule |
That the righteous put not forth their hands unto iniquity.

4 Do good, O Jehovah, to them that are good, and to them that are upright in their hearts.

5 But as for those who turn aside to their crooked paths, Jehovah shall make them go their way with the workers of iniquity.

Peace be upon Israel.

would be that THE RIGHTEOUS, the sound and true part of the nation, would itself be tempted to despair of God's succour, and so be drawn away from its steadfastness (comp. xxxvii. 7, 8, xlix. 13, 14 [14, 15]; Job. xv. 4).

4, 5. The Psalm ends with a confident assertion of righteous requital—first in the form of a prayer, and then in the utterance of a hope, both springing from the same faith in the righteousness of God.

5. TURN ASIDE TO THEIR CROOKED PATHS. This may be, if we take the participle transitively, "bend their crooked paths," i.e. turn their paths aside so as to make them crooked. Comp. Jud. v. 6. But in Num. xxii. 23; Is. xxx. 11, the participle is used intransitively, and so here we may explain "who turn aside in, or to, crooked paths." The expression does not necessarily denote a going over to heathenism it would describe the conduct of those who, in the time of Nehemiah, made common cause with the enemies of Israel (Neh. vi. 10-14, xiii. 28-31).

MAKE THEM GO THEIR WAY, i.e. so as to perish., Comp. the use of the same verb in (viii. 8 [9] (Hithpael), cix. 22 [23] (Niphal). Those who begin with being crooked, double, deceitful, will at last walk openly with the wicked, and this is Jehovah's doing, because it is His law of righteous retribution.

PEACE UPON ISRAEL. Comp. the conclusion of cxxviii. So LXX. εἰρήνη ἐπὶ τῷ Ἰσρ. Jer. and Vul. pax super Israel, but in the 128th Ps. pacem.

PSALM CXXVI.

THE first colony of exiles had returned to Palestine. The permission to return had been so unexpected, the circumstances which had led to it so wonderful and so unforeseen, that when it came it could hardly be believed. To those who found themselves actually restored to the land of their fathers it seemed like a dream. It was a joy beyond all words to utter. God, their fathers' God, had indeed wrought for them, and even the heathen had recognized His hand.

It is with these thoughts that this beautiful Psalm opens. But, after all, what was that little band of settlers which formed the first
caravan? It was but as the trickling of a tiny rill in some desert waste. Hence the prayer bursts from the lips of the Psalmist, Bring back our captives like mighty streams, which swoln by the wintry rains, descend to fertilize the parched and desolate wilderness. Then comes the thought of the many discouragements and opposition which the first settlers had to encounter; it was a time of sowing in tears (Ezra iv. 11-24). Still faith could expect a joyful harvest. He who had restored them to the land would assuredly crown His work with blessing.

[A PILGRIM-SONG.]

1 WHEN Jehovah brought back the returneda of Zion,
   We were like unto them that dream.
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
   And our tongue with songs of joy.
3 Then said they among the nations,
   "Jehovah hath done great things for them."
4 (Yea) Jehovah hath done great things for us;
   (Therefore) were we glad.
5 Bring back, 0 Jehovah, our captives,
   As the streams in the South.

---

I. LIKE UNTO THEM THAT DREAM, i.e. so unexpected and so wonderful was our redemption from the Exile, that we could scarcely believe it was true, and not a dream.

In Neale's Commentary there is an apt and striking parallel, which is quoted from Livy, xxxiii. 32, where the Greeks, after the defeat of the Macedonians by Flamininus, receive the announcement at the Isthmian games that the Romans would allow them to retain their liberty. "The joy was too great for men to take it all in. None could well believe that he had heard aright, and they looked on one another in wonder like the empty show of a dream; and as for each person singly, having no confidence in their own ears, they all questioned those standing near them."

2. FILLED WITH LAUGHTER, as in Job viii. 21.

3. JEHOVAH HATH DONE GREAT THINGS, lit. "hath magnified to do with (towards) these," as in Joel ii. 20. THEM, lit. "these," δεικτικῶς.

4. WERE WE GLAD. Or perhaps present, "we are glad;" the construction of the verb and participle is the same as in cxxii. 2.

5. STREAMS, or rather "channels" (watercourses). THE SOUTH, i.e. the south country, the Negeb, is the image of a dry and thirsty land, which wanted springs. Comp. Judg. i. 15.

Palestine without her people has been like the south country parched with the drought of summer: the return of her inhabitants will be grateful as the return of the mountain torrents when, swoln by the
6 They that sow in tears  
Shall reap with songs of joy.  
7 He may go weeping as he goeth,  
Bearing (his) store of seed;  
8 He shall come, he shall come with songs of joy,  
Bearing his sheaves.

wintry rains, they flow again along  
the beds of the watercourses, carrying  
with them life and verdure and  
fertility. We find the expression of  
the same feeling under a different  
figure Is. xlix. 18, where the land,  
like a bereaved mother, waits for  
her children, whose return will fill  
her heart with joy. . . . The verse  
is a prayer that all may be brought  
back. There is a great past, may  
the future be great also.

6. THEY THAT SOW IN TEARS.  
The sowing is a season of trouble  
and anxiety, but the rich harvest  
makes amends for all. So though  
the new colonists were exposed to  
many trials, yet a glorious future  
was before them. That time of  
labour, and trouble, and opposition,  
and discouragement, and anxious  
waiting, should by no means lose  
its reward. The weeping should be  
changed into joy; the weeping  
should be the path of joy. Comp.  
for the contrast between the sowing  
and the reaping, Haggai ii. 3-9,  
17-19.

7, 8. These verses are merely an  
expansion of the image in ver. 6,  
with the common substitution of  
the singular for the plural, to bring  
out more clearly the figure of the  
individual sower.

7. This verse might perhaps be  
more exactly rendered: "He who  
beareth the handful of seed may  
indeed weep every step that he  
goest."  

7. Go WEEPING, or, yet more  
strongly, "take no step of his way  
without weeping," the double in-  
finitive being employed to mark  
the continued nature of the action.  
Comp. 2 Sam. iii. 16; Jer. i. 4;  
Gesell. § 131, 3b.

STORE OF SEED, lit. "that which  
is drawn," out of the store-house  
and placed in the vessel or fold of  
the robe to be scattered on the field.  
Hence a sower is called "a drawer  
of seed." Amos ix. 13.

אتروב, generally rendered, after the LXX., דחי αἰχμαλωσίαιν Σιών,  
though perhaps unnecessarily. For the construction, comp. Deut. xxx. 3,  
Ps. xiv. 7.

athon is formed from לובש, as from לובש (Lam. iii. 63), and signifies  
"the return," and so "those who return," just as יבש or יבש, "the  
captivity," and hence "the captives," יבש, "the exile," and so "the  
exiles." To this Hupf. objects that it is hardly likely that a form יבש  
should be found as well as יבש, which occurs in the same sense  
"return," Is. xxx. 15. Hence he maintains that יבש is an old mistake  
for יבש or יבש.

That יבש refers to the past is quite certain, from the following יבש  
and Jerome is right, "quum converteret . . . facti sumus."

מי introduces emphatically the apodosis, and the verbs which follow  
are proper imperfects; "then our mouth began to be filled," &c. . . . then  
they were saying, &c.
THIS and the next Psalm form two bright companion pictures of social and domestic life, and of the happiness of a household which, trained in the fear of God, is blessed by His providence. "These pictures," says Isaac Taylor, "are mild and bright; humanizing are they in the best sense: they retain certain elements of Paradise, and yet more the elements of the Patriarchal era, with the addition of that patriotism and of that concentration in which the Patriarchal life was wanting. The happy religious man, after the Hebrew pattern, possessed those feelings and habitudes which, if they greatly prevail in a community, impart to it the strength of a combination which is stronger than any other; uniting the force of domestic virtue, of rural, yeomanlike, agricultural occupations, of unaggressive defensive valour, and of a religious animation which is national as well as authentic and true. Our modern learning in Oriental modes of life and its circumstances and scenery may help us to bring into view either of two gay pictures;—that of the Hebrew man in mid-life, at rest in his country home, with his sturdy sons about him; his wife is still young; her fair daughters are like cornices sculptured as decorations for a palace: or else the companion picture, with its group on their way Zionward, resting for the sultry noon-hour under the palms by the side of a stream, and yet home, happy home, is in the recollection of the party; but the Hill of God, 'whereunto the tribes of the Lord go up,' is in the fervent purpose of all; and while they rest they beguile the time with a sacred song and with its soothing melody. Happy were the people while their mind was such as this, and such their habits, and such their piety!"—Spirit of the Hebrew Poetry, pp. 165, 166.

There is not a word in either Psalm to guide us as to the time of its composition. The title gives the 127th to Solomon (only one other in the entire Psalter, the 72nd, being ascribed to him), but it may be doubted whether with sufficient reason. In form, in rhythm, in general tone and character, it resembles all the others in this collection. It has been conjectured that the proverb-like structure of the Psalm, the occurrence in it of several words and phrases also occurring in the Proverbs, and possibly a supposed allusion to the name Jedediah in ver. 2, "His beloved" (y'dido), and to the building of the Temple in ver. 1, may have led some collector to conclude that the Psalm was Solomon's. In the Septuagint it is anonymous.
In the Syriac it is said to have been spoken by David concerning Solomon; but also concerning Haggai and Zechariah, who urged the building of the Temple. Many, both ancient and modern interpreters have, in the same way, discovered in the Psalm an allusion to the circumstances of the people after the return from the Captivity, to the rebuilding of the Temple, and the guarding of the newly-erected walls in ver. I, and to the numerical increase of the people in ver. 4, 5, which at such a time would possess especial importance in the eyes of a patriotic Hebrew. But the "house" in ver. I is clearly not the Temple, but any house which men build, for the whole Psalm is a picture of daily life, social and domestic; and, as De Wette very truly observes, to build houses, to guard the city, to be diligent in labours, would be just as important at any other period as after the return from the Exile; and the Jews at all times of their history esteemed a large family one of the chief of blessings.

A want of unity, an abruptness, in the transition, from the first part to the second part of the Psalm has been alleged, but without sufficient reason. "The first part is engaged with the Home and the City; the second part with the Children who are the strength and joy of the Home, and with the Men who are the crown and defence of the City. In both, in our home life and in our civic life, we are wholly dependent on the providence and bounty of God."

The great moral of the Psalm is, that without God's blessing all human efforts and human precautions are in vain; that man can never command success; that God gives and man receives. There is a passage in Tennyson's "Lotos Eaters," the strain of which is not unlike that of ver. 3 of the Psalm, except that there is a shadow of sadness and weariness on the words of the modern Poet which finds no response in the spirit of the Hebrew bard:

"Why are we weigh'd upon with heaviness, 
And utterly consumed with sharp distress, 
While all things else have rest from weariness? 
All things have rest: why should we toil alone? 
We only toil who are the first of things, 
And make perpetual moan, 
Still from one sorrow to another thrown: 
Nor ever fold our wings, 
And cease from wanderings; 
Nor steep our brows in slumber's holy balm; 
Nor hearken what the inner spirit sings, 
'There is no joy but calm!' 
Why should we only toil, the roof and crown of things?"
[A PILGRIM SONG. OF SOLOMON.]

1 Except Jehovah build a house,
   They labour thereat in vain that build it;
   Except Jehovah watch over a city,
   The watchman waketh (but) in vain.

2 Vain is it for you, ye that rise up early, ye that late
take rest,
   That ye eat the bread of toil:
   So He giveth His beloved sleep.

I, 3. The truth seems obvious
and undeniable that all success is
from God, "An Gottes Segen ist
alles gelegen": yet practically this
is by most men forgotten. The
spirit of the Chaldean invader of
whom the Prophet says, "This his
strength is his God," the *Dextra
milli Deus*, is in the heart, if not
on the lips, of others besides the
atheist.

1. A HOUSE, not "the Temple,"
as some explain, nor "the family,"
as others, but the structure itself,
as is evident from the context.
WATCHMAN, lit. "keeper," i.e. by
night, as in cxxi. 3, 4.

THEY LABOUR, or rather "they
have laboured." It is the strict
perfect; the writer places himself
at the end of the work, sees its re-
sult, "they have spent their labour
in vain;" and so in the next verse,
"the watchman hath waked."

2. YE THAT RISE. The Hebrew
expression runs literally: "making
early to rise, making late to sit
(down)," i.e. going forth early to
labour, and returning late at night to
take rest. It is an artificial lengthen-
ing of the natural day. Others
render the latter clause as in the
E.V. "sit up late," appealing to Is.
v. 11, where, however, the con-
struction is different, the participle
being followed not as here by the
infinitive, but by a noun with the
preposition, and the expression
being lit. "that make late in the
evening," *i.e.* no doubt that pro-
long their revels into the night.

BREAD OF TOIL, or perhaps rather
"of wearisome efforts." Comp.
Prov. v. 10, "and thy wearisome
efforts (i.e. what thou hast gotten
with labour and toil) be in the house
of a stranger." There is an allu-
sion, no doubt, to Gen. iii. 17, "in
sorrow (or weariness) thou shalt
eat of it all the days of thy life."

GIVETH SLEEP. Most follow
Luther in rendering "He giveth it,
i.e. bread, the necessaries of life,
in sleep." What others obtain only
with such wearing toil, such con-
stant effort, with so much disap-
pointment and so much sorrow,
God gives to the man whom He,
loves as it were *while he sleeps*, i.e.
without all this anxiety and exertion.
This is the interpretation now per-
haps commonly adopted; but it
seems to me very questionable
(though I accepted it in the First
Edition) for the following reasons:
(I) it is necessary to supply "bread,"
not "bread of toil," in this clause;
and (2) I am not satisfied that the
rendering of the accusative *in
sleep* is justifiable. The alleged
parallel instances (see Critical Note),
expressing parts of time, are not
really parallel. I am inclined,
therefore, to prefer the render-
ing, "So He giveth His beloved
sleep," though it is no doubt diffi-
cult to explain the reference of
the particle "so." I suppose it
3 Behold, sons are a heritage from Jehovah, 
   The fruit of the womb is (His) reward. 
4 Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, 
   So are the sons of (a man's) youth. 
5 Happy is the man who hath filled his quiver with them,
They shall not be ashamed, when they speak with (their) enemies in the gate.

their cause, may be illustrated by Josh. xx. 4, Gen. xlv. 15, "And he (the manslayer who has fled) shall stand in the entrance of the gate of the city, and shall speak his words (i.e. plead his cause) in the ears of the elders of that city." Comp. 2 Sam. xix. 30; Jer. xii. 1.

Others understand by speaking with enemies in the gate a battle fought with besiegers at the gates. So apparently Ewald, who refers to Gen. xxii. 17, "thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;" and xxiv. 60, "let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them." This certainly harmonizes better with the warlike figure of the quiver full of arrows: but can "to speak with enemies" mean to fight with them? If so, it must be an idiom something like that of "looking one another in the face," 2 Kings xiv. 8, 11. But it may be understood of "parleying with them," as Rabshakeh for instance with the captains and ministers of Hezekiah.

With the sentiment of ver. 4, 5, compare Soph. Antig. 641—644: τούτου γὰρ ὀφειλέων ἄνδρες ἐχωνται γονᾶς κατηκόρους φέροντες ἐν δόμοις ἔχειν, ὡς καὶ τὸν ἐξθρόνον ἀνταμύνωνται κακῶς, καὶ τὸν φίλου τιμῶσιν ἤ τὸν πατρὶ. So, too, in Ecclus. xxx. 5, 6, it is said of a father that "while he lived, he saw and rejoiced in him (his son); and when he died, he was not sorrowful. He left behind him an avenger against his enemies, and one that shall requite kindness to his friends." The coincidence of expression in the last two passages is remarkable.

The following coincidences of expression have been supposed to justify the title. תְּמוֹנָה, wearisome efforts, ver. 2, occurs also Prov. v. 10; מָגָר, making late, in Prov. xxiii. 30. As in ver. 4 of the Psalm בְּנֵי הָעַנִּי, sons of youth, so in Prov. v. 18 נִשְׁפָּתָה, wife of, youth. Ver. 5, in the gate, as in Prov. xxii. 22, xxiv. 7. And the whole Psalm may be considered an expansion of Prov. x. 22.

ב תְּמוֹנָה, opposed to בֶּן as cxxxix. 2, Lam. iii. 63, as also are the two participles in the stat. constr. Aquila, rightly, βραδυνοῦσι καθησθοῖ.ι.

c נִשְׁפָּתָה, so. i.e. with just the same result. So in the passages cited by Del.: Num. xiii. 33, "we were. so, i.e. just the same in their sight;"

Is. li. 6 דעָמְתְּךָ, as so, i.e. in like manner; Job ix. 35, "for it is not so with me (as you think)," i.e. I am not guilty, as you assert; 2 Sam. xxiii. 5 may be interrogative, "For is not my house so with God that He hath made an everlasting covenant with me?" In all these instances Del. would take נְשָׁתָה as meaning small, or as nothing (gering, wie nichts), which can only be justified if we suppose the word to be used δεικτικῶς.

d נְשָׁתָה, with Aramaic termination, for נְשָׁתָה, here it is said not acc. of the object, but of time, as frequently in other words, such as בְּנוֹר בְּנֵי, &c., Ges. § 118, 2; but, as I have said in the note on ver. 2, I do not think these can be regarded as really parallel instances, because נְשָׁתָה is not a word of time but of state.
THE Introduction to the preceding Psalm may be consulted on this, which is a sunny picture of the family happiness of one who fears God, and leads a holy life.

Luther says: "In the former Psalm the prophet treated of both kinds of life, that is, both of national life and domestic life (politia et aeconomia). The same thing almost he doth in this Psalm, but yet after another sort. For although here also he joineth the two together, and wisheth the blessing of God and peace unto them both, yet hath he more respect to household government or matrimony, because it is, as it were, the fountain and source of civil government. For the children whom we bring up and instruct at home, these will, in time to come, be the governors of the state. For of houses or families are made cities, of cities provinces, of provinces kingdoms. Household government, then, is with reason called the fountain of policy and political government, for if you destroy the one, the other cannot exist.

"Wherefore to this Psalm we will give this title, that it is an Epithalamium or Marriage Song, wherein the Prophet comforteth them that are married, wishing unto them and promising them from God all manner of blessings."

The Psalm consists of two parts:
II. The good wishes and promises for him who has entered upon it. Ver. 5, 6.

[A PILGRIM-SONG.]

1 HAPPY is every one that feareth Jehovah,
   That walketh in His ways.
2 For the labour of thy hands shalt thou eat,
   Happy art thou, and it (shall be) well with thee.
PSALM CXXVIII.

3 Thy wife \( b \) (shall be) like a fruitful vine, in the inner part of thy house;
Thy children, like olive-plants, round about thy table:
4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed that feareth Jehovah.
5 Jehovah bless thee out of Zion,
   And see thou the prosperity of Jerusalem
   All the days of thy life,
6 And see thy children's children.
   Peace be upon Israel.

thereof, &c., Deut. xxviii. 30-33, 39, 40. See also Am. v. 11; Micah vi. 15; Eccles. vi. 1, 2; and for a contrast in this respect, between the lot of the righteous and that of the wicked, Is. iii. 10, 11.
3. The comparison would perhaps be brought out more clearly by arranging the verse as follows:--

Thy wife shall be in the inner part of thy house
   Like a fruitful vine;
Thy children round about thy table
   Like the shoots of the olive.

IN THE INNER PART, lit. "the sides of thy house," as in Am. vi. io, i.e. the women's apartments, as marking the proper sphere of the wife engaged in her domestic duties, and also to some extent her seclusion, though this was far less among the Jews than among other Orientals.

The VINE is an emblem chiefly of fruitfulness, but also of gracefulness and dependence, as needing support; the OLIVE of vigorous, healthy, joyous life. The same figure is employed by Euripides,

5. Looking on the beautiful family picture, the Poet turns to greet the father of the household, and to wish him the blessing of which he has already spoken in such glowing terms.

OUT OF ZION, as the dwelling-place of God, His earthly throne and sanctuary, whence all blessing comes, cxxxiv. 3, xx. 2 [3].

Then follows the truly patriotic sentiment—the wish that he may see the prosperity of Jerusalem, as well as that he may live long to see his children and grandchildren.
The welfare of the family and the welfare of the state are indissolubly connected.

SEE, THOU, an imperative following the optative, and therefore to be understood as expressing a wish, and even more, a promise, as in xxxvii. 3, where see note b.

6. CHILDREN'S CHILDREN. SO Virgil: "Adspicies . . . natos natos et qui nascentur ab illis."

\( a \) is sometimes thus placed after other words instead of standing first in the sentence: comp. cxviii. 10-12; Gen. xviii. 20. Hupfeld contends that it retains its usual meaning _for_, but he would transpose the two clauses of the verse: "Happy art thou, and it is well with thee, For thou shalt eat," &c. Del. on the other hand, following Ew., takes it as emphatic, _surely_; in German _ja_. Hupf. says _ja_ never has this sense; but surely it may be used elliptically, = "be assured _that_, &c._

I Sam. x. 1; _אָפִּית_ כֵּלֵי, Job xii. 2; and the common expression _אָפִּית_ כֵּלֵי, &c._

\( b \) only here with this punctuation, instead of _פִּיכֶהָ_ כֵּלֵי. Lam. i. 6, for _כֵּלֵי_ כֵּלֵי, Ew. § 189, e.
PSALM CXXIX.

THE nation, delivered from the Babylonish Captivity, may well look back to all her past history, and trace in it the same great law of suffering, and the same ever-repeated tokens of God's mercy. The record is a record of conflict, but it is also a record of victory (ver. 2). The great principle on which Israel's final deliverance rests is the righteousness of Jehovah (ver. 4). That has been manifested, as often before, so now in cutting asunder the cords by which the people had been bound in Babylon. Full of thankfulness at this deliverance, the Poet draws thence an augury and a hope for the overthrow, complete and final, of their oppressors.

The Psalm consists, accordingly, of two stanzas, each of four verses; the first containing the record of the past, the second the prayer (which is also a hope, and almost a promise) for the future.

In subject, style, and rhythmical structure, it most nearly resembles, Psalm cxxiv., so nearly indeed that there can be no doubt that both are by the same author. Observe how exactly the opening of the two corresponds in form, and how in each Psalm two principal figures are wrought out.

[A PILGRIM-SONG.]

1 GREATLY have they fought against me, from my youth up--
   Let Israel now say
2 Greatly have they fought against me, from my youth up,
   (But) they have not also prevailed against me.
3 The ploughers ploughed upon my back,
   They made long their furrows

1. GREATLY, or "long:" the same word as in cxx. 6, cxxiii. 4. FOUGHT AGAINST ME, lit. "have been adversaries unto me."
   FROM MY YOUTH UP. The youth of the nation was in Egypt, at which time God speaks of His relation to Israel as "love of youth," "espousals of youth," &c. Hos. ii. 15; Jer. ii. 2, xxii. 21; Ezek. xxiii. 3.

2. HAVE NOT PREVAILED. This is the point of the Psalm. The New Testament parallel is 2 Cor. iv. 8-10, and the whole history of the Christian Church is an echo of the words.

3. FURROWS. Deep wounds, such as those made by the lash on the back of slaves. Comp. Is. i. 6, and a different but not less expressive image li. 23. Isaiah, a town poet,
4 Jehovah is righteous,  
   He hath cut asunder the cord of the wicked.  
5 Let them be ashamed and turned backward,  
   As many as hate Zion.  
6 Let them be as the grass on the housetops,  
   That withereth afore c it be plucked up:d  
7 Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand,  
   Nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom;  
8 Neither do they which go by say,  
   "The blessing of Jehovah be upon you."  
   "We bless you in the name of Jehovah."

takes his image of the same oppression from the street: "Thou madest thy back like the ground, and like the street to them that go over it" (li. 23): But the rural poet in the Psalm takes his image from the farm, from the deep furrow driven by the ploughshare.  
4. THE CORD. The figure is probably taken from the yoking of oxen: when the traces are cut, the bullock is free. Or "the cord" may be, in a wider sense, an image of slavery, as in ii. 3.  
6. GRASS ON THE HOUSETOPS, easily springing up, but having no root. The flat roofs of the Eastern houses "are plastered with a composition of mortar, tar, ashes, and sand," in the crevices of which grass often springs. The houses of the poor in the country were formed of a plaster of mud and straw, where the grass would grow still more freely: as all the images are taken from country life, it is doubtless to country dwellings that the Poet refers. Comp. 2 Kings xix. 26; Is. xxxvii. 27.  
7, 8. These two verses are a poetic expansion of the figure, an imaginative excursus, exactly parallel to that which occurs in ver. 4, 5, of the 127th Psalm. "The charm of the subject allures" the Poet in each instance.  

a גנ. According to Ew. § 354 a, in this and other passages, such as exix. 24, Ezek. xvi. 28, Eccl. vi. 7, the particle is equivalent to the Greek ὀμωσ, nevertheless. Hupf. denies this, and argues that there is no need to depart from the usual signification in any case: thus here, "They have fought . . . they have not also prevailed." Comp. Gen. xxx. 8, xxxviii. 24, Job ii. 10.  
b לִּמְנָתָהוֹ. So the K'thibh, rightly, the word being plur. of לִּמְנָתָהוֹ, which occurs besides only in I Sam. xiv. 14. The ה, marking the object, is not necessarily an Aramaism, though found more frequently in the later Psalms. Comp. lxix. 6, cxvi. 16. Here, however, the construction may be explained by the form of the verb as = "have made length to their furrows."
c תַּמְדָּע, a doubly Aramaic form; for (1) the relative belongs to the verb, which withereth, and (2) תַּמְדָּע occurs elsewhere only in Chal.d., Ezra v. 11, Dan. vi. 11, but not as here, immediately before a verb.

d מִלָּה, to draw out, used of drawing out a weapon, &c., here impersonal for the passive, before one pulls up, i.e. before it is pulled up. So the LXX., Th., and the Quinta, πρὸ τοῦ ἐκσπασθῆναι, and so Gesen. Thes. in v., Hupf., De W., &c. Others render before it shoot up, or be grown so as to blossom (the blossom coming out of the sheath, as it were). So according to Theodoret, some copies of the LXX. ἔξανθήσαται, Aq. ἄνεθολευν. But it is extremely doubtful whether מִלָּה can be taken thus intransitively: no other instance of such usage has been alleged. Symm. has ἔκκαυλῆσαι, which may mean has come to a stalk, or perhaps be equivalent to ἔκκαυλίζειν, root up.

PSALM CXXX.

THIS Psalm is a cry to God for the forgiveness of sin. The Psalmist pleads that he has long waited upon God, trusting in His word. Out of his own experience, he exhorts all Israel in like manner to hope, and wait, and look for God's mercy and redemption, which will assuredly be vouchsafed.

"When Luther, in the year 1530, was in the fortress of Coburg, on four occasions during the night there seemed to pass before his eyes burning torches, and this was followed by a severe headache. One night he saw three blazing torches come in at the window of his room, and he swooned away. His servant coming to his assistance, poured oil of almonds into his ear and rubbed his feet with hot napkins. As soon as he recovered, he bade him read to him a portion of the Epistle to the Galatians, and during the reading fell asleep. The danger was over, and when he awoke, he cried out joyfully: 'Come, to spite the devil, let us sing the Psalm De profiandis, in four parts.'

"Being asked on one occasion which were the best Psalms, he replied, 'The Pauline Psalms' (Psalmi Paulini); and being pressed to say which they were, he answered: 'The 32d, the 51st, the 130th, and the 143d. For they teach us that the forgiveness of sins is vouchsafed to them that believe without the law and without works; therefore are they Pauline Psalms; and when David sings, 'With Thee is forgiveness, that Thou mayest be feared,' so Paul likewise saith, 'God hath concluded all under sin, that He may have mercy
on all." Therefore none can boast of his own righteousness, but the words, "That Thou mayest be feared," thrust away all self-merit, teach us to take off our hat before God and confess, *gratia est non
meritum, remissio non satisfactio*—it is all forgiveness, and no merit.' "

—Delitzsch.

This is the sixth of the seven Penitential Psalms, as they are called. Delitzsch notices that several of the words and phrases of this Psalm occur also in Psalm lxxxvi., but there are few of them of a marked kind. It may be taken as evidence of the late date of the Psalm that the word rendered "attentive," ver. 2, occurs besides only in 2 Chron. vi. 40, vii. 15, and the word "forgiveness," ver. 4, only in Dan. ix. 9, Neh. ix. 17.

[A PILGRIM-SONG.]

1 OUT of the depths have I called upon Thee, 0 Jehovah!
2 Lord, hear my voice:
   Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.
3 If Thou, 0 Jah, shouldest mark iniquities,
   0 Lord, who shall stand?
4 But with Thee is forgiveness,

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| 1. OUT OF THE DEPTHS. Deep waters, as so often being an image of overwhelming affliction: comp. ixix. 2 [3], 14 [15]; Is. ii. 10. |
| "Unde clamat?" says Augustine. "De profundo. Quis est ergo qui clamat? Pecator. Et qua spe clamat? Quia qui venit solvere peccata, dedit spem etiam in profundo posito peccatori... Clamat sub molibus et fluctibus iniquitatum suarum. Circumspexit se, circumspexit vitam suam; vidit illam undique flagitiis et facinoribus co-operatam: quacunque respexit, nihil in se bonum invenit, nihil illi justitiae serenum potuit occurrere." |

| 2. LET THINE EARS BE ATTENTIVE. The same expression occurs 2 Chron. vi. 40. |

| 3. MARK, lit. "keep," or "watch," so as to observe: the same word as in ver. 6, but used in the sense of marking, observing, Job x. 14, xiv. 16 (comp. for the sense Ps. xc. 8); and with the further sense of keeping in memory, i.e. in order to punish, Jer. iii. 5; Amos i. 11. |

| WHO SHALL (OR CAN) STAND? Comp. Ixxxvi. 7 [8]; Nah. i. 6; Mal. iii. 2. "Non dixit, ego non sustinebo; sed, quis sustinebit? Vidit enim prope totam vitam humanam circumlatrati peccatis suis, accu sari omnes conscientias cognitionibus suis, non inveniri cor castum praesumens de sua justitia."—Augustine. |

| 4. BUT, or rather FOR, the conjunction referring to what is implied in the previous verse. The sentiment expanded would be: "If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, none can stand: but Thou dost..." |
That Thou mayest be feared.¹

5 I have waited for Jehovah, my soul hath waited;
And in His word have I hoped.

not mark them, for with Thee is forgiveness.²

FORGIVENESS, lit. "the forgiveness" (either the common use of the article before abstract nouns, or possibly with reference to something not expressed, e.g. "the forgiveness we need"). This noun occurs besides only in two later passages, Neh. ix. 17, Dan. ix. 9; and the adjective from the same root only in Ps. lxxxv. 5 [6]; but the verb occurs frequently, both in the Pentateuch and the later books.

THAT THOU MAYEST BE FEARED. God freely forgives sin, not that men may think lightly of sin, but that they may magnify His grace and mercy in its forgiveness, and so give Him the fear and the honour due unto His Name. So in xxv. 11, the Psalmist prays, "For Thy Name's sake pardon mine iniquity," and lxxix. 9, "Purge away our sins for Thy Name's sake," i.e. that God's Name may be glorified as a God who pardoneth iniquity, transgression, and sin.

This forgiveness is a far more powerful motive than any other to call forth holy fear and love and self-sacrifice. Luther says: "Why doth he add, 'That Thou mayest be feared?' . . . It is as if he should say, I have learned by experience, 0 Lord, why, there is mercy with Thee, and why of right Thou mayest challenge this title unto Thyself, that Thou art merciful and forgivest sins. For in that Thou shuttest all under free mercy, and leavest nothing to the merits and works of men, therefore Thou art feared. But if all things were not placed in Thy mercy, and we could take away our sins by our own strength, no man would fear Thee, but the whole world would proudly contemn Thee. For daily experience shows that where there is not this knowledge of God's mercy, there men walk in a presumption of their own merits. . . . The true fear of God, the true worship, the true reverence, yea, the true knowledge of God, resteth on nothing but mercy, that through Christ we assuredly trust that God is reconciled unto us. . . Christian doctrine doth not deny or condemn good works, but it teacheth that God willeth not to mark iniquities, but willeth that we believe, that is, trust, His mercy. For with Him is forgiveness, that He may be feared and continue to be our God. Whoever, then, do believe that God is ready to forgive, and for Christ's sake to remit, sins, they render unto God true and reasonable service; they strive not with God about the law, works, and righteousness, but, laying aside all trust in themselves, do fear Him because of His mercy, and thus are made sons who receive the Holy Ghost, and begin truly to do the works of the law.

So in these two lines, David sets forth to us the sum and substance of all Christian doctrine, and that Sun which giveth light to the Church.³

5. I HAVE WAITED. This has been the attitude of soul in which God's mercy has come to me.

IN HIS WORD, on the ground of His promises I have claimed that mercy, and now my soul "is unto the Lord," that I may ever find fresh mercy, and grace for all my need. This waiting, hoping attitude is the attitude of a true heart, of one not easily discouraged, of one that says, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me."

Luther, taking the verbs as presents, "I wait," &c. traces the connection somewhat differently. "The Psalmist," he observes, "first prays to be heard (ver. 2), then, obtaining mercy, he perceiveth that he is heard. Now, therefore, he addeth
6 My soul (looketh) for the Lord,
More than watchmen (look) for the morning,\(^b\)
(I say, more than) watchmen (look) for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in Jehovah;
For with Jehovah is loving-kindness,
And with Him is plenteous redemption.

8 And HE will redeem Israel
From all his iniquities.
a ἐλεφαντ. The words seem to have been a stumbling-block to the Greek translators. The LXX. render as if it were ἐλεφαντ, joining these words with what follows, ἐνεκεν τοῦ ὄνοματος σου ὑπεμεινά σε, Κύριε. Aq. Th., ἐνεκεν τοῦ φόβου. Symm., ἐνεκεν τοῦ νόμου (possibly taking the fear of Jehovah to be a name of the Law, as in xix. 10). Another has ἐνεκεν τοῦ γνωσθέναι τὸν λόγον σοῦ; and another ὄπως ἐπίφοβος ἐσή, this last alone being a rendering of the Hebrew. Jerome goes equally astray: "Quia tuum est propitiatio, cum terribilis sis, sustinui Dominum." The Fathers, of course following the Greek or the Vulgate, "propter legem tuam sustinui te, Domine," miss the whole scope of the passage.

b This is clearly the construction: "My soul is unto the Lord," A,q. ψυχή μου εἰς Κύριον. The construction in the E.V., "more than they that watch for the morning," is not supported by usage: ῥαμα followed by ἃ never means to watch for.

PSALM CXXXI.

WHETHER written by David, to whom the title gives it, or not, this short Psalm, one of the most beautiful in the whole Book, assuredly breathes David's spirit. A childlike simplicity, an unaffected humility, the honest expression of that humility as from a heart spreading itself out in conscious integrity before God—this is what we find in the Psalm, traits of a character like that of David. Delitzsch calls the Psalm an echo of David's answer to Michal, 2 Sam. vi. 22, "And I will become of still less account than this, and I will be lowly in mine own eyes." At the same time, with the majority of interpreters, he holds it to be a post-exile Psalm, written with a view to encourage the writer himself and his people to the same humility, the same patient waiting upon God, of which David was so striking an example.

"Few words, short lines, sober images, all conspire to place in striking relief that virtue which certainly was not a characteristic of the Jewish nation, but which has been sanctioned and consecrated by the Gospel."—Reuss.

[A PILGRIM-SONG. OF DAVID.]

I JEHOVAH, my heart is not haughty,

I. "All virtues together," it has been said, "are a body whereof humility is the head." It is this chief crowning virtue to which the Poet lays claim; "for Jehovah hath respect unto the lowly," cxxxviii. 6,
Nor mine eyes lifted up:  
Neither do I busy myself in things too great,  
And in things too wonderful for me.

2 But I have stilled and hushed my soul;  
As a weaned child with his mother,  
As the weaned child (I say) is my soul within me.
30 Israel, hope in Jehovah,  
From henceforth even for ever.

become conscious of grief. The piteous longing for the sweet nourishment of his life, the broken sob of disappointment, mark the trouble of his innocent heart: it is not so much the bodily suffering; he has felt that pain before, and cried while it lasted; but now his joy and comfort are taken away, and he knows not why. When his head is once more laid on his mother's bosom, then he trusts and loves and rests, but he has learned the first lesson of humility, he is cast down, and clings with fond helplessness to his one friend."

At a time when the devices of our modern civilization are fast tending to obliterate the beauty of this figure, mothers no longer doing their duty by their children, it seems the more necessary to draw attention to it.

3. Prayer, as at the close of the last Psalm, that the experience of the individual may become the experience of the nation, that they too may learn to lie still, and trust, and wait, in that hope which, like faith and love, abideth for ever (I Cor. xiii. 13).

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a It is doubtful whether the comparison יְֽֽ֥שּֽׁׁ֨נֵי belong to both the adjectives. Perhaps the rendering of the E.V. "in great things, and in things too wonderful" is to be preferred.

b כְּלָלָֽל, not conditional, with the apodosis beginning at כְּלָלָֽל, nor interrogative, as if = כְּלָלָֽל, but either an asseveration, surely (commonly so used after words of swearing, but also without the adjuration, Num., xiv. 35, Is. V. 9, and often in Job), or serving to introduce an opposition to what precedes, as in Gen. xxiv. 38, Jer. xiii. 6, Ezek. iii. 6; but even in these instances, the force of the particles is rather that of emphatic: assertion than of mere opposition. "God do so to me, if I do not this or that," is the formula always implied in their use.

c כְּלָלָֽל כַּלּ. The article is clearly the article of reference, i.e. it resumes the word in the previous line: "As a weaned child . . . as the weaned child, I say." And this resumption of the previous expression is in entire accordance with the common rhythmical structure of so many of these Pilgrim-Songs. Hupf. most unnecessarily takes the double כַּלּ as correlative, and explains, "As a weaned child, so is that which is weaned in me, viz. my soul." There is, I think, a designed parallel in the use of the prep. כֵּל in the two lines (though Del. denies this): As the weaned child lies upon its mother's breast, so my soul lies upon me; the soul being for the moment regarded as separate from the man, as that part which is the seat of the affections, passions, &c.
THIS Psalm is a prayer that God's promises made to David may not fail of fulfilment, that He will dwell for ever in the habitation which He chose for Himself in Zion, and that the children of David may for ever sit upon his throne. It opens with a recital of David's efforts to bring the Ark to its resting-place; it ends with a recital of the promises made to David and to his seed.

There has been much difference of opinion as to the occasion for which the Psalm was written.

i. The majority of the ancient interpreters regard it as a prayer of David's, either at the consecration of the Tabernacle after the removal of the Ark thither, or at the time when he formed the design of building the Temple, and received in consequence the promise in 2 Sam. vii., or at the dedication of Araunah's threshing-floor, 2 Sam. xxiv. But the petition in ver. 10, "For Thy servant David's sake, turn not away the face of Thine Anointed," does not seem natural in the mouth of David. In the mouth of one of his descendants, whose confidence and hope rested on the promise made to his ancestor, and who could plead David's faithfulness to the covenant, such a petition becomes much more intelligible. In any case, it is clear that the Psalm could not have been composed till after the promise had been given to David in 2 Sam. vii., to which it contains a distinct reference, and therefore was not intended to be sung at the consecration of the Tabernacle on Mount Zion.

2. Others, with more probability, have thought that the Psalm was written in commemoration of the completion and dedication of the Temple, either by Solomon himself, or by some Poet of his time. On such a view, this ode is seen to be harmonious and consistent throughout. It is perfectly natural that Solomon, or a Poet of his age writing a song for such an occasion, should recur to the earlier efforts made by his father to prepare a habitation for Jehovah. On the completion of the work, his thoughts would inevitably revert to all the steps which had led to its accomplishment. It is no less natural that at such a time the promise given to David should seem doubly precious, that it should be clothed with a new interest, a fresh significance, when David's son sat upon his throne, and when the auspicious opening of his reign might itself be hailed as a fulfilment of the promise. It is, moreover, in favour of this view that ver. 8—10
of the Psalm form, with one slight variation, the conclusion of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple, according to the version of that prayer given in the Chronicles (2 Chron. vi. 41, 42).*

3. Many of the more recent expositors, starting with the prejudice that all these Pilgrim Songs belong to a period subsequent to the Exile, suppose the Psalm to have been written for the dedication of the Second Temple, or in order to encourage Zerubbabel, the chief representative at the time of David's family, "whose spirit God had stirred to go up to build the house of the Lord" (Ezra i. 5). But the title of "the Anointed" would hardly have been given to Zerubbabel. He never sat on the throne. The crowns which Zechariah was directed to make were to be placed not on the head of Zerubbabel, but on the head of Joshua, the son of Josedech, the high priest: the sovereignty was to be with him; "he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne " (Zech. vi. 10—13). It is possible, of course, that a Poet in these later times might have transported himself in imagination into the times of David, and that his words might borrow their colouring and glow from the brighter period which inspired his song. Yet it is hardly probable that there should have been no allusion to the existing depression of David's house, no lamentation over its fallen fortunes, as in Ps. lxxxix. for instance, no hint of any contrast between its past and its present condition.† Such entire sinking of the present in the past is hardly conceivable.

Still less probable does it appear to me, that some prince of the House of David, at a still later period of the history, should be the Anointed of the Psalm, or that it is to be brought down to the age of the Maccabees.

* It is at least evidence that the compiler of the Book supposed the Psalm to have been written with reference to that event. The passage does not occur at all in Solomon's prayer as given in I Kings viii. This, of itself, makes it probable that the Chronicler borrows from the Psalmist, not the Psalmist from the Chronicler. Besides, the variations in the Chronicles are such as would be made in changing poetry into prose, especially the explanation given of ver. 10 in the Psalm: "Remember the mercies of David Thy servant." We have already seen, in the Introduction to Ps. cv., that the writer of that book allows himself some liberty in quoting from the Psalms.

† I confess I can see no indication in the Psalm of any such contrast, though it has been assumed by many interpreters, both ancient and modern. The mention of the Ark does not prove that the Psalm was not intended for the dedication of the Second Temple, for although it may be inferred from Josephus (Bell. Jud. v. § v. 5), and from the Mishnah (Yoma, v. 2)—where we are told that the place of the Ark was an altar-stone three fingers' height above the ground, on which the High Priest placed the censers on the Day of Atonement—that the Ark had perished in the destruction of the First Temple, still the exiles might have used, without changing them, the words which were sung at Solomon's dedication.
Reuss argues for the later date. He contends that the Anointed (ver. 17) is one of the priest-princes of the post-exile history, and that the *diadem* (ver. 18) is the distinctive mark of the spiritual chief, representing the theocratic power (Ex. xxix. 6, &c.) before it became the mark of royalty. He is right, I believe, in saying that the main and dominant thought of the Psalm is to be found in the last strophe, the fulfilment, namely, of the promise and the oath to David, the first two strophes being merely the historical prelude clothed in the forms of poetry. No doubt we have "a poetic ideal, and not a simple narrative in exact conformity with history." But neither this fact, nor the other arguments which Reuss has adduced, satisfy me that he is right in his inference as to the age of the Psalm.

4. It may be mentioned that Origen, Theodoret, and some other of the Greek fathers, hold the Psalm to be a prayer of the exiles in Babylon, longing for the rebuilding of the Temple, and the restoration of David's dynasty.

5. Finally, Maurer would refer the Psalm to the time of Josiah, and conjectures that it may have been written after the reformation which he introduced in accordance with the law of Moses.

The Psalm consists of three strophes. The first, ver. 1-5, is a grateful acknowledgment of the completion of the Temple, the crowning of the purpose which had been in David's heart. The second, ver. 6-10, traces briefly the history of the Ark and its wanderings, till it was brought to its final resting-place in the Temple, and recalls the prayer which was uttered on the occasion. The third, ver. 11-18, is virtually the Divine answer to the prayer, and echoes each petition, only that the answer is larger.

[A PILGRIM-SONG.]

I O JEHOVAH, remember for David
All his anxious cares;

| I. REMEMBER, i.e. so as to fulfil Thy promise made to him: comp. 2 Chron. vi. 42. | anxiety to prepare a suitable earthly dwelling-place for Jehovah. First, the building of the Tabernacle on Mount Zion, and the solemn bringing up of the Ark there, had engaged his thoughts. The prayer in ci. 2, when wilt Thou come unto me?" is the best comment on David's *afflictions* and *anxious cares* till his purpose was accomplished. In contrast with this, he says himself, "We did not seek it (did not trouble ourselves about it) in the day of Saul," I Chron. xiii. 3. Next, if we suppose the Psalm to |
| FOR DAVID. " The Temple was built in David's heart before it was built by Solomon's hands; and Solomon asks, not that *his* toil may be accepted, but that his father's devotion may be remembered." —Cox, Pilgrim Psalms, p. 271. | |
| ALL HIS ANXIOUS CARES, lit. "all his being afflicted " (the infin. Pual used as a noun). See the same word cxix. 71; Is. liii. 4. David had *tormented* himself with his | |
2 How he sware unto Jehovah,
(And) vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:
3 "I will not come into the tent of my house,
I will not go up to the couch of my bed,
4 I will not give sleep a to mine eyes,
Nor slumber to my eyelids,
5 Until I find a place for Jehovah,
A dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
6 Lo, we heard of it in Ephrathah,
We found it in the field of the wood.\textsuperscript{b}  

same construction (the verb with the accus.), "The nations have heard of thy shame."

(2) In the use of the verbs "heard" . . . "found" is the parallelism synonymous or antithetical? Do they describe two parts of the same action, "We heard it was. &c. and there we found it"? or do they mark two distinct and opposed actions, "We heard it was in one place, we found it in another"? The answer to this question must depend on the interpretation we give to the proper names which follow.

(3) What are we to understand by Ephrathah and "the field of the wood"?

(A) To take the latter expression first. This may be either an appellative or a proper name. In the last case it may be rendered, "fields of Jaar," \textit{Jaar} being a shortened form of Kirjath-Jearim, "the city of woods," for Jearim, "woods," is only the plural of Jaar, "wood." The name of this city, as it happens, appears in a variety of different forms; in Jer. xxvi. 20, as Kirjath-hajearim (i.e. with the article) and apocopated, Kirjath 'arim, Ezra ii. 25 (comp. Josh. xviii. 28); it is also called Kirjath-baal, Josh. xv. 60, and Baalah, xv. 9, 1 Chron. xiii. 6 (comp. Josh. xv. to, "the mountain of Jearim," with 11,"the mountain of Baalah"); and apparently Baale-judah, 2 Sam. vi. 2. There is no reason why, poetically, it should not be called Jaar; and when we further remember that the Ark, after having been captured by the Philistines and restored by them, remained for twenty years at Kirjath-jearim (1 Sam. vii. 2), it is at least probable that, in a passage which speaks of the removal of the Ark to Zion, there may be some allusion to the place of its previous sojourn.

(B) Ephrathah, as the name of a place, only occurs elsewhere as the ancient name of Bethlehem, Gen. xxxv. 16, 19, xlviii. 7; Ruth iv. 11. In Micah v. 2 [1], the two names are united, Bethlehem-Ephrathah. Hengstenberg maintains that the usage is the same here, "We, being in Bethlehem, heard." There, he says, David spent his youth while as yet he had only heard of the Ark of the covenant. It was known only by hearsay, no one went to see it, it was almost out of mind; comp. Job xlii. 5; Ps. xviii. 44, 45 (and David's words in i Chron. xiii. 3). But the pronoun "we" must surely refer, not to David, but to the people at large. And besides, although the construction "We in Bethlehem heard it" may possibly be defended by Matt. ii. 2, "We in the East saw His Star," yet here the parallelism seems rather to require the sense, "We heard that it was at Ephrathah, we found it at Kirjath-jearim." [Reuss recently takes the same view: "It was at Ephrathah, \textit{i.e.} Bethlehem, where they lived, that they heard of his project. It was at Ja'ar, \textit{i.e.} Qiryat-le'arim, that they found the holy Ark." ]

Other explanations have accordingly been given of the name.

(a) Although \textit{Ephrathah} is only an ancient name for Bethlehem, yet since Ephrathite as frequently denotes an Ephraimite as a Bethlehemite, so it is possible that Ephrathah here may be a name for Ephraim. In that case, the allusion is to the first resting-place of the Ark in Shiloh, which was the capital of Ephraim: "We heard in ancient story that the Ark was placed in Shiloh; we found it, when at last it was to be removed to its new abode, at Kirjath-jearim." The word \textit{found} would naturally suggest the many vicissitudes and wanderings of the Ark in the interval.

(B) It has been supposed that Ephrathah is not a proper name, but denotes, in accordance with its etymology, \textit{the fruitful land}, by way of contrast with \textit{the fields of the wood}, i.e. the forest district; the former denoting the southern part...
7 "Let us come into His dwelling,
   Let us bow ourselves before His footstool.
8 Arise, 0 Jehovah, into Thy resting-place,

Belonged to Caleb-Ephrathah. (1 Chron. ii. 24), which is probably to be distinguished as the northern part of the territory from Negeb Caleb, "the south of Caleb " (1 Sam. xxx. 14).

On the whole, whichever interpretation we adopt, the general scope of the passage seems to be: Remember Thy servant David, remember all his efforts to build Thee an habitation for Thy Name; he gave himself no rest till he had brought the Ark to Zion. We heard where the Ark was, we went to fetch it, saying one to another as we brought it to its new abode, "Let us come into His dwelling,"

&c. And now, by the memory of David, by the memory of Thy covenant with him and his faithfulness to that covenant, we plead with Thee. Reject not the prayer of our king who is David's son, grant him the request of his lips, fulfil all his desires. (Comp. xx. 1-4.)

The Poet by what is scarcely a figure of speech identifies himself and his contemporaries with the generation of David. In the time of Solomon, many would be living who had taken part in the ceremonies attending the removal of the Ark of Zion. Reuss, who brings the Psalm down to Maccabean times, remarks: "The Jews, eight centuries later, say: We found the Ark at Kiryat-le'arim, just as Frenchmen of today might say, We gained the battle of Bouvines."

7. HIS DWELLING, or "tabernacle," the house which David calls "curtains," 2 Sam. vii. 2, purposely repeated from ver. 5. On the plural form of the word see on lxxxiv. I.

HIS FOOTSTOOL. See on xcix 5.

8. As in ver. 7 we have the expression of the feelings of the congregation in David's time, so in ver. 8 there may be a transition to

of Palestine, as the more cultivated, the latter the northern, and especially the woody ranges of Lebanon. Thus the whole land would be poetically summed up under the two heads of the fertile and the woody regions, and the meaning would be, "From all parts of the land we flocked at the summons of our king, to bring up the holy Ark to its dwelling-place in Zion." In this case, the verbs "heard" . . . "found" cannot be taken as describing different and contrasted acts, but as referring to one and the same event.

(γ) Ephrathah has been conjectured (also with reference to its etymological meaning of "the fruitful country") to be a name for Beth-shemesh, the spot where the Ark was first deposited by the Philistines, and whence it was subsequently removed to "the fields of the wood," i.e. Kirjath-jearim. According to this interpretation, which is that of Hupfeld, the verse would mean, "We heard that the Ark was brought to Beth-shemesh first, We found it at Kirjath-jearim."

(δ) Lastly, Delitzsch identifies Ephrathah with the district about Kirjath-jearim, and on these grounds: Caleb had by Ephrath, his third wife, a. son named Hur (I Chron. ii. 19). By the descendants of this Hur Bethlehem was peopled (i Chron. iv. 4); and from Shobal, a son of this Hur, the inhabitants of Kirjath-jearim were descended (2 Chron. ii. 50). Kirjath-jearim then is, as it were, a daughter of Bethlehem. Bethlehem was originally called Ephrathah, and this latter name was afterwards given to the district about Bethlehem, whence in Micah v. 2 [I] we find the compound name Bethlehem-Ephrathah. Kirjath-jearim
Thou, and the Ark of Thy strength.
9 Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness,
    And let Thy saints shout for joy.
10 For Thy servant David's sake,
    Turn not away the face of Thine Anointed."

11 Jehovah hath sworn unto David,
    It is truth, He will not depart from it,
    "Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.
12 If thy sons will keep My covenant,
    And My testimony that I shall teach them,
Their sons also for evermore
Shall sit upon thy throne."

13 For Jehovah hath chosen Zion,
He hath desired it as an abode for Himself.

14 This is My resting-place for evermore,
Here will I abide, for I have desired it.

15 I will abundantly bless her provision,
Her poor I will satisfy with bread.

16 Her priests also will I clothe with salvation,
And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

17 There will I make the horn of David to bud,
I have prepared a lamp for Mine Anointed.

18 His enemies will I clothe with shame,
But upon himself shall his crown shine.

13. The choosing of Zion as the seat of the sanctuary is mentioned as being closely and intimately connected with the choosing of David as King, and the tribe of Judah as the ruling tribe. The connection is: Jehovah has given the sovereignty to David and to David's house; for He hath chosen Zion to be His own dwelling-place. The religious centre and political centre of the people are one and the same: exactly as in cxxii. 4, 5. Comp. lxxvii. 67-71. "He chose the tribe of Judah, the Mount Zion which he loved . . . He chose David also His servant," &c.

14. The answer to the petition in verse 8. MY RESTING-PLACE. Shiloh had been abandoned; for a time the Ark was at Bethel, Jud. xx. 27; then at Mizpah, Jud. xxi. 5; afterwards, for twenty years, at Kirjath-jeariin, I Sam. vii. 2; and then for three months in the house of Obed-Edom, before it was finally brought to its last resting-place.

16. The answer to the petition in ver. 9.

17. The answer to the petition in ver. 10. MAKE THE HORN ... TO BUD. Giving ever new strength to his house and victory over all enemies. See on lxxv. 5 [6], and comp. Ezek. xxix. 21.

We might render "I will make an horn to bud for David," (as in ver. I "remember for David," ) but "David " is here put for the house of David, and therefore the rendering in the text is perhaps preferable.

A LAMP. See on xviii. 28 [29]. Comp. 1 Kings xi. 36, "And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David My servant may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen Me to put My Name there."

18. SHINE, lit. "blossom." On the etymological connection between the two ideas, see Gesenius, Thes. in v.
Psalm CXXXIII.

Herder says of this exquisite little song, that "it has the fragrance of a lovely rose." Nowhere has the nature of true unity—that unity which binds men together, not by artificial restraints, but as brethren of one heart—been more faithfully described, nowhere has it been so gracefully illustrated, as in this short Ode. True concord is, we are here taught, a holy thing, a sacred oil, a rich perfume which, flowing down from the head to the beard, from the beard to the garment, sanctifies the whole body. It is a sweet morning dew, which lights not only on the lofty mountain-peaks, but on the lesser hills, embracing all, and refreshing all with its influence.

The title of the Psalm gives it to David. Hence it has been conjectured that it may refer to the circumstances attending his coronation at Hebron, when, after eight years of civil war, "all the tribes of Israel," laying aside their mutual animosities, came to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, "Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh" (2 Sam. v. 1). The picture of a united nation is given still more vividly in the narrative of the Chronicles: "All these men of war that could keep rank came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel were of one heart to make David king. And there they were with David three days
eating and drinking; for their brethren had prepared for them. Moreover, they that were nigh them, even unto Issachar, and Zebulun, and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, and meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for there was joy in Israel." (I Chron. xii. 38-40.)

Others have supposed, that the Psalm was suggested by the sight of the multitudes who came up from all parts of Palestine to be present at the great national Feasts in Jerusalem.

Again, others, and perhaps the majority of commentators, refer the Psalm to the time of the return from the Captivity, when, there being no longer any division of the kingdom, the jealousies of the tribes had ceased, and all who returned, of whatever tribe, were incorporated in one state. That at this time there was a real unity of heart and mind in the nation may be inferred from the narratives in Ezra and Nehemiah. Thus, for instance, we read in Ezra iii. 1, that "when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem." And in Nehem. viii. 1: "And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the Water Gate, and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel."

But in truth there is not a syllable in the Psalm which can lead us to any conclusion respecting its date. Such a vision of the blessedness of unity may have charmed the Poet's heart and inspired the Poet's song at any period of the national history. And his words, though originally, no doubt, intended to apply to a state, would be equally true of a smaller circle, a family, or a tribe.

[A PILGRIM SONG. OF DAVID.]

1 BEHOLD how good and how pleasant (it is) For brethren to dwell together (in unity).

| 1 BEHOLD draws attention to an important truth. Augustine says of this first verse, that the very sound of it is so sweet that it was chanted even by persons who knew nothing of the rest of the Psalter. He also says that this verse gave birth to monasteries: it was like a trumpet-call to those who wished to dwell together as brethren (fratres or friars). |
| call to those who wished to dwell together as brethren (fratres or friars). |

FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER. The exact force of the Hebrew is, "for them who are brethren also to dwell together, i.e., that those who are of one race and
2 It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Which descended upon the beard, (even) Aaron's beard,
as a precious ointment, by the unity
of the Spirit, from Christ the High
Priest and Head of the Church,
unto all the members of the same.

For by the beard and extreme parts
of the garment he signifieth, that as
far as the Church reacheth, so far
spreadeth the unity which floweth
from Christ her Head."

THE PRECIOUS OIL, lit. "the good
oil," i.e. the sacred oil, for the pre-
paration of which special directions
were given, and which was to be
devoted exclusively to the conse-
cration of holy things and persons,
Ex. xxx. 22-23. Hence the image
implies not only that the whole body
is united, but that the whole body is
consecrated.

AARON, named not because he
only was thus anointed, but as the
representative of all priestly anoint-
ing: see Ex. xxviii. 41, xxx. 30, xl.
15.

WHICH DESCENDED. I have
followed the Hebrew in retaining
the same word in the- three succes-
sive lines. The LXX. have through-
out καταβάνειν, Jerome and the
Vulg. descendere. In the second
line, "Which descended to the edge
of his garments," there is consider-
able doubt to what the relative refers.
Is it the oil (as in the previous line),
or is it the beard, which descends to
the edge of the garments? Some of
the recent interpreters understand
it of the beard, as a kind of con-
necting link between the head and
the garments: the oil descended on
the beard, the beard touched the
garments, and so imparted to them
the sanctification which it had itself
received from the oil (so De W.,
Stier, Hengst., Del., Hupf.). But
the other interpretation, which has
the support of all the ancient Ver-
sions, and the majority of interpe-
ters, is certainly to be preferred, and
is even required by the rhythmical
structure of the Psalm. We have
here, as in so many of the Pilgrim
Which descended to the edge of his garments;
3 Like the dew of Hermon which descended upon
mountains of Zion;
For there Jehovah commanded the blessing,
(Even) life for evermore.

Songs, the repetition of the same
word in connection with the same
subject. See the repetition of the
word "keep" in cxxi., and the same
rhythmical figure in cxxiii. 3, 4,
cxxiv. 1, 3, 4, &c.

EDGE, or rather "collar," lit.
"mouth," "opening," as the mouth
of a sack. The word is used Ex.
xxviii. 32, xxxix. 23, of the opening
at the top of the robe of the ephod.
The image does not represent the
oil as descending to the skirts, the
lower edge of the garment. It is
enough that it touch the robe to
sanctify it. [According to the Law,
the garments of the priests were
sprinkled with the holy oil, Ex.
xxix. 21; Lev. xiii. 30.]

3. The second image expressive
of the blessing of brotherly concord
is taken from the dew. Here again
it is not the refreshing nature of the
dew, nor its gentle, all-pervading
influence, which is the prominent
feature. That which renders it to
the Poet's eye so striking an image
of brotherly concord, is the fact
that it falls alike on both mountains:
that the same dew which descends
on the lofty Hermon descends also
on the humbler Zion. High and
low drink in the same sweet refresh-
ment. Thus the image is exactly
parallel to the last; the oil descends
from the head to the beard, the dew
from the higher mountain to the
lower. (Hermon in the north, and
Zion in the south, may also further
suggest the union of the northern
and southern tribes.) Luther says:
"Whereas the mountains often seem,
to those that behold them afar off,
to reach up even unto heaven; the
dew which cometh from heaven
seemeth to fall from the high moun-
tains unto the hills which are under
them. Therefore he saith that the
dew descendeth from Hermon unto
Mount Zion, because it so seemeth
unto those that do behold it afar
off. And this clause, after my judg-
ment, pertaineth to civil concord,
like as the former similitude per-
taineth to the Church, because God
through peace and concord maketh
commonwealths and kingdoms to
flourish; even as seeds, herbs, and
plants are fresh and flourish through
the morning dew. The beginning
of this peace cometh from the
princes and magistrates, as from
Mount Hermon: from whom it
floweth unto every particular person,
and to the whole commonwealth,
which is refreshed thereby."

THERE. In Zion the blessed
fruits of this brotherly concord
may chiefly be looked for, for Jeho-
vah Himself has made it the great
centre of all blessing and all life.
This last verse lends some colour
to the view, that the Psalm was in-
tended to be sung at the gathering
of the tribes for the great national
Feasts. Comp. cxxviii. 6, cxxxiv. 4.

The similitude of the dew has
taken shape in a legend.

An old pilgrim narrates, that every
morning at sunrise a handful of dew
floated down from the summit of
Hermon, and deposited itself upon
the Church of St. Mary, where it
was immediately gathered up by
Christian leeches, and was found a
sovereign remedy for all diseases:
it was of this dew, he declares,
that David spoke prophetically
in this Psalm.—Itinerary of St.
Anthony.
"THREE things are clear with regard to this Psalm," says Delitzsch. "First, that it consists of a greeting, ver. 1, 2, and a reply, ver. 3. Next, that the greeting is addressed to those Priests and Levites who had the night-watch in the Temple. Lastly, that this Psalm is purposely placed at the end of the collection of Pilgrim Songs in order to take the place of a final blessing."

That the address is not to any persons in the habit of frequenting the Temple is evident, because it was only in rare and exceptional cases (Luke ii. 37) that such persons could be found in the Temple at night. And, further, the word "stand" in ver. 1. is the common word to express the service of the Priests and Levites, who had their duties by night as well as by day (1 Chron. ix. 33).

The Targum, too, explains the first verse of the Temple watch. "The custom in the Second Temple appears to have been this. After midnight the chief of the door-keepers took the key of the inner Temple, and went with some of the Priests through the small postern of the Fire Gate (דביר תלי). In the inner court this watch divided itself into two companies, each carrying a burning torch; one company turned west, the other east, and so they compassed the court to see whether all were in readiness for the Temple service on the following morning. In the bakehouse, where the Mincha ('meat-offering') of the High Priest was baked, they met with the cry, 'All well.' Meanwhile the rest of the Priests arose, bathed themselves, and put on their garments. They then went into the stone chamber (one half of which was the hall of session of the Synhedrin), and there, under the superintendence of the officer who gave the watch-word and one of the Synhedrin, surrounded by the Priests clad in their robes of office, their several duties for the coming day were assigned to each of the Priests by lot (Luke i. 9)."

Accordingly it has been supposed by Tholuck and others, that the greeting in ver. 1, 2, was addressed to the guard going off duty by those who came to relieve them; and who in their turn received the answer in ver. 3. Others conjecture that the greeting was interchanged between the two companies of the night-watch, when they met in making their rounds through the Temple. Delitzsch, how
ever thinks that the words of ver. 1, 2, are addressed by the con-
regregation to the Priests and Levites who had charge of the night-
service, and that ver. 3 is an answer of blessing from them to the
congregation who were gathered on the Temple-mount.

[A PILGRIM SONG.]
(The Greeting.)

1 BEHOLD, bless ye Jehovah, all ye servants of Jehovah,
Which by night stand in the house of Jehovah.
2 Lift up your hands to the sanctuary,
And bless ye Jehovah.

(The Answer.)
3 Jehovah bless thee out of Zion,
(Even He who is) the Maker of heaven and earth.

I. BEHOLD. The word draws at-
tention here to a duty, as at the be-
ginning of the last Psalm it drew
attention to a truth at once im-
portant and attractive.

SERVANTS OF JEHOVAH. The
expression of itself might denote
the people at large, but the next
clause limits it (as in cxxxv. 2) to
the Priests and Levites.

BY NIGHT. Lit. "in the nights." This cannot mean merely "night
as well as day," and therefore "at
all times," as Hupfeld maintains.
In xlii. 8 [9], and xcii. 2 [3], to
which he refers, "the morning" is
expressly mentioned as well as "the
night," and in v. 3 [4], where "the
morning" only is mentioned, the
morning only is meant. Even it

there were no other mention of a
night-service in the Temple, con-
sidering how meagre the notices are,
we should not be justified in setting
this aside: but we have express
reference to a night-service in I
Chr. ix.33.

STAND. A common word for the
service of the Priests and Levites,
Deut. x. 8, xv. 2, 7; I Chr. xxiii. 30;
2 Chr. xxix. 11.

3. BLESS THEE. The singular
instead of the plural "bless you,"
because the words are taken from
the form used by the High Priest
in blessing the people, Numb. vi.
24.

OUT OF ZION. See on cxxxv. 21.
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.
As in cxxi. 2, cxxiv. 8.

a ἄγιος. The accusative of direction, as frequently; and so the
LXX. εἰς τὰ ἅγια, Jer. ad sanctum, Vulg. in sancta. In v. 8, xxviii. 2, we
have the full phrase. For the constr. Del. compares Hab. iii. 11. But it
may be rendered "in holiness." So Symm. ἁγιάωσι. ἄγιος is merely an
incorrect form for ἄγιον.
A PSALM intended for the Temple service, and one of the Hallelujah Psalms, though not placed in the same series with the rest. It is, like Ps. cxxxiv, an exhortation to the Priests and Levites who wait in the sanctuary to praise Jehovah, both because of His goodness in choosing Israel to be His people, and because of His greatness and the almighty power which He has shown in His dominion over the world of nature, and in the overthrow of all the enemies of His people. Then His abiding Majesty is contrasted with the nothingness of the idols of the heathen. The Psalm is almost entirely composed of passages taken from other sources. Compare ver. 1 with cxxxiv. 1; ver. 3 with cxlvii. 1; ver. 6 and 15-20 with cxv.; ver. 7 with Jer. x. 13; ver. 14 with Deut. xxxii. 36; ver. 8-12 with cxxxvi. 10-22.

Delitzsch not inaptly describes the Psalm, on this account, as a species of mosaic, applying to its structure the expression of the old Roman poet Lucilius: "Quam lepide lexeis compostm ut tesserulm omnes." The prophecies of Jeremiah furnish many instances of a similar composite diction. Zephaniah takes his words and phrases almost entirely from Jeremiah. Many sentences in the Book of Proverbs would naturally appear in other writers, and a collector of proverbial wisdom must, by the very nature of the case, compose a mosaic instead of painting a picture. Several of the Psalms are specimens of this composite work. The diction of the 97th and 98th Psalms in particular is a series of coloured fragments, as it were, from the later chapters of Isaiah. The tesserulae of this Psalm, on the other hand, are gathered from the Law, the Prophets, and the Hagiographa.

HALLELUJAH!
1 Praise ye the Name of Jehovah,
   Praise (it), 0 ye servants of Jehovah.
2 Ye that stand in the house of Jehovah,
   In the courts of the house of our God,

1. The opening of the Psalm resembles the opening of cxxxiv.

2. IN THE COURTS. See on lxxxiv. 2 [3]. The mention of these
3 Praise ye Jah, for Jehovah is good;  
Sing psalms unto His Name, for it is lovely.  
4 For Jah hath chosen Jacob to Himself,  
Israel for His peculiar treasure.  
5 For I know that Jehovah is great,  
And that our Lord is above all gods.  
6 Whosoever Jehovah pleaseth that hath He done,  
In heaven and in earth,  
In the seas and in all deeps.

"courts" is no evidence that the exhortation is addressed not merely to the Priests, but to the people. Nor can this be inferred from the formula in ver. 19, 20, which is common to these liturgical Psalms; comp. cxv. 9-11. The address is, as in cxxxiv. 1, to the Levites who sang Psalms and played on the different musical instruments which were used in the service of God, and to the Priests who blew with the trumpets and repeated the liturgical prayers and the blessings. The thrice-repeated Jehovah, followed by Jah—Jehovah—Jah, may have a reference to the form of the priestly blessing in which they "put the Name of Jehovah upon the children of Israel," Num. vi. 22-27. Thrice the Priests uttered the Name; thrice, and yet thrice again, the congregation echoed it back in their song.

3. JEHOVAH IS GOOD. "Breviter uno verbo," says Augustine, "explicata est Taus Domini Dei nostri: bonus Dominus. Sed bonus, non ut sunt bona qux fecit. Nam fecit Deus omnia bona valde; non tantum bona, sed et valde. Ccelum et terram et omnia qua; in eis sunt bona fecit, et valde bona fecit. Si lxc omnia bona fecit, qualis est ille qui fecit? Et tainen, turn bona fecerit, mutloque sit melior qui fecit quam ista qua fecit non invenis melius quod de illo dicas nisi quia bonus est Dominus; si tamen intelligas proprium bonum, a quo sunt caetera bona. Omnia enim bona

ipse fecit: ipse est bonus quern nemo fecit. Ille bono suo bonus est, non aliunde participato bonus: ille seipso bonus bonus est, non adhærendo alteri bonus.... Ineflabilis dulcedine teneor cum audio bonus Dominus; consideratisque omnibus et colllustratis quae forinsecus video, quoniam ex ipso sunt omnia, etiam cum mihi hsec placent, ad ilium video a quo sunt, ut intelligam quoniam bonus est Dominus."

IT IS LOVELY. According to the parallelism, this will refer either to the Name of Jehovah, or to Jehovah Himself, "for He is lovely." But according to the analogy of cxlvi. 1 (comp. Prov. xxiii. 8) the subject is the song: "for it is pleasant, viz. thus to sing praise."

4. Then follow the several grounds of this praise. First, because He has chosen Israel. Next, because He is higher than all the gods of the heathen, as He has shown in His absolute supremacy over the world of nature, ver. 5-7. Then, because He redeemed His people from Egypt, ver. 8, 9. Lastly, because, vanquishing all their enemies, He gave them the Promised Land, ver. 10-12.

5. I KNOW. The pron. is emphatic, and the phrase marks a strong personal conviction (sometimes, as in xx. 6 [7], one newly gained).

6. WHATSOEVER HE PLEASETH. This absolute supremacy of God over all the forces and phenomena of the natural world is stated in the
7 He bringeth up vapours from the end of the earth,  
    He hath made lightnings for the rain,  
    He sendeth forth the wind out of His treasuries.
8 Who smote the firstborn of Egypt,  
    Both of man and beast;  
9 (Who) sent signs and wonders into the midst of thee,  
    Upon Pharaoh and upon all his servants;  
10 Who smote many nations,  
    And slew mighty kings.  
11 Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
    And Og, the king of Bashan,  
    And all the kingdoms of Canaan  
12 And gave their land as an heritage,  
    An heritage unto Israel His people.  
13 0 Jehovah, Thy name (endureth) for ever,  
    Thy memorial, 0 Jehovah, to all generations.  
14 For Jehovah judgeth His people,  
    And repenteth Himself concerning His servants.  
15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold,  
    The work of men's hands.

same way as in cxv. 3, with reference more particularly to the weakness of the gods of the nations, as also in this Psalm, ver. 15-18.
7. The verse occurs almost word for word in Jer. x. 13, li. 16.
   VAPOURS, or perhaps "clouds," as formed of masses of vapour.
   FROM THE END OF THE EARTH, i.e. either from the horizon on which they seem to gather, or from the sea; or, perhaps, as Augustine says, because "unde surrexerint nescis."
   FOR THE RAIN, i.e. so that the rain follows the lightening; see Is. x. 13, li. 16. The lightening is supposed to precede the rain. A common Arabic proverb says of a man who turns out other than was expected of him, that he lightens but does not rain. The LXX., ἀστραπάς εἰς ὕετον ἐποίησεν.

HIS TREASURIES. Comp. Job xxxviii. 22. "Occultis causis, unde nescis."—Augustine.
8. BOTH OF MAN AND BEAST. Lit. "from man unto beast."
13. Comp. Exod. iii. 15.
36. Comp. for the second clause of the verse Ps. xc. 13.
   FOR. Here is the proof and evidence that Jehovah's Name and memorial abide for ever; that He will manifest, as in the past, so in the future, His righteousness and mercy to Israel.
   JUDGE, i.e. see that they have right, which is in fact the consequence of His "repenting concerning," or "having compassion of," His servants.
15-18. Borrowed with some variation from cxv. 4-8.
16 They have a mouth, and speak not;
   Eyes have they, and see not.
17 They have ears, and (yet) they hear not,
   Yea, they have no breath at all in their mouths.
18 They that make them shall be like unto them,
   Every one that putteth his trust in them.
19 0 house of Israel, bless ye Jehovah:
   0 house of Aaron, bless ye Jehovah:
20 0 house of Levi, bless ye Jehovah:
   Ye that fear Jehovah, bless Jehovah.
21 Blessed be Jehovah out of Zion,
   Who dwelleth in Jerusalem.
   Hallelujah!

19, 20. Precisely as in cxv. 9--11, cxviii. 2-4, only that here "the house of Levi" is added.
21. As in cxxviii. 5, cxxxiv. 3, Jehovah blesses out of Zion, so here, on the other hand, His people bless Him out of Zion. For there they meet to worship Him; there not only He, but they, may be said to dwell (Is. x. 24); and thence accordingly His praise is sounded abroad.

a אָ֣פָם מַלּוֹן, either incorrect for אָ֣פָם מַלּוֹן, the accent being drawn back after the analogy of the fut. conv., or, as the participle is somewhat lame after מַלּוֹן, perhaps it is merely an error for אָ֣פָם מַלּוֹן, which is found in the parallel passages, Jer. x. 13, li. 16.
b יְהֹוָה יִכְכֶּרֶךְ. For this form see on ciii. note a.
c The ℳ after גֹּדְרֶד is not necessarily due to Aramaic influence. It occurs not only in 2 Sam. iii. 30 (where Del. alleges that ver. 30, 31, and 36, 37, are a later addition, and therefore not exempt from Aramaic tendencies), but also in Job v. 2. We have it also again in cxxxvi. 19, 20. Maurer explains that with the accus. it is interficere aliquem, and with ℳ caedem facere alicui. For other instances of the ℳ after the active verb see xxxv. 7, lxix. 6, cxvi. 16, cxxix. 3, cxxxvi. 23. With the exception of this use of the ℳ and the ℳ, the whole colouring and language of ver. 10-12 is that of Deuteronomy.
d ℳ, constr., and quite superfluous after ℳ. It occurs also 1 Sam. xxi. 9, where, however, according to Del., the punctuation should be ℳ, and ℳ = Aram. ℳ num (an) est, ℳ being a North Palestine Aramaising form of the Heb. interrog. ℳ.
HIS Psalm is little more than a variation and repetition of the preceding Psalm. It opens with the same liturgical formula with which the 106th and 108th Psalms open, and was evidently designed to be sung antiphonally in the Temple worship. Its structure is peculiar. The first line of each verse pursues the theme of the Psalm, the second line, "For is loving-kindness endureth for ever," being a kind of refrain or response, like the responses, for instance, in our Litany, breaking in upon and yet sustaining the theme of the Psalm: the first would be sung by some of the Levites, the second by the choir as a body, or by the whole congregation together with the Levites. We have an example of a similar antiphonal arrangement in the first four verses of the 118th Psalm; but there is no other instance in which it is pursued throughout the Psalm. The nearest approach to the same constant repetition is in the "Amen" of the people to the curses of the Law as pronounced by the Levites, Deut. xxvii. 14.

In the Jewish liturgy (see T. B. Pesachim 118) this Psalm, with its twenty-six responses, is called "the Great Hallel," by way of distinction from "the Hallel," simply so called, which comprises Psalms cxiii.—cxviii., though there is some uncertainty as to the former designation; for according to some "the Great Hallel" comprises cxxxv. 4—cxxxvi., and according to others, cxx—cxxxvi.

According to an old rule of writing observed in some of the most ancient MSS., the two lines of the verses ought to be arranged each in a separate column, or, as the phrase runs, "half-brick upon half-brick, brick upon brick."

It may be observed that the verses are grouped in threes as far as ver. 18, and then the Psalm concludes with two groups of four verses each. It is possible (as Delitzsch suggests) that ver. 19-22 did not originally belong to this Psalm, being introduced from the previous Psalm, and that there were thus, in the first instance, 22 lines, corresponding to the number of letters in the Hebrew Alphabet.
10 O give thanks unto Jehovah, for He is good,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
2  O give thanks unto the God of gods,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
3  O give thanks unto the Lord of lords,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
4  To Him who alone doeth great wonders,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
5  To Him who by understanding made the heavens,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
6  To Him that stretched out the earth above the waters,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
7  To Him who made great lights,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
8  The sun to rule the day,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
9  The moon and (the) stars to rule the night,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
10 To Him that smote Egypt in their firstborn,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
11 And brought forth Israel from the midst of them,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
12 With a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
13 To Him who divided the Red Sea into parts,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.

2, 3. GOD OF GODS . . . LORD OF LORDS, from Deut. x. 17.
5. BY UNDERSTANDING, as in Prov. iii. 19. Comp. civ. 24; Prov. iii. 19; Jer. x. 12, li. 15.
6. STRETCHED OUT; from the same root as the word firmament or expanse in Gen. i. Comp. Is. xlii. 5, xliv. 24.
7. LIGHTS. The word is employed here strictly, instead of the corresponding word in Gera. i. 14-16, which means not lights, but luminaries; the bodies, that is, which hold the light.
9. TO RULE, lit. "for dominions over;" the plural, poetically, instead of the singular, as in the preceding verse, and in Gen. 1. 10-22. Almost word for word as in cxxxv. 8-12.
13. DIVIDED; the same word as in 1 Kings iii. 25 and the noun PARTS (lit. "divisions," from the
14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
15 And overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
16 To Him who led His people through the wilderness,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
17 To Him who smote great kings,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever,
18 And slew mighty kings,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
19 Sihon king of the Amorites,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
20 And Og the king of Bashan,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
21 And gave their land for a heritage,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
22 An heritage unto Israel His servant,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
23 Who remembered us in our low estate,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
24 And set us free from our adversaries,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
25 He giveth food to all flesh,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.
26 0 give thanks to the God of heaven,
   For His loving-kindness (endureth) for ever.

same root), as in Gen. xv. 17. A different word is used of the dividing of the Red Sea, Ex. xiv. 16, 21. See also Ps. lxxvii. 12 [13].
15. OVERTHROW, lit. "shook out," as in Ex. xiv. 27.
19. The occurrence of the preposition ַ at the beginning of this verse before the object is the more remarkable because hitherto throughout the Psalm it has been employed at the beginning of the verse to connect some fresh attribute or work of God with the verb "Give thanks" in the first verse. So in ver. 4, "(Give thanks) unto Him who doeth great wonders;" in ver. 5, "(Give thanks) to Him who made the heavens;" and so on, ver. 6, 7, 10, 13, 16.
THERE can be no doubt whatever as to the time when this Psalm was written. It expresses the feeling of an exile who has but just returned from the land of his captivity. In all probability the writer was a Levite, who had been carried away by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar when Jerusalem was sacked and the Temple destroyed, and who was one of the first, as soon as the edict of Cyrus was published, to return to Jerusalem. He is again in his own land. He sees again the old familiar scenes. The mountains and the valleys that his foot trod in youth are before him. The great landmarks are the same, and yet the change is terrible. The spoiler has been in his home, his vines and his fig-trees have been cut down, the House of his God is a heap of ruins. His heart is heavy with a sense of desolation, and bitter with the memory of wrong and insult from which he has but lately escaped.

He takes his harp, the companion of his exile, the cherished relic of happier days,—the harp which he could not string at the bidding of his conquerors by the waters of Babylon; and now with faltering hand he sweeps the strings, first in low, plaintive, melancholy cadence pouring out his griefs, and then with a loud crash of wild and stormy music, answering to the wild and stormy numbers of his verse, he raises the pavan of vengeance over his foes.

He begins by telling in language of pathetic beauty the tale of his captivity. He draws first the picture of the land—so unlike his own mountain land—the broad plain watered by the Euphrates and intersected by its canals, their banks fringed with willows, with no purple peak, no deep, cool glen to break the vast, weary, monotonous expanse; and then he draws the figure of the captives in their deep despondency, a despondency so deep that it could find no solace even in those sacred melodies which were dear to them as life—"As for our harps, we hanged them up on the willows by the water-side."

Next, his verse tells of the mocking taunt of their captors, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion;" and the half sad, half proud answer of the heart, strong in its faith and unconquerable in its patriotism, "How shall we sing Jehovah's song in a strange land? "It were a profanation, it were a treachery. Sooner let the tongue fail to sing than sing to make the heathen mirth; sooner let the hand lose he cunning than tune the harp to please the stranger.
No wonder that then, brooding over the memory of the past, brooding over his wrongs, and seeing around him in blackened ruins and wasted fields the footsteps of the invader, the Poet should utter his wrath. No wonder that the Psalm concludes with that fierce outburst of natural resentment, a resentment which borrows almost a grandeur from the religious fervour, the devoted patriotism, whence it springs. Terrible have been the wrongs of Jerusalem: let the revenge be terrible. Woe to those who in the day of her fall took part with her enemies and rejoiced in her overthrow, when they ought rather to have come to her aid. Woe to the proud oppressors who have so long held her children captive, and made their hearts bitter with insult and wrong. “Blessed shall he be who taketh thy little ones, and dasheth them against the rock.”

What a wonderful mixture is the Psalm of soft melancholy and fiery patriotism! The hand which wrote it must have known how to smite sharply with the sword, as well as how to tune his harp. The words are burning words of a heart breathing undying love to his country, undying hate to his foe. The Poet is indeed

" Dower'd with the hate of hate, the scorn of scorn,
The love of love."

1 BY the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept,
When we remembered Zion
2 Upon the willows in the midst thereof
We hanged up our harps.
3 For there they that led us captive demanded of us songs,
And they that spoiled us a (demanded of us) mirth,
(Saying) "Sing us (one) of the songs of Zion,"
4 How should we sing Jehovah's song
In the land of the stranger?
5 If I forget thee, 0 Jerusalem,
Let my right hand forget (her cunning).

6 Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,
If I remember thee not;
If I prefer not Jerusalem above my chiefest joy.

7 Remember, 0 Jehovah, the children of Edom
In the day of Jerusalem,
Who said, Down with it, Down with it, even to the foundation thereof.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSALM CXXXVII.</th>
<th>an aposiopesis; or we may supply either, as the E.V., &quot;her cunning,&quot; i.e. her skill with the harp, or, more generally, &quot;the power of motion.&quot;</th>
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<td>7. This verse may also be rendered: Remember for (against) the children of Edom..</td>
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The day of Jerusalem—the construction being the same as in cxxxii. 1. As he broods over his wrongs, as he looks upon the desolation of his country, as he remembers with peculiar bitterness how they who ought to have been allies took part with the enemies of Jerusalem in the fatal day of her overthrow, there bursts forth the terrible cry for vengeance; vengeance first on the false kindred, and next on the proud conquerors of his race.

"Deepest of all was the indignation roused by the sight of the nearest of kin, the race of Esau, often allied to Judah, often independent, now bound by the closest union with the power that was truly the common enemy of both. There was an intoxication of delight in the wild Edomite chiefs, as at each successive stroke against the venerable walls they shouted, 'Down with it! down with it! even to the ground.' They stood in the passes to intercept the escape of those who would have fled down to the Jordan valley; they betrayed the fugitives; they indulged their barbarous revels on the Temple hill. Long and loud has been the wail of execration which has gone up from the Jewish nation against Edom. It is the one imprecation which breaks forth from the Lamentations of Jeremiah; it is the culmination of the fierce threats of Ezekiel; it is the sole purpose of the short, sharp cry of Obadiah; it is the bitterest drop in the sad recollections of the Israelite captives by the waters of Babylon; and the one warlike strain of the Evangelical Prophet is inspired by the hope that the Divine Conqueror should come knee-deep in Idumzan blood. (Lam. iv. 21, 22; Ezek. xlv. 8, 12-14; Obad. 1-21; Jer. xlix. 7—22 ; Is. lxiii. 1--4)."—STANLEY, Jewish Church, ii. p. 556.

In later times, Edom and Bozrah were used as typical names to denote Rome, Christian and pagan, as the destroyer of Jerusalem and the temple, and the persecutor of the Jews. So Qimchi, "While he was prophesying with regard to the Babylonish captivity, he saw by the Holy Spirit, the captivity of the Second House which was effected by the hands of Edom; for Titus destroyed it who was of the kingdom of Rome, which is of the sons of Edom." And Abarbanel in his Commentary on Obad., says that the prophecy is directed not merely against the literal Edom, but against "the Nazarene people who are of the sons of Edom, whose beginning and origin is the city of Rome."
8 O daughter of Babylon that shalt be destroyed,\(^c\)
Happy shall he be that rewardeth thee
As thou hast served us.
9 Happy shall he be that taketh and dasheth thy little ones
Against the rock.

| 8. THAT SHALT BE DESTROYED, or, perhaps, "doomed to destruction." Others, "that art laid waste," as if referring to the taking of Babylon by Cyrus. The LXX. ambiguously, ἡ παλαισμος. See more in Critical Note. Compare for the sentiment, Jer. li. 56, "Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for Jehovah is a God of recompenses, He shall surely requite." See also for the same principle of retribution in the overthrow of Babylon, Is. xlvi. 1-9.  

As THOU HAST SERVED US, lit. "the requital wherewith thou hast requited us."  

9. LITTLE ONES, lit. "sucklings." With such barbarous cruelty wars were carried on, even by comparatively civilised nations. Comp. for Biblical examples 2 Kings viii. 12, xv. 16; Is. xiii. 16; Hos. x. 14, xiii. 16 [xiv. 1]; Nah. iii. 10. So Homer, painting the sack of a city, mentions, as one of its features, νοστι σέκανα Βακλόμενα προτι γαίη. And again, Andromache addressing her child says, σοφ δ` αυ τέκος, ἡ ἐμοί αυτή... Ἠφεσα... ἢ τις Ἀχαιῶν Ρήτηε, χειρός ἐλών ἀπὸ πύργου, λυγρῶν θλεβρον. At a far later period, Athenus tells us, such inhuman barbarity was to be found even among the Greeks, that in one insurrection the populace wreaked their fury on the upper classes by throwing their children to be trampled under the feet of oxen, and when the aristocracy in their turn got the upper hand, they took their revenge by burning their enemies alive, together with their wives and children. (Tholuck.)  

But we need not turn only to the history of the past. We have had in our own times the awful records of Turkish atrocities on the one hand, and Bulgarian atrocities on the other. In all conflicts between antagonistic races, where the antagonism has been exasperated by religious animosities, or where the keen sense of humiliation in a subject race held down under the yoke of foreign masters has roused them to revolt, there have been these bloody reprisals. In our own Sepoy War in India, men of humanity and Christian principle showed a sternness little less than that of the Jewish poet. The historian of that war writes: "And now there lay before them (the English) the great question, the most difficult, perhaps, which soldiers and statesmen ever have the responsibility of solving—whether after such convulsions as have been illustrated in these pages true righteousness and true wisdom consisted in extending the hand of mercy and aiming at conciliation, or in dealing out a stern and terrible retribution. Our soldiers and statesmen in June, 1857, at Allahabad, solved the question in practice by adopting the latter course. Sir J. Kaye's Hist. of the Sepoy War, vol. ii. p. 268. See also p. 236, and pp. 269-271, &c. | 8. THAT SHALT BE DESTROYED, or, perhaps, "doomed to destruction." Others, "that art laid waste," as if referring to the taking of Babylon by Cyrus. The LXX. ambiguously, ἡ παλαισμος. See more in Critical Note. Compare for the sentiment, Jer. li. 56, "Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for Jehovah is a God of recompenses, He shall surely requite." See also for the same principle of retribution in the overthrow of Babylon, Is. xlvi. 1-9.  

As THOU HAST SERVED US, lit. "the requital wherewith thou hast requited us."  

9. LITTLE ONES, lit. "sucklings." With such barbarous cruelty wars were carried on, even by comparatively civilised nations. Comp. for Biblical examples 2 Kings viii. 12, xv. 16; Is. xiii. 16; Hos. x. 14, xiii. 16 [xiv. 1]; Nah. iii. 10. So Homer, painting the sack of a city, mentions, as one of its features, νοστι σέκανα Βακλόμενα προτι γαίη. And again, Andromache addressing her child says, σοφ δ` αυ τέκος, ἡ ἐμοί αυτή... Ἠφεσα... ἢ τις Ἀχαιῶν Ρήτηε, χειρός ἐλών ἀπὸ πύργου, λυγρῶν θλεβρον. At a far later period, Athenus tells us, such inhuman barbarity was to be found even among the Greeks, that in one insurrection the populace wreaked their fury on the upper classes by throwing their children to be trampled under the feet of oxen, and when the aristocracy in their turn got the upper hand, they took their revenge by burning their enemies alive, together with their wives and children. (Tholuck.)  

But we need not turn only to the history of the past. We have had in our own times the awful records of Turkish atrocities on the one hand, and Bulgarian atrocities on the other. In all conflicts between antagonistic races, where the antagonism has been exasperated by religious animosities, or where the keen sense of humiliation in a subject race held down under the yoke of foreign masters has roused them to revolt, there have been these bloody reprisals. In our own Sepoy War in India, men of humanity and Christian principle showed a sternness little less than that of the Jewish poet. The historian of that war writes: "And now there lay before them (the English) the great question, the most difficult, perhaps, which soldiers and statesmen ever have the responsibility of solving—whether after such convulsions as have been illustrated in these pages true righteousness and true wisdom consisted in extending the hand of mercy and aiming at conciliation, or in dealing out a stern and terrible retribution. Our soldiers and statesmen in June, 1857, at Allahabad, solved the question in practice by adopting the latter course. Sir J. Kaye's Hist. of the Sepoy War, vol. ii. p. 268. See also p. 236, and pp. 269-271, &c. | a νιξ. The LXX. οὶ άπαγαγόντες ἡμᾶς, and similarly the Chald. and Syr. "our plunderers," the word being regarded as an Aram. form, with ν for χ, instead of νιξ. There is a twofold objection, however, to...
this: first, that לָלָל only occurs as a passive; and next, in Aram. the form is לָלָל, not לָלָל, in this sense. Hence it seems probable that we ought to read מִלֶּל. Otherwise we must derive the word from a root לָל, "to howl" (after the analogy of בָּשֶׁר, from בָּשֶׁר); then the abstract "howling" will stand by metonymy for the torture, punishment, &c. which occasions it, and this, again concrete, for the torturers. In the abstract sense, Abulwal., Qimchi. In the concrete, Ges., De W., Win., and others, and so Jerome, qui affigebant nos.

b יָרָע. Imp. Piel, with a drawing back of the accent to the penult. because of the pause, Ges. § 29, 4, b. יָרָע, "to make bare, shave smooth, &c., reduce to a flat, level surface." Comp. Hab, iii. 13, and the noun in Is. xix. 7.

c הָרִיתָנָשׁ. This cannot be active with the present punctuation, Thou that wastest (Symm. יָהַה יָרָע, but it is a further objection to this that the root does not mean to plunder).

(I) If we give the active meaning, which certainly seems very suitable, the punctuation must be הָרִיתָנָשׁ, like הָרִיתָנָשׁ, Jer. iii. 7, 10 (with immovable Qametz), or at any rate הָרִיתָנָשׁ, Ew. § 152 b.

(2) In its existing form it is a pass. part., as Aq. προσενομεμεμένη, Jerome vastata. But (3) it has been rendered as a part. fist. pass., vastanda. Theod., διαρρασθησομένη. And so Rod. in Gesen. Thes., but Del. objects that though the Ni ph. part. (e.g. xxii. 32, cii. 19) and the Pual (xviii. 4) may have this meaning, it is not found in the Qal. However, he would himself give the meaning vastationi devota, which he defends by Jer. iv. 30, where רָעַשׁ is used hypothetically = "when thou art wasted." So he says the sense is here: "O daughter of Babylon, that art wasted, blessed shall he be who, when this judgement of wasting shall come upon thee, shall take thy sucklings," &c. Hupf., on the other hand, contends for the simple passive rendering, thou that art wasted, which he explains of the capture of the city by Cyrus.

PSALM CXXXVIII.

ACCORDING to the Hebrew title, this is a Psalm of David. The LXX. have added to this title the names of Haggai and Zechariah (τῷ Δαυίδ, Ἀγγαίου καὶ Ζαχαρίου), which would seem to show that the translators were not satisfied with the traditional view as to the authorship of the Psalm, and would rather refer it to a time subsequent to the Exile. So far as the Psalm itself is concerned, we have no clue to guide us; neither the language nor the allusions will warrant any conclusions as to date or authorship. The mention of
the Temple in ver. 2 does not prove that the Psalm was not written by David, for the word rendered "Temple" might be used of a structure like the Tabernacle (see on Ps. v. 7). Nor does the hope or prophecy concerning the kings of the earth in ver. 4 necessarily point to a post-Exile time, for hopes of a similar kind are found also in earlier Psalms (see note on that verse).

The Psalm consists of three strophes:--

(I) In the first the Poet encourages himself to praise God both because of His goodness and faithfulness and His great promises, and also because he himself had had his prayers answered. Ver. 1-3.

(2) He utters the hope, the prophecy, that the kings of the earth shall acknowledge the greatness of Jehovah,—His greatness chiefly in this, that He does not measure by any human standard of great and small, of high and low. Ver. 4-6.

(3) The application of all that he has learnt of Jehovah's character to his own individual experience in prospect of trouble and danger Ver. 7, 8.

[(A PSALM) OF DAVID.]

I I WILL give thanks unto Thee with my whole heart,
Before the gods will I sing praise unto Thee.

2 I will bow myself before Thy holy Temple,
And I will give thanks to Thy Name, because of Thy loving-kindness and Thy truth,
For Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy Name.

3 In the day that I called, Thou answeredst me,
   Thou madest me courageous with strength in my soul.

4 All the kings of the earth shall give thanks unto Thee,
   0 Jehovah;
   For they have heard the words of Thy mouth.

5 And they shall sing of the ways of Jehovah;
   For great is the glory of Jehovah.

6 For Jehovah is high, yet He seeth the humble;
   And the proud He knoweth afar off.

The same word occurs frequently in cxix. See note on ver. 25 of that Psalm.

ABOVE ALL THY NAME. The expression seems to mean that to the soul waiting upon God, and trusting in His word, the promise becomes so precious, so strong a ground of hope, that it surpasses all other manifestations of God's goodness and truth; or in the promise may here also be included the fulfilment of the promise. Many interpreters have stumbled at the expression, and Hupfeld objects that "it is contrary to all analogy. The name of God cannot be surpassed by any individual act or attribute of God, for every such separate act is only a manifestation of that Name; nor can it be limited to past manifestations of God's character, or taken as equivalent to calling upon His Name. On the other hand, to make great (magnify) is only said of God's acts, of His grace, His salvation, and the like, and could scarcely be said of His word or promise. One would rather expect, Thou hast magnified Thy Name above all Thy word; it surpasses all that Thou hast promised."

The difficulty has been felt from the first. The LXX. ἐμεγάλυνας ἐπὶ πᾶν τὸ ὄνομα τὸ ἀγίῳ σου, "Thou hast magnified, Thy Holy Name above all." The Chald. "Thou hast magnified the words of Thy praise above all Thy Name." Hupfeld would follow Clericus in reading "above all Thy heavens," which involves only a very slight change of the text. But all the Ancient Versions had the present reading.

4. ALL THE KINGS OF THE EARTH. See the expression of the same feeling in lxviii. 29-32 [30-33], lxxii. 10, 11, cii. 15 [16].

FOR THEY HAVE HEARD. This sounds in the Old Testament almost like an anticipation of St. Paul's words: "But I say have they not heard? Yea verily, their sound is gone forth into all the world." It is to be explained by the deep conviction in the Psalmist's heart that God's words cannot be hidden, must be published abroad. Others, however, render, "When they (shall) have heard."

5. SING OF THE WAYS. Having heard the tidings, "the words of God's mouth," they will joyfully celebrate His mighty acts. Comp. ciii. 7, where "His ways" correspond to "His acts" in the parallelism. The second clause may also be rendered, "That great is,"

&c. Ibn Ezra says: "They shall no more sing of love or war, but of the glory of the Lord."

6. IS HIGH. Comp. cxiii. 5, 6. HE KNOWETH AFAR OFF. This
7 If I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt quicken me:
    Against the wrath of mine enemies Thou wilt stretch
    out Thine hand,
    And Thy right hand shall save me.
8 Jehovah will perfect that which concerneth me
   Jehovah, Thy loving-kindness (endureth) for ever:
   Forsake not the works of Thy hands.

is the only proper rendering of the clause; but the expression is some-
what remarkable. (I) It has been explained by reference to cxxxix. 2
("Thou understandest my thoughts afar off"), which would mean, God
knows (observes) the proud, distant as they may think themselves to be
from His control. (2) Or, God knows them (regards them) only at a dis-
tance, does not admit them into His fellowship: He does not "see" them
as He "seeth the humble." (3) Or it would be possible to explain, He
knows them so as to keep them at a distance. (4) Or, again, God from
afar (parallel to "high" in the first member) knows the proud, just as
he sees the humble.

  7. IF I WALK., Compare xxiii. 4,
      and lxxi. 20.
      QUICKEN ME, or perhaps "keep
      me alive."

  8. PERFECT, i.e. accomplish the work He has begun. See the same
      word in lvii. 2 [3], and comp. the ἐπιτέλεσαν of Phil. i. 6.
      FORSAKE NOT, or "relax not,"
      turning into a prayer what he had
      just before expressed as a convic-
tion of his own mind. For the
      word see Nehem. vi. 3.

a ἐπιτέλεṣα. LXX. πολυσφρήσεις. De-Rossi says that he found in several
MSS. and Edd. ἀφέθηκα, which is also expressed by Jerome, dilatabis.
But the change is not necessary: the root ἄφθαρσις means strictly to be proud.
Is. iii. 5, "behave himself proudly" (in a bad sense). Prov. vi. 3, "press
(make sure, E.V.) thy neighbour." Song of Sol. vi. 5, "for they (thine
eyes) have overcome me" (Hiph. as here), or perhaps "have dazzled or
bewildered me." If we trace the shades of meaning, we shall see that
the root-meaning is to act with spirit. This applies both in Is. iii. 5 and
in Prov. vi. 3, and so here, "Thou hast infused spirit into me," a sense
which would not be unsuitable in Song of Sol. vi. 5. The tense obtains
a past signification, because it follows a fut. with Vau consecutive.
b בדְרֹכֵי. The prep. denotes the object as often with analogous verbs
as מהב, חלים, דביר, ומכ, &c.
c נָעָשׂה, fut. Qal, apparently formed after the analogy of the Hiph'IL forms,
, Is. xvi. 7, יִטְפְּסָי, Job xxiv. 21, and originating in the effort to restore
the sound of the first radical, which in the Hiph, coalesces with the
preceding vowel, and in the Qal is lost altogether.
NOWHERE are the great attributes of God—His Omniscience, His Omnipresence, His Omnipotence, set forth so strikingly as they are in this magnificent Psalm. Nowhere is there a more overwhelming sense of the fact that man is beset and compassed about by God, pervaded by His Spirit, unable to take a step without His control; and yet nowhere is there a more emphatic assertion of the personality of man as distinct from, not absorbed in, the Deity. This is no pantheistic speculation. Man is here the workmanship of God, and stands in the presence and under the eye of One who is his Judge. The power of conscience, the sense of sin and of responsibility, are felt and acknowledged, and prayer is offered to One who is not only the Judge, but the Friend; to One who is feared as none else are feared, who is loved as none else are loved.

Both in loftiness of thought and in expressive beauty of language the Psalm stands pre-eminent, and it is not surprising that Aben Ezra should have pronounced it to be the crown of all the Psalms.

The Psalm both in the Hebrew and the LXX. is ascribed to David. In some copies of the latter it is also said to be a Psalm of Zechariah (τῷ Ἰερουσαλήμ), with the further addition by a second hand of the words, "in the dispersion" (ἐν τῷ διασπορᾷ), which Origen tells us he found in some MSS. Theodoret, on the other hand, says that he had not found the addition either in the Hebrew or the LXX., or in any of the other interpreters. The strongly Aramaic colouring of the language certainly makes it more probable that the Psalm was written after the Exile than before, unless, indeed, this tendency to Aramaisms is to be regarded as evidence of a variation merely of dialect, perhaps the dialect of Northern Palestine,—a supposition which seems not to be wholly without foundation.

The rhythmical structure is, on the whole, regular. There are four strophes, each consisting of six verses; the first three strophes containing the proper theme of the Psalm, and the last the expression of individual feeling.

I. In the first strophe the Poet dwells on the omniscience of God, as manifested in His knowledge of the deepest thoughts and most secret workings of the human heart. Ver. 1-6.

II. In the second, on His omnipresence; inasmuch as there is no corner of the universe so remote that it is not pervaded by God's
presence, no darkness so deep that it can hide from His eyes. Ver. 7-12.

III. The third strophe gives the reason for the profound conviction of these truths of which the Poet's heart is full. No wonder that God should have so intimate a knowledge of man, for man is the creature of God: the mysterious beginnings of life, which none can trace; the days, all of which are ordered before the first breath is drawn,—these are fashioned and ordered by the hand of God. Ver. 13-18.

IV. In the last strophe the Psalmist turns abruptly aside to express his utter abhorrence of wicked men—an abhorrence, no doubt, deepened by the previous meditation on God and His attributes, and called forth probably by the circumstances in which he was placed; and then closes with a prayer that he himself may, in his inmost heart, be right with that God who has searched him and known him and laid his hand upon him, and that he may be led by Him in the way everlasting. Ver. 19-24.

[FOR THE PRECENTOR. A PSALM OF DAVID.]

1 O JEHOVAH, Thou hast searched me, and known (me).
2 THOU knowest my downsitting and mine uprising,
   Thou understandest my thoughta afar off.
3 Thou hast examined b my path and my lying down,c
   And art acquainted with all my ways.
4 For before a word is yet on my tongue,
   Lo d 0 Jehovah, Thou knowest it altogether.
5 Behind and before hast Thou beset me,
   And laid Thine hand upon me.

| 1. KNOWN (ME). The form of the verb marks a consequence of the previous action. |
| 2. AFAR OFF. However great the distance between us. See on cxxxviii. |
| 6. The P.B.V. " long before." |
| 3. THOU HAST EXAMINED, lit. "Thou hast winnowed," or " sifted." |
| 4. FOR BEFORE A WORD. This is probably the better rendering (see Critical Note), though that of the E.V., "For there is not a word . . . but lo, 0 Lord, Thou knowest it altogether," is not certainly wrong. |
| 5. BESET ME, or "shut me in." |

Comp. Job iii. 23, xiii. 27, xiv. 5, 13, 16, xix. 8. The P.B.V., "fashioned me," follows the LXX., επιστήμη αὑλάμματος Jer. formasti, but these renderings depend upon a wrong derivation of the word from παίζω. 

LAID THINE HAND. Job xiii. 21, xxxii. 7. Therefore, in the utmost exercise of his freedom, man is only accomplishing what God's counsel and foreknowledge have determined.

With the general sentiment of
6 (Such) knowledge is too wonderfule for me,
   It is too high, I cannot attain unto it.

7 Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit?
   Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence?

8 If I climb up into heaven, THOU art there,
   If I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there;

9 If I take the wings of the morning,
   If I dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 Even there shall Thy hand lead me,
    And Thy right hand shall hold me.

11 And should I say, Only let darkness cover me,
    And the light about me be night;

| the first strophe compare Acts xvii. 28, "In him we live, and move, and have our being."
| 6. (SUCH) KNOWLEDGE. See a similar strain of acknowledgement at the close of the third strophe, ver. 17, 18, and compare Rom. xi. 33, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements, and His ways past finding out!"
| 7. WHITHER SHALL I GO. It was this and the following verses, in all probability, which led a Spanish commentator (Father Sanchez) to ascribe this Psalm to the Prophet Jonah. Comp. Jon. i. 3, "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of Jehovah."
| THY SPIRIT. "The word Spirit," says Calvin, "is not put here simply for the power of God, as commonly in the Scriptures, but for His mind and understanding. For inasmuch as the spirit in man is the seat of understanding, the Psalmist transfers the same to God; which is clearer from the second member, where the word face (presence) is put for knowledge or sight." He then remarks that the passage has been wrongly applied to prove the infinite nature of God (ad probandum essential Dei immensitatem); for it is not with metaphysical conceptions that the Psalmist is employed, but with the practical truth that by no change of place or circumstance can man escape from the eye of God. There is further implied, too, in the thought of escape, and in the thought of darkness, a sense of sin and the terror of an awakened conscience, which of itself would lead a man to hide himself, if it were possible, from his Maker.
| 8. MY BED IN HELL, lit. "Should I make the unseen world (Sheol) my bed." Comp. Is. lviii. 5. For the same thought see Prov. xv. 11; Job xxvi. 6-9.
| 9. If I could fly with the same swiftness from east to west as the first rays of the morning shoot from one end of heaven to the other.
| WINGS OF THE MORNING. SO the sun is said to have wings, Mal. iv. 2.
| UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE SEA, i.e. the furthest west.
| 11. AND THE LIGHT ABOUT ME. The apodosis does not begin here, as in E.V., "even the night shall be light about me," but with the next verse, where it is introduced by the particle "even," as in ver. 10. The predicate "night" stands first in the Hebrew, as is not unusual.
12 Even darkness cannot be too dark for Thee,
But the night is light as the day;
The darkness and light (to Thee) are both alike.

13 For THOU hast formed my reins,
Thou didst weave me together in my mother's womb.

14 I will give Thee thanks for that I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Thy works,
And my soul knoweth (it) right well.

15 My frame was not hidden from Thee,
When I was made in secret,
When I was curiously wrought (as) in the lower parts of the earth.

16 Thine eyes did see my substance yet being imperfect,

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12. CANNOT BE TOO DARK FOR
THEE, lit. "cannot be dark (so as to hide) from Thee;" or we may retain, both in this and in the next clause, Something of the causative meaning of the verbs, and render "make darkness" . . . "give light."

13. "Who can have a truer and deeper knowledge of man than He who made him?"
FORMED. The connection and parallelism seem to show that this must be the meaning of the word here, as in Deut. xxxii. 6, "Is not He thy Father that formed thee?"
where E.V. has "that bought thee;" and Gen. xiv. 19, "Maker of heaven and earth," where E.V. has "possessor."

15. MY FRAME, or, "my strength" (and so Symm. ἡ κράταιος μου), but there evidently meaning the bony framework of the body.

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16. MY SUBSTANCE YET BEING IMPERFECT. One word in the original which means strictly anything rolled together as a ball, and hence is generally supposed to mean here the fetus or embryo. Hupfeld, however, prefers to understand it of the ball of life, as consisting of a number of different threads ("the days" of ver. 16) which are first a
And in Thy book were they all of them written,--
The days which were ordered, when as yet there was
none of them.

17 And how precious unto me are Thy thoughts, O God,
How great is the sum of them!
18 If I would tell them, they are more in number than
the sand:
When I awake, I am still with Thee.

19 Oh that Thou wouldest slay the wicked, O God!
Depart from me, ye bloodthirsty men.
20 Who rebel against Thee with (their) wicked devices, 
(Who) lift up themselves against Thee in vain.
21 Should I not hate them which hate Thee, 0 Jehovah. 
And should I not be grieved with them that rise up against Thee?
22 With perfect hatred do I hate them, 
I count them mine enemies.
23 Search me, 0 God, and know my heart: 
Try me, and know my thoughts;
24 And see if there be any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.

esse ducem stadii sui usque ad olam; but the Hebrew 'olam (אולם) has not of itself this meaning. Others render "the old way," i.e.

a רצ only here = Chald. תצ only frequent in Ecclesiastes (from root רצ, properly "will," here "thought." The ב prefixed to the obj. is perhaps an Aramaism (comp. cxvi. 25, cxxxix. 3, cxxxv. 11), but not necessarily, as the ב may denote the direction of the thought.

b נר (cognate with נר, נר), Thou hast spread out, and so winnowed. LXX. ἔκτοισα, tracked; Jerome, eventilasti.

c יבר Another apparently Aram. or later form for יבר, and another א. λιγ. This and the preceding word are properly two infinitives, "my walking and my lying down." Though the noun יבר is Hebrew, the verb occurs only here and in Job xxxiv. 8, a passage which has also an Aram. tincture.

d מ. The construction of this verse has been taken in two ways: (1) There is no word on my tongue (which) Thou dost not know altogether; (2) A word is not (yet) upon my tongue, (but) lo! Thou knowest it altogether. This last is the rendering of Qimchi, Calvin, and others, and the מ favours it, as Hupf. observes. Comp. Is. xl. 24. [But מ in later writers = מ. See Gesen. Lex. Can it here be used after a negative in the sense of nisi or quin?]

e ח. Fern. of the adj. יַּּלֶּּךְ (as the K’thibh, Jud. xiii. 18), and therefore to be read יַלֶּּךְ, and not as the Q’ri, יִלֶּּךְ. On מ see xiii. 5.

f ל (only here) from ל, Aramaic (for the usual Heb. ל), but only used in fut. imperat. inf. Qal and Aphel. The alternate form is ל, but we must not therefore assume, with Ges., Ew., and others, that ל is for ל, and this again by transposition for ל. The roots are distinct, though cognate. Comp. also מ, Dan. vi. 24.

g כ. In the two other passages where the same word occurs, Gen. iii. 15, Job ix. 17, it means "to bruise," "to crush," a meaning evidently not applicable here, though the LXX. have καταπατησει. Hence Umbreit would connect it with כ, in the sense invadere, insidiari (comp. LXX. ἄρειων), and so invadere, "to fall upon." Even this, however, gives but a poor meaning, as Hupfeld truly remarks. Either, therefore, we must connect it with another root, כ, "the darkness shall be gloomy, thick, about me"—so the Targ., Se’adyah, Rashi, Qimchi, &c., and so Symm. εἰσερχεσθαι, another Greek Vers. καλύψει, Jerome, operient—or we must adopt a different reading, such as כ, which Bottcher proposes, comparing Job xi. 17; or כ, as Ewald suggests, from כ = כ, to cover, as דועש, for דועש, xci. 6.
h *הָּכָּפָּשׁ* (Pu'al only here). The root means to *variegate*, ποικίλλειν. The body of the foetus is described as woven together of so many different-coloured threads, like a cunning and beautiful network of tapestry—"velut tapetum e nervis et venis contextus,"—Camp.—similar therefore to the use of הָּכָּפָּשׁ, ver. 13; Job x. 11.

\[\text{i יִזְמַלְנָא} \text{from} \text{מְלָנָא} \text{to roll together, 2 Kings ii. 8, whence} \text{מְלָנָא, a mantle, 2 Kings i. 24. The word מְלָנָא occurs here only in the O.T., but is used in the Mishnah of any unformed, unshapen mass. So the LXX., Aq., have here ἀκατέργαστόν μου, Symm. ἀμορφωστόν με, as describing the embryo. Hupfeld, however, understands it not of the embryo, but of the yet undeveloped course of life, the days of which are so many threads which as yet are rolled together in a ball, and which are unwound as life goes on. So that מְלָנָא would mean my ball of life, just as in classical and other writers we have the thread of life, the web of life, &c. Comp. Catull., "Currite ducentes subtemina, currite, Parcae."}

\[\text{k מַלָנָא} \text{To what does the suffix refer? Some suppose that the yet undeveloped members in the embryo are alluded to, as so many threads rolled and twisted together, and fashioned day by day. But the pronoun must rather be anticipative of the following plur. days; these are so many threads of life (comp. Is. xxxviii. 12) which were written (imperf.) in God's book. For other instances of this anticipative use of the pronoun see ix. 13, lxxxvii. I, cxxxii. 6; Job vi. 29; Is. viii. 2r, xiii. 2.}

In the following מַלָנָא the K'thibh is obviously right; though the Rabb. attempt to explain the Q'ri מָלָנָא "to Him (i.e. God) they are as one day."

\[\text{1 מָלָנָא.} \text{This cannot be "speak against Thee," from מָלָנָא, with omission of the מ (of which there is only one instance in this verb, 2 Sam. xix. 14, though other elisions of the מ may be cited, civ. 29; 2 Sam. xx. 9. xxii. 40; Is. xiii. 20), for this must have been expressed by מָלָנָא, with the prep. מ or מ; nor "speak of Thee," as the Chald. paraphrases "swear by Thy name wickedly." There is no other instance in which מָלָנָא with the accus. means "to speak of a person." Passages like Gen. xliii. 27, Num. xiv. 31, Lam. iv. 20, have been alleged as other instances of this usage, but, in each of these cases the object is the relative Mẹ, "with respect to whom," and the thing said follows, so that they are not real parallels. The correct reading is probably מָלָנָא (as the Quinta renders, παρεπικραύσαν σε) "Provoke Thee," "rebel against Thee," this verb being construed with the accus. Then the following מָלָנָא is used adverbially like מָלָנָא in the next member, as further explaining the nature of the provocation or rebellion, for מָלָנָא may mean foolishly, i.e. wickedly, as well as in vain, to no purpose.}

\[\text{m מַלָנָא, an anomalous form, after the analogy of verbs מָלָנָא with prosthetic מ. It ought to be מָלָנָא (comp. Jer. x. 5; Ezek. xlvi. 8). The same mode of writing is found ( Jer. x. 5) in the Niphal.}

For this absolute use of the verb comp. lxxxix. 10; Hab. i. 3, יָשִׁים reebra, "and contention lifeth itself up."

This is generally rendered Thine enemies, and as the verse begins with the relative יָשִׁים, a second subject is thus awkwardly introduced. So the Chald. and so Aq., διατικήλαι σου, Symms, οι ἐναντίοι σου, Jerome, adversarii tui (but rendering the relative preceding by quia). Some, feeling the awkwardness of the double subject, render, "And they have lifted up Thine enemies (i.e. raised them to honour) in vain."

Others, again, would explain יָשִׁים, with reference to Ex. xx. 7, "they have uttered lies, sworn falsely," or would read יָשִׁים as to bring the passage into a closer resemblance to Ex. xx. 7. But it is a slighter and simpler change to read יָשִׁים, a change which ought perhaps to be made also in I Sam. xxviii. 16. Seven MSS. Kenn., and twenty De-R., have here יָשִׁים unto Thee. יָשִׁים is usually taken to be an Aramaic form for יָשִׁים. Otherwise it must mean Thy cities (ix. 7, Is. xiv. 21), a sense which is unsuitable here, though it is given by the LXX., λήφθωνται εἰς ματαιότητα τάς πόλεις σου, and also by the Syr. and Vulg.

ο יָשִׁים יִמְלָך. The only instance of an apocop. Hithp. part. Either the is omitted incorrectly, or, as Buxtorf conjectures, in order to avoid the concurrence of four servile letters at the beginning of the word. For the objective affix comp. xvii. 7.

PSALM CXL.

THIS Psalm is a prayer for protection against enemies who were at once violent and crafty and unscrupulous in the use of their tongues.

The general strain of the Psalm is like that of many which occur in the earlier Books, and like them it is ascribed to David. In tone and language it resembles Psalms lviii. and lxiv., but we have no means of testing the accuracy of the Inscription. The chief peculiarity of the Psalm is, that it has several words which occur nowhere else. Ewald would refer this and the two following Psalms,--but, as it appears to me, without any sufficient reason,—to the age of Manasseh. The impression left upon the mind in reading them, I think, is that they are cast in David's vein and in imitation of his manner rather than written by David himself; but it would be absurd to dogmatize in a matter where we are really left with nothing to guide us, unless we are disposed to accept the tradition from which the title has sprung.

The strophical division of the Psalm is, on the whole, regular. There are four strophes, consisting each of three verses, except that
the third, instead of consisting of three verses of two members, consists of two verses of three members, so that the length of each strophe is in fact the same. There is also a concluding strophe of two verses. The close of the first three strophes is marked by the Selah.

[FOR THE PRECENTOR. A PSALM OF DAVID.]

1 DELIVER me, 0 Jehovah, from the evil-man,
From the violent man preserve a me.
2 Who have imagined evil things in (their) hearts;
All the day they stir up b wars.
3 They have sharpened their tongue like a serpent,
Adder's poison is under their lips. [Selah.]

4 Keep me, 0 Jehovah, from the hands of the wicked,
From the violent man preserve me.
Who have purposed to thrust aside my steps.
5 The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords,
They have spread a net by the side of the road,
They have set gins for me. [Selah.]

6 I said to Jehovah, THOU art my God,
Give ear, 0 Jehovah, to the voice of my supplications.
7 0 Jehovah Lord, Thou strength of my salvation,
Thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.
8 Grant not, 0 Jehovah, the desires c of the wicked;
Further not his wicked device, that they be not lifted up. d [Selah.]

I. EVIL MAN, or " evil men "
... "violent men" (the sing. being used collectively for the plur.), which is more in accordance with the plural in the next verse.
THE VIOLENT MAN, lit. "the man of violences," as in 2 Sam. xxii. 49, instead of "man of violence," as in Ps. xviii. 48 [49].
3. SHARPENED THEIR TONGUE. Comp. lii. 2 [4]. And for the next clause, lviii. 4 [5], x. 7.
4. The opening of the second strophe is a repetition with slight variation of the opening of the first.
5. THE PROUD HAVE HIDDEN, or the adjective may be a predicate, and the subject the same as before: "who have hidden in their pride," &c.
7. COVERED MY HEAD, i.e. as with a helmet. Comp. lx. 7 [9].
BATTLE, lit. "armour," as in I Kings x. 25; 2 Kings x. 2; Ezek. xxxix. 9, 10.
9 [When they lift up] the head that compass me about,
   Let the mischief of their own lips cover them!
10 Let hot burning coals fall upon them,
   Let them be cast into the fire,
   Into floods of water that they rise not again.
11 An evil speaker shall not be established in the earth,
   The violent man—evil shall hunt him to overthrow (him).
12 I know that Jehovah will maintain the cause of the afflicted,
   The right of the poor.
13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto Thy Name;
   The upright shall dwell in Thy presence.

9. WHEN THEY LIFT UP. The verb should probably be transferred here from the end of the previous verse (see Critical Note). In the next clause, and verses, 10, 11, I have followed the E.V. in preferring the optative to the future. But the LXX., Jerome, and the majority of modern commentators give the future: "Though they that compass me may lift up the head, the mischief of their own lips shall cover them; hot burning coals, shall fall upon them," &c.

10. LET THEM BE CAST, lit. "let one cast them," or perhaps Jehovah may be the subject of the verb, "May He cast them."

11. AN EVIL SPEAKER, lit. "a man of tongue;" not, however, used here in the sense of "a talkative man;" as the similar phrase, "a man of lips" (E.V. "a man full of talk"), in Job xi. 2, but with the further notion of evil speaking, as in ver. 3.

13. DWELL IN THY PRESENCE. See xi. 7, xvi. 11.

a יָנַחְרִין. The full term, as in lixi. 8, Ixxviii. 7, &c.

b יָרַע. The verb is usually intrans. "gather themselves," in a hostile sense, as in lvi. 7. So it is commonly taken here, the prep. ל or ל being understood, or the accus. being regarded as the accus. of direction. Qimchi, however, makes the verb trans. here gather wars, i.e. gather the materials for war. Perhaps it is better to take יִרְעֹת, to stir up, as the Chald., Syr., and others. In the next verse יִרְעֹת, is a אֲ.ן. לֶגֶג.

c יָנַחְרִים (only here, instead of יָנָה, יָנָה). Constr. plur. of יָנַח ה (not of יָנָחָה or יָנָה as Gesen.), for the termination יָנַח is a contraction from ai—a false formation, with euphonic doubling of the third radical, according to the analogy of יָנָח ה, יָנָח ה, &c., here transferred to 3 Yod, contrary to rule. It would be better to write יָנַח ה like the constr. forms יָנַח ה (Gen. xxvii. 9, 16); יָנָח ה (Is. xxx. 28, instead of יָנָח ה &c.), after the analogy
of the termination מז. This is proposed by Abulwalid, who found it in his MS., and Qimchi (Mikhlol), and Kenn. and Shelomoh Yedidyah of Norcia mention having found it in some MSS.; but the form does not occur elsewhere. (See Hupfeld.) מז is another מז.

ד מז. This is commonly taken as loosely subjoined to the previous sentence, either as governed by the preceding negative, LXX., מַחֲפוֹט הַיָּשָׁם, Symm. וַיַּחֲפֹט הַיָּשָׁם (comp. Is. xiv. 21, מַחֲפוֹט לְבֵל), or as describing the consequences of their success, "they will lift themselves up." But it is impossible not to feel that in all probability the word is misplaced before the Selah, and that it belongs to the following verse, especially as the first clause of that verse requires a verb to make sense: "They that surround me have lifted up the head." It is true that מזר in the Qal is not trans., and therefore מזר must either be the accus. of reference, "as to the head," or perhaps we ought to read מזר. For the fluctuations between Qal and Hiph. in this word comp. lxxxix. 18, 26, cxlviii. 13.

e מזר, usually taken as part. Hiph.: but the Hiph. of this verb is never intransitive, not even in Josh. vi. 11, 2 Sam. v. 23. It must therefore be from an abstract מזר, whence plur. constr. מזר, used adverbially, and מזר. 2 Kings xxiii. 5; and here with suffix = מזר. xxvii. 6.

f מזר. The K'tibh is plur., referring to the lips as the subject (Ges. § 148, 1). The correction to the sing. in the Q'ri is therefore unnecessary.

g מזר. The K'tibh can only refer to an indefinite subject: "Let them (men) cast hot burning coals," &c., which is equivalent to a passive: Let hot burning coals (which may perhaps mean lightnings, as in xviii. 13, 14) be cast, &c. See on lvi. note e. The Q'ri, however, substitutes the Niph. מזר, which is contrary to the usage in the Niph. Hupf. therefore would read יִמְשַׁד (comp. xi. 6), making Jehovah the subject here, as in the next clause.

h מזר, only here. Ibn Ez. and Qimchi explain it to mean deed pits, but without any reason. It is probably to be explained by the cogn. Arab. מזר, a cataract.

i מזר. The accent is clearly wrong, for this is not an adjective to מזר, a wicked, violent man, but a noun, which is the subject of the following verb, as the Chald., the LXX., the Rabb., and others have taken it. The Athnach should therefore be transferred to מזר.
THIS Psalm presents some peculiar difficulties of interpretation, which, however, are due neither to the words employed, nor to the grammatical construction, but to the extreme abruptness with which in verses 5—7 the thoughts follow one another, and the extreme obscurity which hangs over the allusions. To translate each sentence by itself is no difficult matter, but it is almost hopeless either to link the sentences plausibly together, or to discover in them any tangible clue to the circumstances in which the Psalmist was placed. As all the Ancient Versions must have had substantially the same text, the deviations in any of them being very slight, it is hardly probable that, as Olshausen and Hupfeld maintain, the text is corrupt: it is more likely that our entire ignorance of the circumstances under which the Psalm was written prevents our piercing the obscurity of the writer's words.

It has been usual to accept the Inscription which assigns the Psalm to David, and to assign it to the time of his persecution by Saul. Ver. 5 has generally been supposed to allude to David's generous conduct in sparing the life of his foe when he was in his power (see Sam. xxiv., and comp. the note on ver. 6 of this Psalm), but it is quite impossible on this supposition to give any plausible Interpretation to ver. 7.

Delitzsch, with more probability, refers the Psalm to the time of Absalom's rebellion. He sees an allusion to David's distance from the sanctuary and the worship of the sanctuary in ver. 2, and he explains ver. 6. of the punishment which shall overtake the rebel leaders, and the return of the people to their allegiance.

Ewald would assign this, as well as the preceding and following Psalms, to a time subsequent to the Assyrian invasion,—perhaps the reign of Manasseh. He supposes that in the persecution to which the true worshipers of Jehovah, and especially the leading men amongst them, were exposed, the Psalmist, who was apparently a man of some distinction (cxlii. 7 [8]), had himself suffered. He had been assailed by threats (cxli. 3 [4], 9 [101], and by flatteries (cxlii. 4); and if these failed in drawing him away, his destruction was resolved upon (cxli. 5 [6], cxli, 9, 10, cxlii. 3 [4]). But undaunted by threats, unseduced by flatteries, he cleaves with the most resolute faith and
love to his God, and will rather submit to reproof from the true-hearted than suffer himself to be cajoled and led astray by the wicked (cxli. 5). And when at last his enemies, enraged at his firmness, seize him and cast him into prison, leaving him there to perish (cxlii. 7 [8]), he does not give way, but still cries to Jehovah for help, and trusts in His power and faithfulness.*

Maurer thinks that this Psalm was written at a time when idolatry had become prevalent, especially among men of the highest rank and station, and that in consequence the faithful servants of Jehovah were exposed to bitter persecution. We thus obtain a suitable meaning, he says, for the whole Psalm, of which he thus sketches the outline:—"There are three strophes (1) Hear my prayer, 0 Jehovah: suffer me not to speak any word against Thee, nor to fall away to the wicked, allured by their luxurious banquets (ver. 1-4). (2) Why should I not rejoice in my God? Nay, if their leaders are overthrown, the men shall gladly hear me raising a song of joy and triumph, though now our bones cover the earth (ver. 5-7). (3) Keep me, 0 Jehovah, from the devices of the wicked. Let them be snared in their own nets, whilst I escape " (ver. 8-10).

It is curious that, whilst De Wette, describing the Psalm as "a very original, and therefore difficult, Psalm," holds it to be one of the oldest in the collection, Maurer, almost on the same grounds ("oratio maxime impedita ac talis in qua manifeste cum verbis luctetur vates"), sets it down as belonging to a comparatively late period.

[A PSALM OF DAVID.]
I O JEHOVAH, I have called upon Thee, haste Thee unto me ;
Give ear to my voice when I call upon Thee.

* I subjoin Ewald's rendering and explanation of ver. 5-7: "Let the righteous smite me in love and chastise me; let no oil for the head soften my head! For still—my prayer is uttered in their misfortunes. Their judges have been hurled into the rifts of the rock; so shall they hear how sweet my words are! As though one should furrow and cleave the earth, our bones have been scattered for the jaws of death." That is, "So far am I from partaking of the dainties of the wicked, I will rather turn to the righteous, and welcome their reproofs for my past coldness. I will not even anoint my head," for that would be a sign of joy and festivity, whereas now they are in suffering, and I can only pray. The chiefest among them have already perished, "but the righteous who have escaped the general persecution shall hear my words of sympathy and my prayers " (such, for instance, as we have in this Psalm); and then, as if deeply sympathising with the judges, the princes who have been slain, he counts himself in their number, "Our bones lie scattered," &c., as on a field of battle (liii. 5 [6].)
2 Let my prayer be set forth (as) incense before Thee,  
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
3 Set a watch, a 0 Jehovah, before my mouth,  
Keep the door b of my lips.
4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing,  
To busy itself c in wicked doings with men d that work  
iniquity;  
And let me not eat of their dainties.

5 Let a righteous man smite me, it shall be a kindness;  
And let him reprove me, it shall be as oil upon (my) head,  
Let not my head refuse e (it):  
For yet is my prayer f against their wickednesses.

2. LIFTING UP OF MY HANDS.  
i.e. evidently, as the parallelism re-  
quires, in prayer: comp. xxviii. 2.  
Others, as the Syr., and recently  
Ewald and Hengstenberg, explain  
it of bringing an offering. This,  
however, is against both the paral-  
lelism and the comparison with the  
evening sacrifice.

EVENING SACRIFICE. The sacri-  
fice here meant is strictly the offer-  
ing consisting of fine flour with oil  
and frankincense, or of unleavened  
cakes mingled with oil, which was  
burnt upon the altar (Heb. minchah,  
E.V. "meat-offering"): see Lev. ii.  
1-11. This, however, like the  
"incense," was only added to the  
burnt-offering, the lamb which was  
offered every morning and evening  
(Ex. xxix. 38-42; Num. xxviii. 3-  
8). It would seem, therefore, that  
these two, "the incense" and "the  
offering of fine flour," &c., stand  
for the morning and evening sacri-  
fices; and the sense is, "Let my  
daily prayer be acceptable to Thee  
as are the daily sacrifices of Thine  
own appointment." (The minchah  
is used I Kings xviii. 29, 36, of the  
whole evening sacrifice, and of the  
morning sacrifice, 2 Kings iii. 20)  
The incense may be mentioned be-  
cause, as ascending in a fragrant  
cloud, it was symbolical of prayer

(Rev. v. 8, viii. 3, 4); and the same  
would hold also of the "meat-offer-  
ing" of which it is said that the  
priest was to burn a part as "a  
memorial," "a sweet savour unto  
Jehovah" (Lev. ii. 9).

3. SET A WATCH. Comp. xxxiv.  
13 [14], xxxix. 1 [2]; Prov. xiii. 3,  
xxi. 23. The prayer is apparently  
directed against the temptation to  
indulge in rash and foolish words  
such as wicked men would indulge  
in (see next verse). Others suppose  
that he prays to be kept from the  
temptation to break out into bitter  
words against his persecutors (as  
against Saul, if the Psalm be  
David's); or into murmurs and  
complaints against God.

4. INCLINE NOT. See note on  
li. 4.

DAINTIES. It is unnecessary to  
explain this of things sacrificed to  
idols (Kos., Del.), as if the Psalmist  
were surrounded by heathen: comp.  
xvi. 4. The temptation is rather to  
an easy, luxurious, sensual life, as  
in lxxiii.

5. According to the rendering I  
have preferred of this verse, the  
sense will be: "I will gladly wel-  
come even the reproofs of the good  
(comp. Prov. xxvii. 6; Eccl. vii. 5),  
and I will avail myself of prayer  
as in ver. 2-4) as the best defence
6 (When) their judges have been hurled down the sides of the rock,
Then they shall hear my words that they are sweet.

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<td>6</td>
<td>(When) their judges have been hurled down the sides of the rock, Then they shall hear my words that they are sweet.</td>
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**THERES JUDGES** must be in a general sense the "rulers" or "princes" of the wicked; for the pronoun must refer to them. (Ewald, however — see Introduction to the Psalm—supposes the leading men amongst the righteous to be meant, who are the principal sufferers in the time of persecution.) The verse apparently describes a punishment which has been, or will be inflicted upon them (see for this mode of punishment 2 Chron. xxv. 12; Luke iv. 29). The verb HURLED DOWN is the same which is used, 2 Kings ix. 33, of the throwing down of Jezebel from the window.

THE SIDES OF THE ROCK, lit. "along," or "by" the sides (Heb. hands) of the rock or precipice.' Comp. cxl. 5 [6], "by the side of the path"; Jud. xi. 26, "by the sides (E. V. coasts, Heb. hands) of Arnon." Others, "into the hands (i.e. the power) of the rock," with the same notion of punishment, but rather, as in cxxxvii. 9, being hurled against the rock. (The preposition employed favours the latter explanation; see Lam.iv. 14.)

THEY SHALL HEAR, i.e. of course not the "judges," but either their followers who have been led astray by their pernicious influence, or perhaps more generally, men shall hear. If the Psalm is to be referred to Absalom's rebellion, or any similar occasion, the sense will be, "When the leaders in the insurrection meet with the fate they deserve, then the subjects of the king will return to their allegiance." And the expression, "they shall hear my words that they are sweet," would be a thoroughly Oriental mode of describing the satisfaction with which they would welcome the gracious amnesty pronounced by their offended sovereign.

Others, who suppose that the Psalm alludes to David's magnanimity in sparing Saul when he was in his power (I Sam. xxiv.), explain "When their leaders (meaning
7 As when one furroweth the earth (with the plough),
Our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.

8 For unto Thee, 0 Jehovah, the Lord, are mine eyes,
In Thee have I found refuge, 0 pour not out my soul.

Saul) were let go (succeeded to escape) along the sides of the rock, they heard my words that they were sweet,—recognized, that is, my forbearance and generosity in sparing my enemy, instead of taking his life.

7. AS WHEN ONE FURROWETH, &c., lit. "as one who furroweth and cleaveth in the earth" (the participle absolute being used for the finite verb). The allusion is as obscure as in the previous verses, and the point of the comparison is differently explained. The bones scattered are compared either (1) to the clods broken by the plough-share, or (2) to the seed scattered in the earth turned up by the plough. Maurer finds the point of the comparison in the length of the furrow: "Quemadmodum qui terram arat, longas facit series sulcorum, sic ossa nostra, longa serie sparsa, prostrata sunt orci in praedam." But the emphasis is laid by the use of the double verb on the breaking-up of the clods. There is no reason to supply a different object, as the E.V., "As when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth." The explanation first given is the most probable. In 2 Chron. xxv. 12, where ten thousand Edomites are said to have been cast down from the top of the rock (sela', as here), the same verb is used to describe their destruction which is here used of cleaving the earth by the plough.

AT THE MOUTH, or perhaps "for the mouth," i.e. so as to be swallowed up by it.

THE GRAVE. Heb. Sheol, the abode of the dead, though here perhaps nothing more than the grave may be meant. The verse thus describes a complete and disastrous overthrow and apparently of the whole nation; for now we have the pronoun of the first person, "our bones." It is true that in some of the Ancient Versions the pronoun of the third person is found. So in the LXX. although τα ἰστα ἡμῶν is the original reading yet B has an alternate reading αὐτῶν, and this is found in A (by a second hand) and in the Syr., Arab., and AEthiop. Bottcher insists upon this as the correct reading, and explains "their bones" of the bones of the judges hurled down the rock. Hengst. and Delitzsch, on the other band, find here a figure expressive of hope and consolation. The bones, according to them, are compared to seed scattered in the upturned earth, from which a harvest may be expected. So here a national resurrection (the first germ of what is expressed in Is. xxvi. 19; Ezek. xxxvii.), a new life, is anticipated. But if this be the point of comparison, it is very strangely expressed: it certainly does not lie on the surface of the words.

8. FOR. The conjunction does not refer to what immediately precedes, but either to what is said in ver. 4, 5 (so Maurer), or perhaps rather to the whole of the former part of the Psalm, so far as it consists of petition: "Listen to my prayer,—keep me from temptation, —for unto Thee are mine eyes."

POUR NOT OUT MY SOUL, i.e. give not my life up to destruction. Comp. the use of the same verb Is. liii. 12, "He poured out His soul unto death."

But the rendering of the E.V., "leave not my soul destitute" is in accordance with the root signifi-
9 Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me,
From the gins of the workers of iniquity.
10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
Whilst that I withal escape.

9. FROM THE SNARE, lit. " from the hands of the snare." So we have in xxii. 20 [21), "from the hand of the dog; " in Job v. 20, "from the hand of the sword;"

Is. xlvii. 14, "from the hand of the flame."

INTO THEIR OWN NETS. The pronoun is singular, used distributively,—"Each one of them into his own net." For the sentiment comp. vii. 15 [16].

a מָּשֶׁפֶּר. The noun occurs only here. Qimchi (after R. Mosheh, Hakkohen, Ib. Giqitilla) defends it by forms such as מָּשֶׁפֶּר, מָּשֶׁפֶּר, מָּשֶׁפֶּר. Hupf. finds a difficulty in admitting this abstract noun from a transitive verb, especially as we have another noun, מָּשֶׁפֶּר, in this sense; and is inclined therefore to take the word as the imperative with ה paragog., in the same construction with מְלֹנֵי, as in xxxix. 2, where, however, it is followed by the accus. מָּשֶׁפֶּר. Like Ibn 'Ezr., he supposes that the writer intended to imitate the construction in xxxix. 2, but to break it up into מְלֹנֵי מְלֹנֵי and מְלֹנֵי, but then either omitted מ or dropped the construction he had begun. It is so far in favour of this view, that מְלֹנֵי is of the same imperat. form (Qal with euphon. Dagesh, as in Prov. iv. 13); here followed by מְלֹנֵי (which it is nowhere else), after the analogy of מְלֹנֵי. Some, however, would make מְלֹנֵי, like מָּשֶׁפֶּר, a noun.

b לְדָא another אָּפ. לְכָּנָה, instead of the לְדָא.

c לְדָא. This Hithp. (denom. from לְדָא לְדָא) occurs only here.

d מְלֹנֵי. This plur. form occurs also Is. liii. 3; Prov. viii. 4.

e מְלֹנֵי in the next line, is another אָּפ. לְכָּנָה.

f מְלֹנֵי for מְלֹנֵי, as מְלֹנֵי for מְלֹנֵי, Micah i. 15, written defectively, perhaps because optative or jussive. See lv. note i; Ges. § 73, Rem. 4, § 74; Rem. 21 c. The rendering of the LXX., μὴ λιπανάτω τὴν κεφαλὴν μου, with which Jerome and the Syr. agree, cannot be defended. There is, indeed, an Arab root, ... to become fat, but said only of camels, and there is no active formation from it "to make fat," and no such root in Hebrew.

g מְלֹנֵי. The 1 must introduce the apodosis, and the sentence is elliptical: "For (so it is) still, that my prayer," &c. With this elliptical use of מְלֹנֵי compare מְלֹנֵי, "it will still be that," Zech. viii. 20, and מְלֹנֵי, Prov. xxiv. 27, "afterwards it shall be that," &c.

g מְלֹנֵי is taken by some of the ancient interpreters as = a noun, "husbandman," and as the subject of the sentence. Sym. ὀσποπερ γεωργὸς ὅταν ἁρησιστης τὴν γῆν ὀὔτως ἐκκοπισθοθη k. t. l. Jer. Sicut agricola cum scindit
terram. The root is of course the same as that of the common Arabic word *Fellah*.

*חַרֵף* for *חַרָף* (Ges. § 75, Rem. 8), Pi'el, or incorr. for *חַרָּף*, Hiph., which is found in Is. liii. 12. The root is used of emptying a vessel, Gen. xxiv. 20; a chest, 2 Chron. xxiv. 11; then it gets the sense of pouring out, as Maurer observes: "Quod evacuandi verba facillime a vasis transferuntur ad id quod vasis continetur." But it is better perhaps to keep to the root meaning of making bare, destitute, empty.

*דָּחַיָּה*. Some would join this to the previous hemistich: "into their own nets together." Maurer considers it to be = *דָּחַיָּהּ לְכֹל*, and supposes it to refer to the nets, and to be the object of the verb: "Whilst I escape them all." But it is better to take *דָּחַיָּה* here in the sense of at the same time (comp. iv. 9, xxxiii. 15), and *דָּחַיָּה* (whilst, as in Job viii. 21) as merely placed second in the sentence (comp. cxxviii. 2), in order that the emphatic word may occupy the first place.

**PSALM CXLII.**

THIS is the last of the eight Psalms which, according to their Inscriptions, are to be referred to David's persecution by Saul. Like the 57th Psalm, it is supposed to describe his thoughts and feelings when he was "in the cave," though whether in the cave of Adullam (1 Sam. xxii. 1) or in that of Engedi (1 Sam. xxiv. 3) is not clear. (See Introduction to Psalm lvii.) The general strain of the Psalm is that of the earlier Books. It expresses in language like that of David the cleaving of the heart to God, the deep sense of loneliness, the cry for deliverance, the confidence that that deliverance will call forth the sympathy and the joy of many others. But whether it is written only in imitation of David's manner, or whether it is a genuine work of David's extracted perhaps from some history, and added, at a time subsequent to the Exile, to the present collection, it is impossible now to determine.

[A MASCHILa OF DAVID WHEN HE WAS IN THE CAVE. A PRAYER.]

1 WITH my voice to Jehovah will I cry,  
   With my voice to Jehovah will I make supplication.
2 I will pour out before Him my complaint;  
   My trouble before Him will I make known.
3 When my spirit is overwhelmed within me,
   THOU knowest my path:
   In the way wherein I walk,
   Have they hidden a snare for me.

4 Look on the right hand and see,
   There is none that will know me;
   Refuge hath failed me;
   There is none that seeketh after my soul.

5 I have cried unto Thee, 0 Jehovah,
   I have said, THOU art my refuge,
   My portion in the land of the living.

6 Attend unto my cry,
   For I am brought very low:
   Deliver me from my persecutors,
   For they are too strong for me.

7 Bring forth my soul out of prison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. WHEN MY SPIRIT. The first member of this verse is, perhaps, to be connected with the preceding verse, precisely as the same words are found connected in the title of Ps. cii. (So Hupfeld and Bunsen.) IS OVERWHELMED, lit. &quot;darkens itself.&quot; See on lxxvii. 3 [4]. WITHIN ME, lit. &quot;upon me.&quot; See on xlii. noted, THOU: lit. &quot;and THOU.&quot; If the existing arrangement of the text is right, the conjunction only serves to introduce the apodosis. But if the first clause, &quot;when my spirit,&quot; &amp;c., belongs to the previous verse, then we must render here, &quot;And Thou knowest,&quot; &amp;c. 4. LOOK. There is no contradiction in this prayer to the previous statement of belief in God's omniscience, &quot;Thou knowest my path,&quot; as has been alleged. Such appeals to God, to see, to regard, &amp;c., are common enough, &quot;and are bound up with the very nature of prayer, which is one great anthropomorphisms.&quot;</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. MY PORTION. Comp. xvi. 5, lxxiii. 26. THE LIVING, or &quot;life.&quot; See xxvii. 13. 7. OUT OF PRISON. This is clearly to be understood figuratively. Comp. the parallel passage, cxliii. 11.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
That I may give thanks unto Thy Name.

The righteous shall come about me,
Because Thou dealest bountifully with me.

COME ABOUT ME, i.e. sympa-
thising in my joy, though else-
where the word is used in a hostile

a See on xxxii. note a, and Introduction to lvii.

b תִּתְהַנ. This can only be imperat. (like the following יְהָנֵר) for יָהָנְן, as in Job xxxv. 5. See on lxxvii. note c, xciv. note a. The Ancient Versions, nearly without exception, have here the first person. LXX. κατευθύνουν καὶ ἔπεμψαν. Similarly the Chald. and Syr., and the Rabb. commentators, and so the E.V., evidently taking the forms as infinitive absolutes, which would hold of יְהָנְן, but not of יֵהָנֵר, for the apparent inf. constr. יֵהָנֶר, Ezek. xxi. 15, proves nothing as it follows לֹמֵא. Ewald would read יֵהָנֶר, but no change is necessary. Jerome is quite right in keeping the imperative, Respice... et vide.

c יָהָנֵר. The verb, both in Hiph. and Pi'el, is elsewhere used in a hostile sense, and with the accus. Here it must be expressive of sympathy, though neither this meaning nor the constr. with is to be found elsewhere. Others, following the LXX. and Aq., render "shall wait for me; "but then it must be Pi'el, as in Job xxxvi. 2, where it is also followed by יֵהָנִי. Others again take the word as a denom. from יֵהָנֵר, and explain crown, or put on a crown, in a figurative sense, i.e. triumph in me, boast themselves of me as of a crown. Del. compares Prov. xiv. 18. Symm. τῷ ὄνομά σου στεφανώσουται δίκαιοι. Jerome, in me corona-buntur justi. The following יֵהָנִי is rendered in the E.V. for. The LXX. have ἕως οὗ ἀνταποδώξῃ μοι. Jer. cum retribueris mihi. Symm. ὅταν εὐφρενιστήσῃς με.

PSALM CXLIII.

THIS is the last of the seven Penitential Psalms, as they are called. (See Introduction to Vol. I. p. 23.) In the Hebrew it is styled a Psalm of David; in some copies of the LXX. it is further said to have been written when he had to flee from his son Absalom. It is probable that the deep tone of sorrow and anguish which pervades the Psalm, and the deep sense of sin, led to the belief that it must be referred to that occasion. The spirit and the language, it is true, are not unworthy of David; yet the many passages borrowed
from earlier Psalms make it more probable that this Psalm is the work of some later Poet. Delitzsch says very truly, that if David himself did nor write it—and he admits that the many expressions derived from other sources are against such a supposition—still the Psalm is "an extract of the most precious balsam from the old Davidic songs." Like other post-exile Psalms (such, for instance, as the 116th and 119th), it is a witness to us of the depth and reality of the religious life in the later history of the nation, and an evidence also of the way in which that life was upheld and cherished by the inspired words of David and other Psalmists and prophets of old.

The Psalm consists of two parts, each of which is of six verses, the conclusion of the first being marked by the Selah. The first portion contains the complaint (ver. 1-6); the second, the prayer founded on that complaint (ver. 7-12).

[A PSALM OF DAVID.]

1 0 JEHOVAH, hear my prayer,
Give ear to my supplications.
In Thy faithfulness answer me, (and) in Thy righteousness.

2 And enter not into judgement with Thy servant;
For before Thee no man living is righteous:

1. IN THY FAITHFULNESS ... IN THY RIGHTEOUSNESS. It is to God's own character that the appeal is made. It is there first, and not in his own misery, that the sinner finds the great argument why his prayer should be answered. It is precisely the same ground which St. John takes: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous (true to His promise and true to His revealed character) to forgive us our sins."

2. ENTER NOT INTO JUDGMENT, as in Job ix. 32, xxii. 4. He traces his suffering to his sin: the malice of his enemies is the rod of God's chastisement, calling him to repentance.

BEFORE THEE, i.e. at thy bar, in the judgement.

IS RIGHTEOUS. Our translators are not consistent in their rendering of this verb. Here they follow the LXX. οὐ δικαιωθησεται, "shall not be justified." But in Job ix. 15, x.
15, xv. 14, xxii. 3, xxxii. 1, xxxiv. 5, xxxv. 7, xl. 8, they give as the equivalent "to be righteous;" so, too, in Ps. xix. 9 [10]. But in Ps. li. 4 [6] they have "justify," as here; and so in Job xi. 2, xiii. 18, xxv. 4; whereas in iv. 17, xxxiii. 12, they render "to be just."

In many of the passages referred to in Job we see the same deep sense of man's unrighteousness before a righteous God which the Psalmist here expresses. Yet it is that very righteousness before which he trembles, to which he appeals, which he needs, in which alone he can stand before his Judge. The passage clearly shows, says Calvin, that he is justified who is considered and accounted just before God, or whom the heavenly Judge Himself acquits as innocent.
3 For the enemy hath persecuted my soul,
    He hath smitten my life down to the earth,
    He hath made me dwell in darkness as those that are
    for ever dead.
4 And my spirit is overwhelmed in me,
    My heart within me is desolate.
5 I have remembered the days of old,
    I have meditated on all Thou hast done;
    On the work of Thy hands do I muse.
6 I have spread forth my hands unto Thee,
    My soul (thirsteth) after Thee as a thirsty land.

[Selah.]
7 Make haste to answer me, 0 Jehovah,
   My spirit faileth:
   Hide not Thy face from me,
   That so I become like them that go down into the pit.

8 Cause me to hear Thy loving-kindness in the morning,
   For in Thee have I trusted;
   Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,
   For unto Thee have I lifted up my soul.

9 Deliver me from mine enemies, 0 Jehovah,
   Unto Thee have I fled to hide me.

10 Teach me to do Thy will,
    For Thou art my God;
    Let Thy good Spirit lead me in a plain country.

in short, makes his very need a
   chariot wherewith to mount up to
   God."

7. In the second half of the
   Psalm many of the expressions are
   borrowed from earlier Psalms.
   With the prayer in this verse comp.
   lxix. 17 [18], xxvii. 9, cii. 2 [3]; with
   the second clause comp. lxxxiv. 2
   [3], where the ardent longing for
   God is expressed in the same way.
   THAT SO I BECOME, &c., is word
   for word as in xxviii. 1; comp.
   lxxviii. 4 [5].

8. IN THE MORNING, i.e. early,
   soon. Comp. Moses' prayer, xc, 14.
   Various interpretations have been
   given, which are thus summed up
   by Calvin: "Adverbiuum mane
   frigide quidam restringunt ad sa-
   crificia. Scimus enim quotidie bis
   sacrificia offerre solitos, matutinum
   et vespertinum. Alii subtilius ac-
   cipiunt, quod Deus mitius agens
   cum suis servis dicatur formare
   novum diem. Alii metaphoram
   esse volunt et notari prosperum
   lxumque statum: sicut triste et
   calamitosum tempus saepe notatur
   per tenebras. Sed minor in hac
   voce quaei extraneos sensus, qua
   simpliciter repetit quod prius dis-
   erat festina. Mane ergo tantundem
   valet ac tempestive vel celeriter."
   THE WAY IN WHICH I SHOULD
   WALK. Comp. xxv. 4, cxlii. 3 [4],
   with Exod. xxxiiii. 13.
   LIFTED UP MY SOUL, as in xxv.
   1, lxxviii. 4.

   9. FLED TO HIDE ME, lit. "unto
   Thee have I hidden (myself)." But
   the phrase is very peculiar and its
   meaning doubtful. See in Critical
   Note.

   10. TO DO THY WILL, not merely
   to know it; hence the need of the
   Holy Spirit's aid, His quickening,
   guiding, strengthening, as well as
   His enlightening influence. "Ne-
   cesse est Deum nobis non mortua
   tantum litera magistrum esse et
doctorem, sed arcano Spiritus in-
stinctu, imo tribus modis fungitur
erga nos magistri officio: quia
   verbo suo nos docet; deinde Spiritu
   mentes illuminat: tertio cordibus
   nostris insculpit doctrinam, ut vero
   et serio consensu obediamus."
   THY WILL, lit. "Thy good plea-
   sure," as in ciii. 21. P.B.V., "The
   thing that pleaseth Thee."
   THY GOOD SPIRIT, as in Neh. ix.
   20; comp. Ps. li. 11 [13].

   IN A PLAIN COUNTRY, lit. "in a
   level land," or "on level ground,"
   where there is no fear of stumbling
   and falling, LXX. ὀδηγησεὶ με ἐν
   τῇ ἐθνεία, Sym. διὰ γῆς ὀμαλῆς. The
   word mishor is constantly used of
   the plain (champaign) country. See
PSALM CXLIII.

11 For Thy Name's sake, 0 Jehovah, quicken me,
In Thy righteousness bring my soul out of distress.
12 And of Thy loving-kindness cut off mine enemies,
And destroy all the adversaries of my soul;
For I am Thy servant.

for instance Deut. iv. 43. Comp.
Is. xxvi. 7, "The path of the righteous is level. Thou makest level (even, as if adjusted in the balance) the road of the righteous." It is unnecessary with Hupf. to correct the text, and substitute "path" for "land," for we have a similar expression in Is. xxvi. 10, "the land of uprightness."
Comp. with this verse generally xxvii. 11, xxxi. 3 [4], xl. 8 [9], ciii. 21.
11. OUT OF DISTRESS. Comp. cxlii. 7 [8].
The series of petitions in ver. 8—12 may thus be grouped:—
(I) Prayer for God's mercy or loving-kindness, as that on which all hangs, and then for guidance (ver. 8).
(2) For deliverance from enemies, and then still more fully for a knowledge of God's will, and the gifts of His Spirit, that he may obey that will (ver. 9, 10).
(3) For a new life, and deliverance from suffering, and now not only for deliverance from his enemies, but for their destruction (ver. 11, 12).

Hence the second petition in (1) answers to the second petition in (2); the first in (2) to the second in (3).
Further, in ver. 8-10, the ground of the petition in each case is the personal relation of the Psalmist to God: "In Thee have I trusted," "Unto Thee have I lifted up my soul," "Unto Thee have I fled," "Thou art my God;" and so also at the close of ver. 12, "I am Thy servant." On the other hand, in ver. 11, and the first member of ver. 12, the appeal is to God and His attributes, "For Thy Name's sake," "In Thy righteousness," "of Thy loving-kindness."
12. I AM THY SERVANT. "Tantundem hoc valet acsi Dei se clientem faciens, ejus patrocinio vitam suam permetteret."—Calvin.

It is not easy to explain the construction. The Syr. omits the words altogether. The LXX. render ἔγνωσέ σε κατέφυγον, from which it might seem that they read ἐλικὼν, were it not that elsewhere they render ἱνά, and not ἴνα (comp. ἵνα), by κατάφυγείν. The Targum paraphrases, "Thy word have I counted as a Redeemer," whence it might be inferred that they read ἔλικος (see this verb, Ex. xii. 4). Jerome apparently had our present text, only that he changed the vocalization, making it passive instead of active, Ad Te protectus sum (ἐλικόν). Qimchi would explain the phrase as a locutio praegnans: "I cried unto Thee in secret, and so as to hide it from men." Similarly Ibn 'Ez., who remarks that "to hide to a person" is exactly opposite to the expression "to hide from a person" (Gen. xviii. 17), and means, therefore, to reveal to him what is hidden from others. J. D. Mich. (Supplem. p. 1317) takes the same view, and so does Rosenm., "Tibi in occulto revelavi quod homines celavi." Se'adyah, who is followed by Ewald, Maurer, Hengst. and others, takes the verb in a reflexive sense, "Unto Thee (i.e. with Thee) have I
hidden myself;” which they defend by the use of the Pi’el in Gen. xxxviii.

PSALM CXLIV.

14, Deut. xxii. 12, Jon. iii. 6. The last of these, however, proves nothing, as כֶּלֶשׁ is to be supplied from the preceding כֶּלֶשׁ, and then the construction will be ”he covereth sackcloth, i.e. he puts it as a covering, upon him;” the construction being exactly the same as in Job xxxvi. 32, Ezek. xxiv. 7. In the other two passages Hupf. would adopt the somewhat arbitrary method of substituting the Hithpa’el for the Pi’el. Delitzsch more probably explains the use of the Pi’el in these passages as elliptical, Gen. xxxviii. 14, ”And she put a covering with a veil (before her face);” (Deut. xxii. 12, ”Wherewith thou puttest a covering (on thy body).” Hence they do not justify our taking יֹתָן כֶּלֶשׁ here in a reflexive sense. Hupf., Olsh., and others, would read יֹתָן כֶּלֶשׁ; but the objection to this is, that this verb is elsewhere always followed by ב, not by לָא. b הָבִּית. The art. is omitted occasionally with the adj. after a definite noun, Ges. § 111, 2 b. He quotes 2 Sam. vi. 3, Ezek. xxxix. 27. In the very same expression, Neh. ix. 20, we have the article with the adj. LXX. τὸ πνεῦμα σου τὸ α’γαθὸν.

PSALM CXLIV.

THIS is a singularly composite Psalm. The earlier portion of it, to the end of ver. 11, consists almost entirely of a cento of quotations, strung together from earlier Psalms; and it is not always easy to trace a real connection between them. The latter portion of the Psalm, ver. 12-15, differs completely from the former. It bears the stamp of originality, and, with the exception of the last line, which occurs also in xxxiii. 12, is entirely free from the quotations and allusions with which the preceding verses abound. It is hardly probable, however, that this concluding portion is the work of the Poet who compiled the rest of the Psalm: it is more probable that he has here transcribed a fragment * of some ancient Poem, in which were portrayed the happiness and prosperity of the nation in its brightest days,—under David, it may have been, or at the beginning of the reign of Solomon.

His object seems to have been thus to revive the hopes of his nation, perhaps after the return from the Exile, by reminding them how in their past history obedience to God had brought with it its full recompense.

* The latter portion of the Psalm is plainly a fragment, and has not even a verbal connection or link with what precedes. Yet in all MSS. and Editions and Versions, ancient and modern, it is joined to the first part as one Psalm.
Qimchi, who holds the Psalm to be David's, refers it to the events mentioned in 2 Sam. v., when having been acknowledged by all the tribes of Israel as their King (see ver. 2 of the Psalm, "who subdueth my people under me"), and having completely subjugated the Philistines, he might look forward to a peaceful and prosperous reign.

In some copies of the LXX. the Psalm is said to have been composed in honour of David's victory over Goliath; which may perhaps be due to the Targum on ver. 10, which explains "the hurtful sword " as the sword of Goliath. It is scarcely necessary to remark how improbable such a view is.

Others, again, have conjectured that the Psalm was directed against Abner (2 Sam. ii. 13, &c.), or against Absalom.

Theodoret supposes it to be spoken in the person of the Jews who, after their return from Babylon, were attacked by the neighbouring nations.

Another Greek writer, mentioned by Agellius, would refer the Psalm to the times of the Maccabees.

But the language of ver. 1-4, as well as the language of ver. 10, is clearly only suitable in the mouth of a king, or some powerful and recognized leader of the nation; and it is difficult to find a person of rank in the later history in whose mouth such a Psalm as this would be appropriate.

The Psalmist recounts glorious victories in the past, complains that the nation is now beset by strange, i.e. barbarous, enemies, so false and treacherous that no covenant can be kept with them, prays for deliverance from them by an interposition great and glorious as had been vouchsafed of old, and anticipates the return of a golden age of peace and plenty.

[(A PSALM) OF DAVID.]

1 BLESSED be Jehovah my rock,
Who traineth my hands for war,
My fingers for the battle.

2 My loving-kindness and my fortress,
The first two verses are taken from Ps. xviii. 2 [3], 46 [47], 34 [35]

2. MY LOVING-KINDNESS. A singular expression for "God of my loving-kindness," lix. 10 [11], 17 [18]; Jon. ii. 8 [9]. "Deum bonitatem suam nominat, ab eo manare intelligens quicquid possidet bonorum."—Calvin.
My high tower and my deliverer,
My shield, and He in whom I find refuge,
Who subdueth my people under me.

3 Jehovah, what is man, that Thou takest knowledge of him?
A son of man, that Thou makest account of him?

4 As for man, he is like a breath;
His days are as a shadow that passeth.

5 Bow Thy heavens, 0 Jehovah, and come down,
Touch the mountains that they smoke.

6 Shoot out lightning, and scatter them,
Send forth Thine arrows, and discomfit them.
7 Send forth Thine hand from above,
   Rid me, and deliver me from many waters,
   From the hand of the sons of the alien,
8 Whose mouth hath spoken falsehood,
   And whose right hand is a right hand of lies.
9 0 God, a new song will I sing unto Thee,
    Upon a ten-stringed lute will I play unto Thee,
10 Who giveth victory unto kings,
    Who riddeth David His servant from the hurtful sword.
11 Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange persons,
   Whose mouth hath spoken falsehood,
   And whose right hand is a right hand of lies.
12 We whose sons are as plants
   Grown up in their youth;

translated "rid" in the next verse is found only here in this sense (which is the meaning of the root in Aramaic and Arabic), so that even a writer who borrows so largely as this Psalmist has still his peculiarities. Comp. with this verse, xviii. 14.

7. THINE HAND. Many MSS. and editions have the singular, and so have all the ancient versions, though the received text has the plural.

SONS OF THE ALIEN, as in xviii, 44 [45].

8. A RIGHT HAND OF LIES, denoting faithlessness to a solemn covenant, the right hand being lifted up in the taking of an oath.

9. The prayer for deliverance is followed by the promise of thankfulness for the aid vouchsafed. The new song," however, is not given.

O GOD. "The Elohim in this verse is the only one in the last two Books of the Psalter, except in Ps. cviii., which is a composite Psalm formed of two old Davidic Elohist Psalms, and therefore clearly a weak attempt to reproduce the old Davidic Elohist style."—Delitzsch.

A NEW SONG. Comp. xxxiii. 3, xl. 3 [4]. UPON A TEN-STRINGED LUTE, xcii. 3 [4].

10. DAVID HIS SERVANT. Mentioned here apparently as an example of all kings and leaders, but with obvious reference to xviii. 50 [51].

11. This verse is repeated as a refrain from ver. 7, 8.

12. The passage which follows to the end is, as has already been remarked, altogether unlike the rest of the Psalm.

For its grammatical construction see Critical Note; on its connection with the preceding verses something has been said in the Introduction to the Psalm.

AS PLANTS. In a striking sermon
Our daughters as corner-pillars,
Sculptured to grace a palace;
13 Our garner\textsuperscript{b} full,
Affording all manner of store;
Our sheep multiplying in thousands,
In ten thousands in our fields;
14 Our oxen\textsuperscript{c} well laden;
No breach and no sallying forth,\textsuperscript{d}
And no cry (of battle) in our streets.

on this verse, the late Archdeacon Hare says of the figure here employed, "There is something so palpable and striking in this type, that, five-and-twenty years ago, in speaking of the gentlemanly character, I was led to say, 'If a gentleman is to grow up, he must grow like a tree: there must be nothing between him and heaven.'"

This figure marks the native strength and vigour and freedom of the youth of the land, as the next does the polished gracefulness, the quiet beauty, of the maidens. They are like the exquisitely-sculptured forms (the Caryatides), which adorned the corners of some magnificent hall or chamber of a palace.

To GRACE A PALACE, lit. "(after) the mode of structure of a palace."
13. ALL MANNER OF STORE, lit. "from kind to kind." The word is a late Aramaic word.
MULTIPLYING, lit. "bringing forth thousands, multiplied into ten thousands," or "made ten thousands."
FIELDS. This (and not "streets," E.V.) is the meaning of the word here, as in Job v. 10, Prov. viii. 26; and this is in accordance with the root-meaning, "places outside the city." "Field" is used in this sense in English: "By the civil law the corpses of persons deceased were buried out of the city in the fields."—Ayliffe, Parergon.

14. Every expression in this verse is of doubtful interpretation.
LADEN, or perhaps "our cattle great with young," i.e. "fruitful," which accords better with the preceding description of the sheep. See more in Critical Note.
NO BREACH. This is the obvious meaning of the word: see on lx. 2 [2, 3].
NO SALLYING FORTH, lit. "going out," which has been interpreted either of "going forth to war," or "going forth into captivity." This and the previous expression, taken together, most naturally denote a time of profound peace, when no enemy lies before the walls, when there is no need to fear the assault through the breach, no need to sally forth to attack the besiegers. Comp. Amos v. 3. The LXX. have διέξοδος Symm. ἐξῆγερσις, Jerome egressus. Ainsworth, "none going out, i.e. no cattle driven away by the enemy. See Amos iv. 3."
CRY (OF BATTLE). Such seems the probable meaning from the context; and so Calvin, clamar qui ex subito tumultu exortur, and Clericus, pugnantium; or it may mean, generally, "cry of sorrow," as in Jer. xiv. 2.
STREETS, broad open places, πλάτεια. In Jer. v. 1, the E.V. has "broad places."
The whole passage, 12-15, is a picture of the most perfect, undisturbed peace and tranquillity.
PSALM CXLIV

15 Happy is the people that is in such a case; e
Happy is the people which hath Jehovah for its God.

15. HAPPY. The temporal blessing of prosperity, as a sign of God's favour, is natural enough under the Old Dispensation. Calvin, however, says truly: "Si quis objiciat nihil nisi crassum et terrenum spirare, quod de felicitate hominum aestimat ex caducis commodis; respondeo, haec duo conjunctim legenda esse, beatos esse qui in sua abundantia Deum sibi propitium sentiunt; et sic ejus gratiam degustant in henedictionibus caducis ut de paterno ejus amore persuasi, aspicient ad veram haeditatem."

a ρησκ. The relative at the beginning of this verse is very perplexing. (1) The LXX., with their rendering ὁνυοιοι, would seem to refer it to the enemy, "the strange persons" of the preceding verse. But it is clear, from ver. 15, that the picture of ver. 12-14 is a picture of the felicity of the Jewish nation under the protection of Jehovah. (2) Hence De Wette and others would give to the relative the meaning of "in order that," "so that," as in Gen. xi. 7, Deut. iv. 40, I Kings xxii. 16; but then it must be followed by the finite verb, whereas here we have nothing but participles. (3) It has been suggested, therefore, to take the relative in the sense of "for," "because," as in Gen. xxxi. 49, Deut. iii. 24; but it is not clear how what follows in this and the next verse can be alleged as a reason for the prayer of the previous verse. (4) Bunsen refers the relative to God, and supplies a verb: "Who maketh our sons like plants," but does not attempt to defend the rendering. (5) Maurer joins the relative with the suffix of the following noun—certainly the most obvious construction—but finds here the expression of a wish, to which the form of the sentence (in participles) does not lend itself. He connects the verses thus: "Save me, Thy people, even us (ver. 1 t) ; whose sons, may they be as plants," &c. (6) Ewald also keeps to the common use of the relative, but connects it with ver. 15, "We, whose sons are, &c. . . . 0 happy is the people that is in such a case." And, supposing that the relative is to be retained, this is, on the whole, the most satisfactory. Hupfeld, however, and others, consider the whole passage, 12-15, as a fragment belonging to some other Psalm, and here altogether out of place. Delitzsch suggests, that perhaps ver. 11, where the refrain is repeated, ought to be struck out. In this case, however, the relative would naturally refer to God, and then we should expect some verb to follow it.

[Kay renders, "what time ;" but though ρησκ may mean this, such a sense is doubtful with the participle. The only other passage in which ρησκ stands with the participle, so far as I am aware, is Eccl. viii. 12, where Dr. Ginsburg, after a careful discussion of the use of the particle, renders "because." That sense, however, would not be suitable here, and I am now inclined (3rd Edit.) to suggest the rendering "whereas," as best suiting the context and the participle.]

b 'תני מ, a דן. λεγ., from a sing. ת מ or ת מ (Ew.), and in either case shortened from ת מ. The Aram. ת in the next line occurs again 2 Chron. xvi. 14, instead of י מ, which is the older word.
The word means elsewhere "princes," "leaders," and Maur., Furst, and others, would retain this meaning here: "Our princes are set up, i.e. full of power and dignity." They appeal, for this sense of המחלד to the Chald. form in Ezra vi. 3. This interpretation accords with what follows, but not with what precedes. After the mention of "sheep" (לעב a form in which the 1 is evidence of late writing), it is more natural to take ומחלד here as the representative in the later language of the older ילבש (viii. 8) oxen. But assuming this to be the case, the meaning of המחלד is still doubtful. It means laden or burdened, but how? (I) It has been explained to mean "capable of bearing burdens," laboris patientes, robusti (so the Chald. and Qimchi), but it is doubtful whether the pass. part. can bear this meaning. (2) "Laden, i.e. with the fruits of the land," as an image of plenteousness; or "laden with fat or flesh," and so "strong," which comes to pretty much the same thing as (I). So the LXX. παχνίος, and so the Syr., Jer., and most of the older interpreters. (3) Pregnant (laden with the fruit of the womb), as descriptive of the fruitfulness of the herds: so Ros., Ges., De W., Ew., Hitz., Hupf. The chief objection to this is the masc. form of the noun, but ילבש, like פפר, may be epicene.

d ἄντροι. App. here used as a noun, though strictly speaking the fern. participle as in Deut. xxviii. 57.

e ἂπεκακά. The same form occurs again Song of Sol, v. 9. The ש prefixed to הנו is a solitary instance.

PSALM CXLV.

THIS is the last of the Alphabetic Psalms, of which there are eight in all, if we reckon the 9th and 10th Psalms as forming one. Like four other of the Alphabetic Psalms, this bears the name of David, although there can in this case be no doubt that the Inscription is not to be trusted. As in several other instances, so here, the acrostic arrangement is not strictly observed. The letter Nun (ד) is omitted. The LXX. have supplied the deficiency by intercalating a verse, Πιστος (רמא), as in cxi. 7) Κύριος ἐν τοῖς λόγοις αὐτοῦ, καὶ ὁσιος ἐν πάσι τοῖς ἔργοις αὑτοῦ; but the latter part of this is taken from ver. 17, and none of the other Ancient Versions except the Syr. and those which follow the LXX. recognize this addition.

This is the only Psalm which is called a Tehillah, i.e. "Praise" or "Hymn," the plural of which word, Tehillim, is the general name for
the whole Psalter. The LXX. render it αὐνεσις, Aquila ὑμνησις, Symmachus ὑμνος, and "Hymn" is given as the equivalent in the Midrash on the Song of Solomon. In the Talmud Babli (Berakhoth, 4b) it is said: "Every one who recites the Tehillah of David thrice a day may be sure that he is a child of the world to come. And why? Not merely because the Psalm is alphabetical (for that the 119th is, and in an eightfold degree), nor only because it celebrates God's care for all creatures (for that the Great Hallel does, cxxxvi.. 25), but because it unites both these qualities in itself."

[A HYMN OF DAVID.]

1 I WILL exalt Thee my God, 0 King, And I will bless Thy Name for ever and ever.
2 Every day will I bless Thee, And I will praise Thy Name for ever and ever.
3 Great is Jehovah, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.
4 One generation to another shall laud Thy works, And shall declare Thy mighty acts.
5 Of the glorious honour of Thy majesty, And of Thy wondrous works will I meditate.
6 And men shall speak of the power of Thy terrible acts, And I will tell of Thy greatness.
7 The memory of Thine abundant goodness they shall utter, And sing aloud of Thy righteousness.

| I. FOR EVER AND EVER. Not merely, as Calvin, etiamsi filura secula victurus est: but the heart lifted up to God, and full of the thoughts of God, can no more conceive that its praise should cease, than that God Himself should cease to be. | THY WONDROUS WORKS, lit. "the words of Thy wondrous works." Comp. lxv. 3 [4].
MEDITATE, or perhaps "rehearse," i.e. in poetry. The E.V. commonly renders the word "talk of."
6. AND I WILL TELL, &c., lit. "and as for Thy greatnesses (or great acts), I will tell of every one of them."
7. UTTER, lit. it is "pour forth," the same word as in xix. 2 [31 lxx. 7 [8], where see Note. |
| 3. GREATLY TO BE PRAISED, or "greatly praised; " but see on xviii. 3. | |
| 5. OF THE GLORIOUS HONOUR, &c., or "of the majesty of the glory of thine honour." | |
8 Gracious and of tender compassion is Jehovah,
    Long-suffering and of great loving-kindness.
9 Jehovah is good unto all,
    And His tender compassions are over all His works,
10 All Thy works give thanks to Thee, 0 Jehovah,
    And Thy beloved bless Thee.
11 They talk of the glory of Thy kingdom,
    And speak of Thy might.
12 To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts,
    And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.
13 Thy kingdom is a kingdom for all ages,
    And Thy dominion for all generations.

14 Jehovah upholdeth all them that fall,
    And raiseth up all those that be bowed down.
15 The eyes of all wait upon Thee,
    And Thou givest them their food in its season;
16 Opening Thine hand,
    And satisfying the desire of every living thing.
17 Jehovah is righteous in all His ways,
    And loving in all His works.
18 Jehovah is nigh to all them that call upon Him,
    To all that call upon Him in truth.
19 He fulfilleth the desire of them that fear Him,
    And when He heareth their cry He helpeth them.
20

Jehovah keepeth all them that love Him,
But all the wicked will He destroy.

21

Let my mouth speak the praise of Jehovah,
And let all flesh bless His holy Name for ever and ever.

a נַגֵּדְתִּי נַגְדֶיהוֹז נַעֲדֵיהוֹז. The K'thibh is in the plur., which has been very unnecessarily corrected to the sing., because of the following singular suffix, which, however, is not uncommon with the plur. (see for instance 2 Kings iii. 3, x. 26), and here, moreover, can be readily explained as distributive, especially as the sing. suffix follows.

b מֵרָבָּם. The adj. is irregularly prefixed, possibly, as Hengst. suggests, because it forms one word with the noun following = much-goodness. Qim., Ros., Olsh., Del., would take בְּרָבָּם as a subst., for בְּרָב; but according to the analogy of xxxi. 20, Is. lxiii. 7, it must be an adj.

PSALM CXLVI.

THIS Psalm is the first of another series of Hallelujah Psalms, with which the Book closes. Certain of the words and phrases seem to connect it with the 145th; others are borrowed from the 104th and 118th. The LXX. ascribe it, as they do the 138th and the next two Psalms (or the next three, according to their reckoning, for they divide the 147th into two), to Haggai and Zechariah Ἀγγαίου καὶ Ζαχαρίου. It is by no means improbable that this Inscription represents an ancient tradition, for nothing would be more natural than that these Prophets should directly or indirectly have contributed to the liturgy of the Second Temple, to which these Psalms so evidently belong. Later they formed, together with Psalms cxix. and cl., a portion of the daily morning prayer; they also had the name of “Hallel,” though expressly distinguished from "the Hallel" which was to be sung at the Passover and the other Feasts.

The Psalm bears evident traces, both in style and language, and also in its allusions to other Psalms, of belonging to the post-Exile literature; and the words of verses 7-9 are certainly no inapt expression of the feelings which would naturally be called forth at a time immediately subsequent to the return from the Captivity.
Psalm CXLVI.

It has an exhortation to trust not in man (ver. 3, 4), but in Jehovah alone (ver. 5),--an exhortation enforced by the exhibition of Jehovah's character and attributes as the one really worthy object of trust (ver. 6-9), and confirmed by the fact that His kingdom does not contain the seeds of weakness and dissolution, like all earthly kingdoms, but is eternal as He is eternal (ver. 10).

Hallelujah!
1 Praise Jehovah, 0 my soul!
2 I will praise Jehovah as long as I live,
   I will play (on the harp) unto my God while I have any being.
3 Trust not in princes,
   (Nor) in the son of man, in whom there is no help.
4 His breath goeth forth; he turneth to his earth,
   In that very day his thoughts perish.
5 Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help,
   Whose hope (resteth) upon Jehovah his God,
6 Who made heaven and earth,
   The sea, and all that therein is;
   Who keepeth truth for ever;

we have the Hebrew equivalent Job xii. 5), however grand the conception, however masterly the execution, all come to an end. The science, the philosophy, the statesmanship of one age is exploded in the next. The men who are the masters of the world's intellect to-day are dis-crowned to-morrow. In this age of restless and rapid change they may survive their own thoughts: their thoughts do not survive them. There is an almost exact parallel in 1 Macc. ii. 63.

5. FOR HIS HELP. The predicate is introduced by the preposition (the Beth essentiae, as the grammarians term it), as in xxxv. 2, for instance.

6. WHO MADE (as in cxv. 15, cxxi. 2, cxxiv. 8, cxxxiv. 3, this designation of God being charac-teristic of the later Psalms). First, He is an Almighty God, as the
PSALM CXL VI.

7 (Who) executeth judgement for the oppressed,
(Who) giveth bread to the hungry:
Jehovah looseth the prisoners,
8 Jehovah openeth the eyes of the blind,
Jehovah raiseth up them that are bowed down;
Jehovah loveth the righteous;
9 Jehovah keepeth the strangers,
He setteth up the widow and the fatherless,
But the way of the wicked He turneth aside.
10 Jehovah shall be King for ever,
Thy God, 0 Zion, unto all generations.
Hallelujah!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creator of the universe; next, He is a faithful God (&quot;who keepeth truth for ever&quot;); further, He is a righteous God (ver. 7), a bountiful God (ib.), a gracious God (ver. 7 -9).</th>
<th>interprets this loosing of the prisoners as an allowing of what had once been forbidden.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHO KEEPETH. In the series of participles marking the several acts or attributes of God in this and the next two verses, this only has the article prefixed, perhaps because the Psalmist designed to give a certain prominence or emphasis to this attribute of God, that He is One &quot;who keepeth truth for ever.&quot; It is, in fact, the central thought of the Psalm. For on this ground beyond all others is God the object of trust. He is true, and His word is truth, and that word He keeps, not for a time, but for ever.</td>
<td>8. OPENETH THE EYES, lit. &quot;openeth the blind,&quot; i.e. maketh them to see. The expression may be used figuratively, as a remedy applied either to physical helplessness, as Deut. xxviii. 29, Is. lxxv. 9, 10, Job xii. 25; or to spiritual want of discernment, as Is. xxix. xli. 7, 18, xliii. 8. Here the context favours the former.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9. These verses portray God's character as a ruler. It is such a God who is Zion's King, ver. 10. Such an One men may trust, for He is not like the princes of the earth, ver. 3.</td>
<td>RAISETH UP. This word only occurs once besides, cxlv. 14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. LOOSETH THE PRISONERS. Comp. Is. lxi. 1. Delitzsch quotes a curious instance of the allegorical interpretation of these words from Joseph Albo, who in his Dogmatics (bearing date 1425), sect. ii. cap. 16, maintaining against Maimonides that the ceremonial law was not of perpetual obligation, appeals to the Midrash Tanchuma, which</td>
<td>9. THE STRANGERS . . . THE WIDOW . . . THE FATHERLESS, the three great examples of natural defencelessness. &quot;Valde gratus mihi est hic Psalmus,&quot; says Bakius, &quot;ob Trifolium illud Dei: Advenas, Pu. pillos, et Viduas, versus uno luculentissime depictum, id quod in toto Psalterio nulli fit.&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SETTETH UP, the same word as in cxlvii. 6.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>HE TURNETH ASIDE, rendered by the E.V. in Ecclesiastes, &quot;made crooked.&quot; That which happens in the course of God's Providence, and as the inevitable result of His righteous laws, is usually ascribed in Scripture to His immediate agency.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>10. SHALL BE KING. See Introduction to xcix.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
LIKE the last Psalm, and like those which follow it, this is evidently an anthem intended for the service of the Second Temple. It celebrates God's almighty and gracious rule over His people and over the world of nature, but mingles with this a special commemoration of His goodness in bringing back His people from their captivity and rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. In the allusions to these events in ver. 2, 3, and ver. 13, 14, we shall probably be justified in seeing the occasion of the Psalm. It may have been written for the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, which, as we learn from Nehem. xii. 27, was kept "with gladness, both with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps." It is indeed not improbable, as Hengstenberg suggests, that not this Psalm only, but the rest of the Psalms to the end of the Book, are all anthems originally composed for the same occasion. The wall had been built under circumstances of no ordinary difficulty and discouragement (Neh. ii. 17-iv. 23): its completion was celebrated with no common joy and thankfulness; "for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the wives also and the children had rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even from afar off." See Neh. xii. 27-43.

The Psalm cannot be said to have any regular strophical arrangement, but the renewed exhortations to praise in ver. 7, 12, suggest a natural division of the Psalm. It is a *Trifolium* of praise.

The LXX. divide the Psalm into two parts, beginning a new Psalm at ver. 12.

I HALLELUJAH!

For it is good to sing "unto our God,

For it is sweet; comely is the hymn of praise.

2 Jehovah doth build up Jerusalem,

He gathereth together the outcasts of Israel;

1. This verse might perhaps be better rendered with the change of a single consonant: "Praise ye Jab, for He is good; sing unto our God, for He is lovely; comely is the hymn of praise." Comp. cxxxv. 3, xxxiii. i. See more in Critical Note.

2. DOTH BUILD UP. With reference to the rebuilding of the walls after the Captivity, as in cxxii. 3.
3 Who healeth the broken in heart,
   And bindeth up their wounds;
4 Who telleth the number of the stars,
   He giveth names unto them all.
5 Great is our Lord, and of great power,
   His understanding is infinite.
6 Jehovah setteth up the afflicted,
   He casteth the wicked down to the ground.

GATHERETH TOGETHER. A verb found in this conjugation only, Ezek. xxii. 20 [21], xxxix. 28, and in the latter passage with the same reference as here.
OUTCASTS, lit. "those who are thrust out, driven away." Symm. ἐξωσμένους, whereas the LXX. express the sense more generally, τοις διασποραῖς. It is the same word as in Is. xi. 12, lvi. 8.
3. BROKEN IN HEART. As in xxxiv. 18 [19], Is. lxi. 1, where, however, the participle is Niph'al.
4. WHO TELLETH THE NUMBER, lit. "apportioneth a number to the stars." This is adduced as a proof of the omniscience and omnipotence of God, and hence as a ground of consolation to His people, however they may have been scattered, and however they may have been oppressed. Surely He must know, He must be able to succour, human woe, to whom it is an easy thing to count those stars which are beyond man's arithmetic (Gen. xv. 5).
   The argument is precisely the same as in Is. xl. 26-29, "Lift up your eyes and see: Who hath created these things? It is He that bringeth out their host by number, who calleth them all by name. For abundance of power, and because He is mighty in strength, not one faileth. Why sayest thou, 0 Jacob, and speakest, 0 Israel, My way is hid from Jehovah, and my cause is passed away from my God? Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard? An everlasting God is Jehovah, who created the ends of the earth. He fainteth not., neither is weary: there is no searching of His understanding. He giveth to the weary strength, and to them that have no power He increaseth might," &c. The passages in italics will show how evidently the words of the Prophet were in the mind of the Psalmist.
GIVETH NAMES, an expression marking not only God's power in marshalling them all as a host (Is. xl. 26), but also the most intimate knowledge and the most watchful care, as that of a shepherd for his flock, John x. 3. For the idiom see Gen. ii.
5. OF GREAT POWER, lit. "abounding in power," as in Is. xl. 26, "mighty in strength," though there perhaps the epithet applies to the stars, unless indeed we may take the use of the phrase here as deciding its application there.
HIS UNDERSTANDING IS INFINITE, lit. "to (of) His understanding there is no number," apparently in the Heb. a play on ver. 4, where it is said "He telleth the number," &c., whereas both in cxlv. 3 and Is. xl. 28 it is, "there is no searching." Comp. Rom. xi. 33, ἀνεξίχθειστοι αἱ ὅδοι αὐτοῦ.
6. The same Lord who with infinite power and unsearchable wisdom rules the stars in their courses, rules also the world of man. The history of the world is a mirror both of His love and of His righteous anger. His rule and His order are a correction of man's anarchy and disorder.
7 Sing unto Jehovah with thanksgiving,
    Play upon the harp unto our God;
8 Who covereth the heaven with clouds,
    Who prepareth rain for the earth,
    Who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains;
9 (Who) giveth to the cattle their fodder,
    (And) to the young ravens which cry.
10 Not in the strength of an horse doth He delight,
    Not in the legs of a man doth He take pleasure;
11 Jehovah taketh pleasure in them that fear Him,
    In them that hope for His loving-kindness.
12 Laud Jehovah, 0 Jerusalem,
    Praise thy God, 0 Zion;
13 For He hath strengthened the bars of thy gates,
    He hath blessed thy children in the midst of thee;
14 Who maketh thy border peace,
    (And) satisfieth thee with the fat of wheat;

7. A fresh burst of praise because of God's fatherly care, as shown in His provision for the wants of the cattle and the fowls of the air. And as He feeds the ravens (comp. Luke xii. 24), which have neither storehouse nor barn, but only cry to Him for their food (Job. xxxviii. 41), so amongst men (ver. 10) His delight is not in those who trust in their own strength and swiftness, but in those who look to Him, fear Him, put their trust in His goodness.

In ver. 8 the LXX. have added, from civ. 14, "and herb for the service of men," whence it has found its way into our P. B. V. But here this addition is out of place, and disturbs the order of thought. It is not till ver. to, 11, that man is introduced.

9. WHICH CRY, Or, "when they cry."

12. Again the Psalmist begins his hymn of praise, and now with a direct reference to the rebuilding of Jerusalem, and the bright prospect which seemed to dawn upon the nation after its restoration.

13. HATH STRENGTHENED THE BARS OF THY GATES. The expression might certainly denote figuratively (as Hupfeld says) the security of the city, but as the Psalm so evidently refers to the return from the Captivity and the rebuilding of Jerusalem (ver. 2), there can be little doubt that there is here a direct and literal reference to the setting up of the gates as described in Neh. vii. 1-4.

With the latter part of the verse comp. the promise in Is. lx. 17, 18, "I will also make thy officers peace: violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders, but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise."

14. FAT OF WHEAT. See on lxxi. 16 [17].
15 Who sendeth forth His commandment upon earth:
   His word runneth very swiftly;
16 Who giveth snow like wool,
   (And) scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes;
17 (Who) casteth forth His ice like morsels:
   Who can stand before His frost?
18 He sendeth His word, and melteth them,
   He causeth His wind to blow, (and the) waters flow.
19 He declareth His word unto Jacob,
   His statutes and His judgements unto Israel.
20 He hath not dealt so with any nation;
   And as for (His) judgements, they do not know them.
   Hallelujah!

15-18. This repeated reference merely in the general resemblance to God's power as manifested in the world is certainly remarkable, and is characteristic of these later with Psalms. It may perhaps be accounted for by the fact that never had so strong a conviction laid hold of the national heart, of the utter impotence of all the gods of the heathen as after the return from the Exile; never, therefore, so triumphant and living a sense of the dominion of Jehovah, not in Israel only, but throughout the universe.

15. His COMMANDMENT, or "say-ing," with reference perhaps to the creative fiat, "And God said:" comp. xxxiii. 9. God is said to "send" this as His messenger, as in ver. 18 of this Psalm, and cvii. 20, where see note.

16. SNOW LIKE WOOL, &C. point of the comparison is probably
a הָרִאשׁ里面有. This, as it stands, must be a fem. infin. Pi'el, and as such it is usually defended by ובָּשֵׂם, Lev. xxvi. 18, the only other instance of such a form; but Hupf. contends that such fem. infin. in the Pi'el and Hiph. ought to be of the forms כִּסֵּסָה and כִּסֵּסִים, as in Aramaic. He also objects that כִּסֵּס cannot mean "for it is good," but "for He is good," the adjective being always predicated of God, and he appeals especially to the parallel passage, cxxxv. 3. Further, according to the usual rendering, the second hemistich of the verse consists of two verses
dependent on קָנָה, yet unconnected with one another; and in the next
verse the construction is carried on with a participle, which implies that
Jehovah is already the subject of the previous verse. Hence, unless
תָּמִרכָה is imperat. paragog. sing., instead of plur. (which here would be a
harsh enallage of number), we must either read תָּמִרכָה (so Ven., Olsh.) or
תָּמִרכָה, with the same change from the 3rd pers. to the 1st as in cxlv. 6.
The Athnach is wrongly placed: it should clearly stand with מִמְיַנֵּס, not
with מִלְדָּרֵי.

PSALM CXLVIII.

IN this splendid Anthem the Psalmist calls upon the whole crea-
tion, in its two great divisions (according to the Hebrew conception)
of heaven and earth, to praise Jehovah. Things with and things
without life, beings rational and irrational, are summoned to join the
mighty chorus. The Psalm is an expression of the loftiest devotion,
and embraces at the same time the most comprehensive view of the
relation of the creature to the Creator. Whether it is exclusively the
utterance of a heart filled to the full with the thought of the infinite
majesty of God, or whether it is also an anticipation, a prophetic
forecast, of the final glory of creation, when, at the manifestation of
the sons of God, the creation itself shall also be redeemed from the
bondage of corruption (Rom. viii. 18-23), and the homage of praise
shall indeed be rendered by all things that are in heaven and earth
and under the earth, is a question into which we need not enter.
The former seems to my mind the more probable view; but the
other is as old as Hilary, who sees the end of the exhortation of the
Psalm to be, "Ut ob depulsam seculi vanitatem creatura omnis, ex
magnis officiorum suorum laboribus absoluta, et in beato regno aeternitatis aliquando respirans Deum suum et laeta praedicat et quieta, et
eipsa secundum Apostolum in gloriam beatae aeternitatis assumpta."

Isaac Taylor says: "It is but faintly and afar off that the ancient
liturgies (except so far as they merely copied their originals) come
up to the majesty and the wide compass of the Hebrew worship
such as it is indicated in the 148th Psalm. Neither Ambrose, nor
Gregory, nor the Greeks, have reached or approached this level;
and in tempering the boldness of their originals by admixtures of
what is more Christianlike and spiritual, the added elements sustain
an injury which is not compensated by what they bring forward of a purer or less earthly kind: feeble, indeed, is the tone of these anthems of the ancient Church; sophisticated or artificial is their style. Nor would it be possible,—it has never yet seemed so,—to Christianize the Hebrew anthems, retaining their power, their earth-like richness, and their manifold splendours—which are the very splendours and the true riches and the grandeur of God's world—and withal attempered with expressions that touch to the quick the warmest human sympathies. And as the enhancement of all these there is the nationality, there is that fire which is sure to kindle fire in true human hearts

‘He showeth His word unto Jacob,  
His statutes and His judgements unto Israel.  
He hath not dealt so with any nation;  
As for His judgements, they have not known them.'

[From the close of the 147th Psalm].”—*Spirit of the Hebrew Poetry*, pp. 157, 158.

The earliest imitation of this Psalm is "The Song of the Three Children," interpolated by the LXX. into the 3rd chapter of Daniel. The Hymn of Francis of Assisi, in which he calls upon the creatures to praise God, *propter honorabilem fratrem nostrum solem*, has also been compared with it, though there is really no comparison between the two. The same Francis, who thus calls the sun our "honourable brother," could also address a cricket as his sister, "Canta, soror mea cicada, et Dominum creatorem tuum jubilo lauda." But neither in this Psalm, nor elsewhere in Scripture, is this brotherly and sisterly relation of things inanimate and irrational to man recognized or implied.

The Psalm consists of two equal parts:

I. The praise of God in heaven.  
   Ver. 1—6.  
II. The praise of God on earth.  
   Ver. 7-12.

I HALLELUJAH!  
0 praise Jehovah from the heavens,  
Praise Him in the heights.

I. FROM THE HEAVENS. This first verse is not to be restricted merely to the angels. It is the prelude comprising all afterwards enumerated, angels, sun, and moon, &c.
2 Praise ye Him, all His angels,
Praise Him, all His host.

3 Praise Him, sun and moon,
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.

4 Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens,
And ye waters, that be above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the Name of Jehovah,
For HE commanded, and they were created;

6 And He made them to stand (fast) for ever and ever,
He hath given them a decree, and they transgress it not.

7 0 praise Jehovah from the earth,
Ye sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and vapour,
Stormy wind fulfilling His word;

2. HIS HOST. Here, as is plain from the parallelism, "the angels," as also in I Kings xxii. 19, though elsewhere the expression is used of the stars, and some would so understand it here.

4. HEAVENS OF HEAVENS. A superlative, according to the common Hebrew idiom, denoting "the highest heavens; " comp. 2 Cor. xii. 2. Others take it as a poetical way of expressing the apparently boundless depth of the heavens. So Luther, "Ihr Himmel allenthalben; "Maurer, " Omnia coelorum spatia utut vasta et infinita; " an interpretation which perhaps derives some support from the phrase, "the heaven and the heaven of heavens," Deut.x.14; I Kings viii. 27.

WATERS . . . ABOVE THE HEAVENS, as in Gen. i. 7. This is usually explained of the clouds, though the form of expression cannot be said to favour such an explanation, nor yet the statement in Genesis, that the firmament or expanse was intended to separate the waters above from the waters below. Taken in their obvious meaning, the words must point to the existence of a vast heavenly sea or reservoir. However, it is quite out of place, especially when dealing with language so evidently poetical as this, to raise any question as to its scientific accuracy.

5. HE COMMANDED. The LXX. add here from the parallel passage, xxxiii. 9, the other clause, "He spake, and it was done," or, as they render, "... and they were made."

6. AND THEY TRANSGRESS IT NOT, lit. "and none of them transgresses it; "for the verb is in the singular, and therefore distributive. Others, as the E.V., following the LXX., Jerome, the Syriac, &c., "a law which shall not pass," or "shall not be broken." The objection to this is, that the verb is never used elsewhere of the passing away of a law, but always of the transgression of a law.

7. The second great division of created things,—that is, according to the Old Test. view, THE EARTH.

SEA: MONSTERS, mentioned first, as at the bottom of the scale in creation, as in Gen. i. 21.

8. FIRE, i.e. "lightning," as in
9 Mountains and all hills,  
Fruit-trees and all cedars;  
10 Beasts and all cattle,  
Creeping things and winged fowl;  
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
Princes and all judges of the earth;  
12 Both young men and maidens,  
Old men and children;  
13 Let them praise the name of Jehovah,  
For His Name only is exalted,  
His majesty above earth and heaven.  
14 And He hath lifted up the horn of His people,  
—A praise to all His beloved,  
(Even) to the children of Israel, a people near unto Him.

Hallelujah!

xviii. 12 [13], where it is in like manner joined with hail.  
VAPOUR, or perhaps rather "smoke," answering to "fire" as "snow" to "hail."

STORMY WIND, as in cvii. 25.

11, 12. Man mentioned last, as the crown of all. The first step (see ver. 7) and the last are the same as in Gen. i. In the intervening stages, with the usual poetic freedom, the order of Genesis is not adhered to.

13. LET THEM PRAISE, exactly as at the close of the first great division of the anthem, ver. 5; and, in the same way as there, the reason for the exhortation follows in the next clause. But it is a different reason. It is no longer because He has given them a decree, bound them as passive unconscious creatures by a law which they cannot transgress. (It is the fearful mystery of the reasonable will that it can transgress the law.) It is because His Name is exalted, so that the eyes of men can see and the hearts and tongues of men confess it; it is because He has graciously revealed Himself to, and mightily succoured, the people whom He loves, the nation who are near to Him. If it be said, that what was designed to be a Universal Anthem is thus narrowed at its close, it must be remembered that, however largely the glory of God was written on the visible creation, it was only to the Jew that any direct revelation of His character had been made.

EXALTED. Is. xii. 4, &c., xxx. 13.

14. LIFTED UP THE HORN. See on lxxv. 6, others "hath lifted up a horn unto His people," the horn being the house of David.

A PRAISE. This may either be (1) in apposition with the whole previous sentence, viz. the lifting up of the horn is "a praise," a glory, to His beloved (comp. I s. lxi. 3, II, lxii. 7); or (2) in apposition with the subject of the previous verb, God Himself is "a praise (i.e. object of praise) to," &c. So the LXX. ὑψωσε, Jerome laus. So the P.B.V. gives the sense: "all His saints shall praise Him."

NEAR UNTO HIM, as a holy people, Deut. iv. 7. Comp. Lev. x. 3.
THE feelings expressed in this Psalm are perfectly in accordance with the time and the circumstances to which we have already referred the whole of this closing group of Hallelujah-Psalms, beginning with the 146th. It breathes the spirit of intense joy and eager hope which must have been in the very nature of things characteristic of the period which succeeded the return from the Babylonish captivity. Men of strong faith and religious enthusiasm and fervent loyalty must have felt that in the very fact of the restoration of the people to their own land was to be seen so signal a proof of the Divine favour, that it could not but be regarded as a pledge of a glorious future yet in store for the nation. The burning sense of wrong, the purpose of a terrible revenge, which was the feeling uppermost when they had first escaped from their oppressors (as in Psalm cxxxvii.), was soon changed into the hope of a series of magnificent victories over all the nations of the world, and the setting up of a universal dominion. It is such a hope which is expressed here. The old days of the nation, and the old martial spirit, are revived. God is their King (ver. 2), and they are His soldiers, going forth to wage His battles, with His praises in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hands. A spirit which now seems sanguinary and revengeful had, it is not too much to say, its proper function under the Old Testament, and was not only natural but necessary, if that small nation was to maintain itself against the powerful tribes by which it was hemmed in on all sides. But it ought to require no proof that language like that of ver. 6-9 of this Psalm is no warrant for the exhibition of a similar spirit in the Christian Church.

"The dream that it was possible to use such a prayer as this, without a spiritual transubstantiation of the words, has made them the signal for some of the greatest crimes with which the Church has ever been stained. It was by means of this Psalm that Caspar Scipio in his 'Clarion of the Sacred War' (Classicum Belli Sacri), a work written, it has been said, not with ink but with blood, roused and inflamed the Roman Catholic Princes to the Thirty Years' War. It was by means of this Psalm that, in the Protestant community, Thomas Munzer fanned the flames of the War of the Peasants. We see from these and other instances, that when in her
interpretation of such a Psalm the Church forgets the words of the Apostle, ‘the weapons of our warfare are not carnal’ (2 Cor. x. 4), she falls back upon the ground of the Old Testament, beyond which she has long since advanced,—ground which even the Jews themselves do not venture to maintain, because they cannot altogether withdraw themselves from the influence of the light which has dawned in Christianity, and which condemns the vindictive spirit. The Church of the Old Testament, which, as the people of Jehovah, was at the same time called to wage a holy war, had a right to express its hope of the universal conquest and dominion promised to it, in such terms as those of this Psalm; but, since Jerusalem and the seat of the Old Testament worship have perished, the national form of the Church has also for ever been broken in pieces. The Church of Christ is built up among and out of the nations; but neither is the Church a nation, nor will ever again one nation he the Church, κόσμος τούτων. Therefore the Christian must transpose the letter of this Psalm into the spirit of the New Testament."—Delitzsch.

I HALLELUJAH!

0 sing to Jehovah a new song,
His praise in the congregation of (His) beloved.
2 Let Israel rejoice in Him that made him, a
Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King;
3 Let them praise His Name in the dance,
With tabret and harp let them play unto Him;
4 For Jehovah taketh pleasure in His people,
He beautifieth the afflicted with salvation.

5 Let (His) beloved exult with glory,

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1. A NEW SONG. As expressive of all the new hopes and joys of a new era, a new spring of the nation, a new youth of the Church bursting forth into a new life.
   (HIS) BELOVED, or "them that love Him;" see on xvi. 10. A name repeated ver. 5 and 9, and therefore characteristic of the Psalm.

2. IN THEIR KING. God again is claimed emphatically as the King of the nation, when they had no longer a king sitting on David's throne. Such a King will not leave

them under foreign rule; He will break the yoke of every oppressor from their neck.

4. TAKETH PLEASURE, as has been shown by their restoration to their own land. Comp. Is. liv. 7, 8.
   BEAUTIFIETH. Comp., as having the same reference to the change in the condition of the nation, Is. lv. 5; lx. 7, 9, 13; lxii. 3.

5. WITH GLORY, or it might be rendered "because of (the) glory (put upon them)."
   UPON THEIR BEDS. Even there,
Let them sing for joy upon their beds;
6 With the high \(^b\) praises of God in their mouth,
   And a two-edged sword in their hand;
7 To execute vengeance on the nations,
   (And) punishments on the peoples;
8 To bind their kings with chains,
   And their nobles with iron fetters;
9 To execute upon them (the) judgement written,
   It is an honour for all His beloved.
Hallelujah!

| even when they have laid themselves down to rest, let them break forth into joyful songs at the thought of God's high favour shown to them, in the anticipation of the victories which they shall achieve. This appears to me to be the obvious and most simple explanation. Maurer, "Tam privata quam publica sit laetitia." Hengstenberg, "Upon their beds,—where before, in the loneliness of night, they consumed themselves with grief for their shame." Comp. Hos. vii. 14. 6. A revival of the old military spirit of the nation, of which we have an instance Neh. iv. 17 [11], "With the one hand they did their work, and with the other they held the sword." But a still better parallel is 2 Macc. xv. 27, ταῖς μὲν χερσίν ἀγνωστοῖς, ταῖς δὲ καρδίαις πρὸς τὸν θεόν εὐχεθοῖς. MOUTH. Heb. "throat," probably intended to express the loud utterance. 9. (THE) JUDGEMENT WRITTEN. This has been explained to mean the judgement written in the Law, and that either (1) the extermination of the Canaanites, as a pattern for all future acts of righteous vengeance (Stier); or (2), in a more general sense, such judgements as those threatened in Deut. xxxii. 40-43. Comp. Is. xlvi. 14; Ezek. xxv. 14, xxxviii., xxxix.; Zech. xiv. But the extermination of the Canaanites could not be regarded as a typical example, for the Jews were not sent to exterminate other nations, nor is any such measure hinted at here. Nor, again, if by "written " we understand " prescribed in the Law," is the allusion to Deut. xxxii. 40-44 and similar passages more probable; for in those passages vengeance on the enemies of Israel is not enjoined, but God speaks of it as His own act. Hence others understand by "a judgement written" one in accordance with the Divine will as written in Scripture, as opposed to selfish aims and passions (so Calvin). But perhaps it is better to take it as denoting a judgement fixed, settled—as committed to writing, so as to denote its permanent, unalterable character—written thus by God Himself. As in Is. lxv. 6 God says, "Behold it is written before Me : I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom." IT IS AN HONOUR. That is, the subjection of the world described in the previous verses. But perhaps it is better to take the pronoun as referring to God: "He is a glory to all," &c.: i.e. either (1) His glory and majesty are reflected in His people; or (2) He is the author and fountain of their glory; or (3) He is the glorious object of their praise.
a דִּשְׁנָא. This has been usually taken as a plur., adapting itself to
בָּדַיָּא: but it is rather sing. (with the usual substitution of י for ה in
verbs מְלַל), and particularly in this participle, Job xxxv. 10, Is.. liv. 5.
So Hupf. and Ewald, Lehrb. § 256 b, and so also Gesen. in the latest
editions of his Grammar.

b רֹאִימוּ, infin. subst. from רֹאֵים: see on lxvi. note f.

PSALM CL.

THE great closing Hallelujah, or Doxology of the Psalter, in which
every kind of musical instrument is to bear its part as well as the
voice of man, in which not one nation only, but "everything that
hath breath," is invited to join. It is one of those Psalms which "de-
clare their own intention as anthems, adapted for that public worship
which was the glory and delight of the Hebrew people; a worship
carrying with it the soul of the multitude by its simple majesty and
by the powers of music, brought in their utmost force to recommend
the devotions of earth in the ears of heaven." "Take it," says Isaac
Taylor, "as a sample of this class, and bring the spectacle and the
sounds into one, for the imagination to rest in. It was evidently to
subserve the purposes of music that these thirteen verses are put
together: it was, no doubt, to give effect first to the human voice,
and then to the alternations of instruments,—loud and tender, and
gay,—with the graceful movements of the dance, that the anthem
was composed and its chorus brought out,

'Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!
Praise ye the Lord!'

And so did the congregated thousands take up their part with a
shout, 'even as the voice of many waters.'—Spirit of the Hebrew

1 HALLELUJAH!

0 praise God in His sanctuary,
Praise Him in the firmament of His strength.

I. IN HIS SANCTUARY. This
may be either the earthly or the
heavenly Temple. The character
of the Psalm, as a liturgical anthem,
2 Praise Him for His mighty acts,
   Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
3 Praise Him with the sound of the cornet,
   Praise Him with lute and harp.
4 Praise Him with tabret and dance,
   Praise Him upon the strings and pipe.
5 Praise Him upon the clear cymbals,
   Praise Him upon the loud cymbals.
6 Let everything that hath breath praise Jah!
   HALLELUJAH!

FIRMAMENT OF HIS STRENGTH,
i.e. the heaven in which His kingly power and majesty are displayed.
Comp. lxviii. 34 [35].
3. CORNET, properly the curved instrument made of a ram's horn (see on lxxxi. 3), and distinct from the straight metal trumpet, though in the Talmud it is said that after the destruction of the Temple the distinction of names was no longer observed.
4. TABRET, or "tambourine."
The Hebrew toph is the same as the Arab. duff; and the Spanish adufe is derived, through the Moorish, from the same root.
STRINGRS. This is probably the meaning, as in Syriac. See on xlv. note h.
PIPE, properly "shepherd's flute;"

Gen. iv. 21; but not elsewhere mentioned as an instrument employed in sacred music.
5. CYMBALS. The Hebrew word is onomatopoetic, intended to describe the clanging of these instruments. It occurs in sacred music, 2 Sam. vi. 5, LXX. κυμβαλα. The distinction between the two kinds mentioned is, probably, that the first, as smaller, had a clear, high sound; the latter, as larger, a deep, loud sound. (So Ewald, Jahrb. viii. 67.) Others render, "castanets."
6. LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH, and, above all, the voice of man, as opposed to the dead instruments mentioned before.
What more fitting close than this of the great "Book of Praises"?
APPENDIX.

I. — MESSIANIC INTERPRETATION.

PSALM ii.—In former editions of this work, I had quoted in the note on ver. 4 of this Psalm a passage from the Mechilta (the most ancient Jewish Commentary on Exodus), which not only seemed to be evidence of the early Messianic interpretation of this Psalm, but even to show that the doctrine of a persecuted and suffering Messiah was not unknown to the Rabbis. In the Yalqut Shimeoni (Iff. 90, i.), the comment on the words of the Psalm, "Against Jehovah, and against His anointed" is, "Like a robber who was standing and expressing his contempt behind the palace of the king and saying, ‘If I find the son of the king, I will seize him and kill him, and crucify him, and put him to a terrible death;' but the Holy Spirit mocks thereat, and says, ‘He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh.’"

As the Psalm is admitted by the Jews to be Messianic, this certainly looked like a Messianic interpretation; and as in some of the early Rabbinical writings, there are distinct traces of a belief in a suffering Messiah, such a belief might have found expression here. This seemed the less improbable because in the comment which follows on the words, ‘But I have set my King’ in ver. 6, after various explanations have been given of the verb ‘I have set,’ we are told that R. Huna in the name of R. Acha, says: "Chastisements are divided into three portions; one for David and for the fathers, and one for our own generation, and one for King Messiah Himself; for it is written, ‘He was wounded far our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities’" (Is. liii. 5).* It is however somewhat startling to read not only that the Messiah was to be persecuted, but that the death with which He was threatened was a death by crucifixion. And when we turn to the Mechilta, from which the comment of the

* This comment of R. Huna's is quoted again with slight variations in the Yalqut (ii. f. 53) on Is. lii. 14.; in the Midrash Tillim on Ps. ii. 7, and in the Agadah Shemuel, xix.

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Yalqut on ver. 4 is taken, we find that the words are applied not to the Messiah, but to the nation of Israel in Egypt. The ‘robber’ is Pharaoh, the king's son is Israel. It is Pharaoh who thus threatens to destroy the nation, and whose proud boast is derided by Him who sitteth in the heavens. "Five words," says the Mechilta, "did Pharaoh utter blasphemously in the midst of the land of Egypt. The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake; I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them" (Ex. xv. 9). And the Holy Spirit answered him in five corresponding words, and said: 'Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them, they sank as lead in the mighty waters; thy right hand, 0 Lord, dashed in pieces the enemy; and in the greatness of thy majesty thou didst overthrow them that rose against thee; thou didst send forth thy wrath which consumed them as stubble; thou stretchedst out thy right hand.' And then follow the words quoted in the Yalqut, as given already, "Like a robber (().'/" in Hebrew letters) who was standing," &c. Massichta deshiretha. Parashah vii. (ed. Weiss, Wien, 1865, p. 49). Nor is the passage cited as Messianic in the Yalqut. The subsequent reference to a Messianic interpretation in ver. 6, and the acknowledged typical character of the nation in accordance with which the prophecies which have their first application to Israel find their final fulfilment in the Messiah, may be held to justify such an interpretation. But as no such sense is put on the passage either in the Yalqut or in the Mechilta, I have not felt myself at liberty to make use of it as an illustration of the Jewish Messianic explanation of the Psalm.

In the Talmud Babli, Succah, 52a, there is the following comment on ver. 8 of the Psalm: "God says to Messiah the Son of David who is about to appear—may it be soon, in our days!—'Ask of me and I will give thee,' as it is said, ‘I will tell the decree . . . I have this day begotten thee.' ‘Ask of me and I will give.’ And when he (i.e. Messiah the son of David) sees that Messiah the son of Joseph has been slain, then he says before Him, ‘Lord of the Universe, I ask of Thee nothing but life,’ and God says to him, ‘Life! Before thou saidst that, David thy father prophesied concerning thee, for it is said, ‘He asked life of thee, thou gavest it him.’"

PSALM xxii.—Although, as I have said in the Introduction to this Psalm, it has been explained by the Rabbis as having a reference to the nation in exile and not to the Messiah, it is interesting to observe that the doctrine of a suffering Messiah is distinctly acknowledged in Jewish Rabbinical literature, even before and apart from the notion of the two Messiahs, the Messiah, the son of Ephraim, who
was to be persecuted and put to death, and the Messiah, the son of David, who was to reign and triumph.

Thus there is a story in the Talmud Babli (Synhedrin, 98b), which tells us how different Rabbis of different schools gave each a name to the Messiah; one saying his name is Shiloh; and another Yinnon—in allusion to the word in the 17th verse of the 72nd Psalm, His name shall be continued (or, propagated, Heb. יְינֹון yinnon) before the sun;—and another, the Comforter. But others said, His name is the Leprous One of the house of Rabbi, the proof being taken from the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, He hath borne our sickness, and carried our sorrows, though we esteemed him smitten of God. For this word smitten was applied by the Jews to the case of the leper, in whose affliction they saw the evident hand of God, and it is rendered in the Latin version of Jerome quasi leprosum. It enhances the interest of the story when we remember that the Rabbi to whose house the Messiah is said to belong, had himself been grievously afflicted for thirteen years, and that it was believed commonly that his sufferings had a vicarious efficacy; for during those years, it was alleged, there had been no untimely birth. It argues surely a deep conviction of the clinging taint, the deep ineradicable pollution of sin, as well as of the shame and degradation and suffering to which the Messiah must stoop in taking it upon himself to put it away, that a name otherwise so opprobrious should have been given him.

In the Midrash Rabbah on Ruth (cap. v.) the words of Boaz to Ruth are thus explained: "This passage speaks of King Messiah. Come thou hither means, Draw near to the kingdom, and eat of the bread means, the bread of kingly rule, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar means, affliction and chastisements, for it is said, He was wounded for our iniquities."

Such a comment as this is no doubt fanciful in the extreme. It departs altogether from the plain sense of the text, from the obvious literal and historical meaning. But it has notwithstanding, it has even on this very account, its value. The mind must have been saturated with a belief in, a suffering Messiah, or it would not have fastened it on a passage such as this; it would not have hung the doctrine upon so slender a thread. It is with such comments, as it is with their direct offspring in patristic and mediaeval glosses. We may deplore the injury done to the plain sense of Scripture, and the license given to violent dealing with it by these ingenious conceits. We may feel that they have thrown back, perhaps for centuries, a truer, a healthier, a more rational exposition, that they have really impoverished the mind while professing to enrich it, that they have encouraged men to treat Scripture as a book of riddles in which
every man may exercise his fancy to the uttermost to see what meaning can be extracted from it, or thrust upon it, instead of taking the meaning that obviously presents itself; that in the search after some mysterious hidden sense men have lost the richer and more fruitful lessons which lay on the surface; but still we must admit that the heart was full of Christ which could see Him in Ruth's morsel dipt in vinegar, or in Samson's rude feats of strength, or in the scarlet thread of Rahab.

I quote two more striking passages from the Pesiqta Rabbathi,* xxxvi., xxxvii., because they contain a reference to this Psalm the more remarkable that many of the later Rabbis have refused to recognise the Messianic interpretation.

(i.) "The congregation of Israel spake before the Holy One (blessed be He!), Lord of the world, for the sake of the Law which Thou hast given me, and which is called the Fountain of Life, I shall delight myself in Thy light. What is the meaning of these words (Ps. xxxvi. 10), In Thy light shall we see light? This is the light of the Messiah; for it is said, And God saw the light that it was good. This teaches us that the Holy One (blessed be He!) had respect to the generation of the Messiah and to His works, before the world was created, and treasured it up for Messiah and for his generation under His throne of glory. Satan said before the Holy One (blessed be He!), Lord of the world, for whom is the light that is treasured up under Thy throne of glory? He replied, It is for him who will turn thee back, and put thee to confusion and shame of face. (Satan) said to Him, Lord of the world, shew him to me. God said, Come and see him. And when he had seen him, he was overwhelmed with terror, and fell on his face and said, Truly this is he that shall cast me and all the nations into Gehenna; for it is said, He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces (Is. xxv. 8). In the same hour the nations were moved and said before Him, ‘Lord of the world, who is this into whose hands we are to fall? What is his name and what is his nature?’ The Holy One (blessed be He!) replied, His name is Ephraim, my righteous Messiah, and he shall make high his stature and the stature of his nation, and shall enlighten the eyes of Israel, and shall save his people. No nation nor language shall be able to stand against him; for it is said, The enemy shall not exact upon him, nor the son of wickedness afflict him (Ps. lxxxix. 22 [23]). All his enemies and adversaries shall be afraid and flee before him; for it is said, And I will beat down his foes before his face (ver. 23 [24]); and even

* They are quoted also with slight variations in the Yalqut Shimen (on Is. Ix), ii. f. 56b, col. 2, § 359.
the rivers that empty themselves in the sea shall cease (before him); for it is said, I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers (ver. 25 [26]). When they (the nations of the world) fled, the Holy One (blessed be He!) began to make conditions with him. He said to him, ‘Those whose sins are treasured up beside thee will bring thee under a yoke of iron, and make thee like this calf whose eyes are dim, and will torment thy spirit with a yoke [or, will stifle thy breath through iniquity]: and because of the sins of these, thy tongue shall cleave to the roof of thy mouth (Ps. xxii. 15 [16]). Dost thou consent to this?’ Messiah answered before the Holy One (blessed be He!), Lord of the world, is this affliction to last many years? The Holy One (blessed be He!) said, By thy life, and by the life of thy head, I have decreed upon thee one week (Dan. ix. 27). If it grieves thy soul, I will expel them now. He answered, ‘Lord of the world, with joy and cheerfulness of heart, I will take this upon myself; on condition that not one of Israel be lost, and that not only the living shall be saved in my day, but also those that are treasured up in the dust; and not only the dead shall be saved (who died) in my days, but also the dead who died from the days of the first Adam until now; and not these only, but also the untimely births shall be saved in my days; and not only the untimely births, but also all that Thou intendest to create and have not yet been created: Thus I consent, and on these terms I will take this upon myself.’

(iii.) In the next quotation it will be observed that the whole Psalm is referred to the sufferings of the Messiah. "Our Rabbis have taught [this shows] that the Patriarchs will rise (from the dead) in the month Nisan (the Paschal or Easter month) and will say to him, ‘0 Ephraim, our righteous Messiah, though we are thy fathers, yet art thou [better] greater than we, for thou hast borne the iniquities of our children, and there have passed upon thee hard destinies such as have not passed on them that were before, neither (shall pass) on them that come after. Thou hast been a scorn and derision among the nations for the sake of Israel; thou hast sat in darkness and gloom; and thine eyes have not seen the light, and thy skin hath cleaved to thy bones, and thy body hath been dried up like wood, and thine eyes have been darkened through fasting, and thy strength is dried up like a potsherd, and all this because of the iniquities of our children. Is it thy good pleasure that our children should have their portion in the prosperity which the Holy One (blessed be He!) bestoweth upon Israel? Perchance by reason of the suffering which thou hast suffered exceedingly on account of them when they bound thee in the prison-house, thy mind will not be favourable unto them.'
Ille said unto them, 'O ye Patriarchs, all that I have done, I have not done it but for your sakes, and for the sake of your children that they may have their portion in the prosperity which the Holy One (blessed be He!) bestoweth upon Israel.' The Patriarchs say unto him, 'O our righteous Messiah, let thy mind be appeased; for thou hast appeased the mind of thy Lord and our mind.'"

R. Simeon b. Pazzi said, "In the selfsame hour the Holy One (blessed be He!) exalts Messiah unto the heaven of heavens, and spreads over him the splendours of His glory before [or, because of ] the nations of the world, before [or, because of ] the wicked Persians saying unto him, 'O my righteous Messiah, be thou judge over these, and do with them that which thy soul desireth, for but that fulness of compassion had prevailed towards thee, already would they have destroyed thee from the world as in a moment,' &c., for it is said Is not Ephraim a dear son to me? &c. (Jer. xxxi.); why (does it say) 'should have compassion on him' twice?* but this means compassion in the hour when he was bound in the prison-house, seeing that every day they, i.e. the nations of the world, were gnashing their teeth at him, and winking with their eyes, and shaking their heads, and shooting out their lips; for it is said, All they that see me laugh me to scorn, they shoot out the lip, they shake the head (Ps. xxii. 8),—and the whole Psalm. 'I will have compassion upon him' in the hour that he goeth forth out of the prison-house; for not one or two kingdoms are coming against him, but a hundred and forty kingdoms will compass him about. But the Holy One will say unto him, Ephraim, My righteous Messiah, be not afraid of them, for all these shall be slain by the breath of thy lips; for it is said, And with the breath of his lips shall the wicked be slain."

PSALM xlv.—The great difficulty of the 6th verse (in the Hebrew the 7th verse) of this Psalm is acknowledged on all hands.† If the vocative rendering is retained—and it certainly seems the most natural, and is that of the great majority of the Ancient Versions—then it is not easy to explain how the king, who is certainly spoken of as an earthly monarch (see, for instance, verses 9 and 16) should be addressed directly as God. This difficulty may not present itself to those who suppose that the mystery of the Incarnation was clearly revealed under the Old Testament dispensation, though even then

* In allusion to the repetition of the verb in the Hebrew idiom, רוחם לא עליה.

† Except indeed in The Speaker's Commentary, which merely says of the vocative rendering: "This is the literal and grammatical construction," and dismisses such a rendering as "thy throne (is a throne of) God" with the remark, "it is certain that no such explanation would have been thought of, had not a doctrinal bias intervened."
the strange blending of the literal and the allegorical interpretation must be admitted, but to those who believe that in its primary sense the Psalm refers to a human monarch sitting upon David's throne, the title "Elohim" given to him is not a little startling and perplexing, however he may be regarded as glorified in the light of the promise given to David and to his seed. I am not aware that there is an exact parallel to this elsewhere. Elohim is, however, used of others beside the Supreme Being, and Ibn Ezra, though not adopting the explanation himself, remarks, "there are some who say that it is used here as in the expression, 'thou shalt not revile the Elohim.' But the Gaon (Seadyah) says, 'God shall establish thy throne;' but according to my view, the word כָּלָ֑ם is used (once) instead of repeating it, [thy throne the throne of God,] as in הַנְּבֵי לָדָ֥א הָנְבַּ֖יִים,"[ where Ibn Ezra means us to understand that the first word having the article, and not being in the construct state, the noun must be repeated in the construct state.] which is equivalent to, ‘the prophecy, viz., the prophecy of Oded.’ And in the same way here, ‘Thy throne, a throne of God,’ as it is said, ‘And Solomon sat on the throne of Jehovah.’" Ibn Ezra therefore seems to prefer the rendering "thy throne which is God's throne," or simply "thy Divine throne is for ever," &c., thus making "for ever and ever" the predicate of the sentence.

A larger number of interpreters, however, prefer the other order, "Thy throne is a throne of God for ever and ever," which is defended by such a passage as Song of Sol. i. 15, "thine eyes are doves," i.e., "thine eyes are like the eyes of doves." That such a construction is possible can hardly be questioned. But it is not the natural or obvious construction, and can only be justified by the exegetical difficulty of taking "Elohim" in the sense of "judge," "prince," and the like.

This difficulty, however, did not present itself to Rashi. He writes:—"Thy throne, 0 prince and judge, is for ever and ever, in the same sense as it is said 'I have made thee a god (Elohim) unto Pharaoh’ (Exod. vii. 1); and why? Because the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre and thou art worthy to be king."

Qimchi, on the other hand, argues as follows against the vocative interpretation, in a polemical passage against the Christians, which, having been struck out by the Papal Censor in the first edition of Qimchi's Commentary, is not to be found now in the printed text. "The mistaken Christians who apply the Psalm to Jesus of Nazareth and who say that the daughters of the king are to be taken figuratively, meaning the nations that have been converted to his religion, allege in proof what is said (before) Thy throne,
0 God, seeing that he calls him in one place King; and in another, God. There are two answers to be given. (1) The words [thy throne, 0 God, which Qimchi explains, 'thy throne is the throne of God']; and even if we were to take it as a vocative addressed to God [not to the king], 0 Lord, may Thy throne be for ever and ever. (2) But how could we apply to God the expression, the oil of joy, above thy fellows, or how can we explain the word שַׁלְדָל (shegal, the queen-consort), even in a figure, of a relation to God, seeing that it implies the matrimonial usus; and how can it be said, Instead of thy fathers thou shalt have children? If they say God has children, as we find it said in Deuteronomy of them that believe in Him, Children are ye unto the lord your God, then answer them. If he has children, he has not fathers, and if they appeal to their doctrine of a Trinity, in explanation, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, then we have already answered this in our commentary on the Second Psalm. And, moreover, there is a further answer, for if they could say according to their view 'father,' they could not say fathers' in the plural."

Many other passages of a polemical character directed against the Christians have in the same way been struck out of the early editions. Dr. Schiller-Szinessy, however, is preparing a critical edition of Qimchi's Commentary on the Psalms in which these passages will appear. I am indebted to his kindness for the following account of a copy of the Editio Princeps of the Commentary in the University Library at Cambridge

1. The copy in question was printed in 1477, sine loco, but the type is that of Bologna.

2. It was in the possession of Abraham de Portaleone, the uncle of the author of the Morebi yFlw (of the same name), and who was consequently Abraham b. Eliezer b. Binyamin, the Hebrew Knight (הָרֶמֶשׁ הָיְצָרִים), Physician to Ferdinand I. of Aragon, King of Naples. The book belonged subsequently to his son Shelomoh, and no doubt remained in the family till 1640-42. It then came into the possession of R. Yitzchaq b. Menachem, after whose death, about 1646-7, it was bought and presented by the House of Commons in 1647 to the University.

3. There are two Censors' entries on leaf 152b, Domenico Gerusolimitano, 1595, and Alessandro Scipione, 1597, To judge from the ink (but Dr. S. S. is not quite certain), it was the former Censor, a Jewish convert, who struck out the passages in question, but this was not done very completely, or a sponge was passed over the erasure, so that the text is legible beneath.

PSALM cii.—The directly Messianic interpretation of this Psalm
in the Epistle to the Hebrews (i. 10-12) is somewhat remarkable, verses 25-27 [26-28], which are an address to God as the Creator of the world, being quoted in proof of the Divinity of Christ. It is plain, therefore, that the Alexandrine author of that Epistle considered the address here, like the address in Psalm xlv., "Thy throne, 0 God, is for ever and ever," to be made to the Eternal Word who became incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ. Yet there is no evidence, so far as I am aware, that the Psalm has ever been held by the Jews to be directly or personally a Messianic Psalm. The most ancient Rabbinic commentators have interpreted it of the congregation of Israel towards the close of the Captivity. In this sense, as looking forward to the deliverance and rebuilding of Zion, and the glory that should follow, the Psalm had indirectly a Messianic reference. But that its words should have been so immediately applied, and that, moreover, in an argument addressed to Jews, in support of the Divine nature of the Christ, seems to show that there was a Jewish exegetical school in Alexandria, which differed in its interpretation of the Scriptures from the Palestinian.

PSALM cx.—As I have already remarked I have omitted in this edition some passages alleged by R. Martini in his Pugio Fidei as evidence that the Jews put a Messianic interpretation upon this Psalm. That they did so is indisputable; but there is much reason to suspect the genuineness of the passages which he professes to quote from the Bereshith Rabbah of R. Moses Haddarshan; though why he should have thought it necessary to forge them is a mystery. With abundance of genuine material at hand, it is strange that he should have had recourse to such artifices, except that there are some natures which delight in this sort of ingenuity for its own sake. However, the question it may be hoped will shortly be set at rest by the publication of the Bereshith Rabbah from the unique MS. at Prague which Jellinek has undertaken to edit.

I subjoin some of Qimchi's remarks on this Psalm.

He supposes it to have been written "when the men of David sware unto him, saying: 'Thou shalt no more go out with us to battle;' and the words Sit on my right hand mean, 'Sit in my house, i.e. the Tabernacle, and serve me; and there will be no occasion for thee to go into the battle for I will fight thy battles.'"

"The dew of thy youth, &c. Thou art predestined from the very day of thy birth to have this dew of blessing. From the womb of the morning. The morning of thy birth was then, and the dew of thy birth was then."

With regard to the priesthood of Melchizedek, he observes that the priesthood ought to have gone in the direct line from Shem, who,
according to the Jewish tradition, was Melchizedek; but they said because Melchizedek blessed Abraham first, and not God first, therefore the priesthood was taken from him.

Qimchi * also charges the Christians with having corrupted the text of the Psalm in two places. In the first verse they have אֲדוֹן הָאֱלֹהִים אֲדוֹן מֵלֶחֶזֶק "writing yndx twice with Qametz as showing that two Persons of the Trinity are here mentioned, God (the Father) says to God (the Son), the Spirit being the Third. Another error is that in ver. 3 they had נְסָפָה instead of נְסָפָה. Curiously enough, he charges the first error upon Jerome.† "Jerome, their translator, made a mistake; for we must read . . . . and how can they uphold the error of one man against the great majority? From the rising of the sun to the setting thereof, go where you will, you will find the Chireq under the Nun, and so likewise you will find in all MSS. נְסָפָה." Then he refers to the argument in support of the Divinity of Christ drawn from this Psalm: "If the Father and the Son are Gods, the one does not stand in need of the other, because you cannot call any one God who stands in need of another. How (then) can the Father say to the Son, Sit on my right hand till I make Mine enemies thy footstool? For if this be so, he stands in need of his help, and if he does need it, there must be weakness; and if there be weakness, he cannot be God, for God cannot be lacking in power. And besides how could He have said to him, Thou art a cohen‡ for ever, that is, 'a noble and great one;' but if so, was he not noble and great before? But if they (the Christians) should say to this, the sense here is more definitely that he should be ‘a priest,’ that henceforth from the coming of Jesus the priesthood shall be after a different manner, that there shall be no more sacrifices of flesh and blood, but only of bread and wine such as Melchizedek offered; for it is said that Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine; then give them this answer: To whom does he say, Thou art a priest? Does he say this to the Son, who is addressed in the beginning of the verse and from this verse to the end of the Psalm, and is it he who is the minister that sacrifices? But God is not one who brings sacrifices; on the contrary, they bring sacrifices to Him.

* This passage is in the printed text, but more correctly in MS. 114 in the Paris Library.
† In the existing text of Jerome, however, we have: "Dixit Dominus Domino meo," and there is no variation apparently in the MSS.
‡ The Hebrew word, commonly rendered "priest," is sometimes used in a wider and less restricted sense of persons holding any office of dignity. Such at least is the opinion of Qimchi, and of many other interpreters.
But if they should say the words are addressed to any one indefinitely, ‘I have founded a new priesthood,’ without saying to whom, as they have no priestly families, any one may be consecrated to the office; if so, to whom does this apply, *The Lord hath sworn*, &c.? And moreover, why has God changed His will? First He desired sacrifices of flesh, and now He is satisfied with bread and wine; and how can He add, *And will not repent*, when in this very thing he shows that He did repent? And Malachi, the seal of all the Prophets, says: Remember ye the Law of Moses my servant, and he says, *Behold I send my messenger*. Elijah is not come yet, and will not come till the time of the Messiah. And Malachi says that they shall remember the Law to do it as *he* commanded, not as Jesus commanded. From this thou canst see that the Law has never been altered as it was given to Moses, so it shall remain for ever.

Again, Where are the battles that he fought? and where are the kings whom he conquered? and how can he say, *He shall rule among the nations full of corpses*? Surely he came (i.e. according to their view) to judge *souls*, and to save them, and so the phrase, *he lifts up the head*; and hereby he has not lifted up the head. Let the blind ones open their eyes and confess, Our forefathers have inherited an untruth.”

The above is a good specimen of Qimchi's polemics against the Christians of his time, and is very instructive as showing the nature of the difficulties which presented themselves to a cultivated Rabbi in the Middle Ages.
II. THE MASSORETH.

As frequent references occur in the Notes to the Massoreth, and as the widest misapprehension exists with respect to it, and to what is familiarly known as the Massoretic text, it may not be out of place to make a few remarks upon the subject in this Appendix.

What is the Massorah? The word Massorah, or, as it ought to be written, Massoreth, means tradition. The text in our printed Bibles is commonly supposed to be the text as settled by a certain body of men called Massoretes, who were the custodians of this tradition. No mistake could be greater. The Massoretes were not a single body of men or a single school; the Massoreth is not a single collection of marginal glosses establishing for ever one uniform text. On the contrary, the Massoretes were learned annotators, belonging to many schools, and their marginal annotations vary considerably in different copies. The Eastern Recension differs from the Western, and the different families of MSS. belonging to the latter, French, German, Italian, and Spanish, present more or less considerable variations. The critical value of these glosses consists in the fact that the labours of the Massoretes were directed to the careful enumeration of all the words and phrases of the Bible. The marginal note tells us exactly how often each particular grammatical form and each phrase occurs in the whole Bible and in the several books, and also in what sense it is employed. It is obvious, therefore, at a glance that no new reading could creep into a passage without being immediately detected. The scribe may make a blunder, but the Massoreth checks it; for the Massoreth is not the compilation of the scribe who copies it, but is taken from model codices of a much earlier date.

The extreme minuteness of this verbal criticism has so multiplied, and has been carried to such an extent, that Elias Levita says in his work on the Massoreth, that he believes that if all the words of the Great Massoreth which he had seen in the days of his life were written down and bound up in a volume, it would exceed in bulk all the twenty-four books of the Bible. Only two attempts have till very lately been made to collect these scattered notes and glosses—the one in the well-known work entitled Ochlah-ve-Ochlah, the other in Yakob ben Chayyim's Rabbinic Bible published at Venice.
in 1526. Another scholar is now, however, labouring in the same field. Dr. Ginsburg for the last eighteen years has devoted himself to the task, and has already accomplished far more than his predecessors. With infinite pains and labour he has collected and digested this vast mass of textual criticism. For the first time the Hebrew scholar will really know what the Massoreth is. Hitherto it has been scattered in a number of different MSS., often written in the form of an ornamental border to the text, in minute characters and with numerous abbreviations, and in many cases requiring not only great patience, but a wide acquaintance with the peculiarities of the Massoretic scribes, for its decipherment. Now, all these various editions of the text, all these traditional notes, will be classified and arranged under the head of the several MSS. to which they belong, in parallel columns, so that the eye will see at a glance how far the MSS. agree, the additions in one case, the deficiencies or variations in another.

It is a special advantage attending Dr. Ginsburg's labours that he has been able to make use of the Eastern or Babylonian recension of text and Massoreth for comparison with the Western. It was well known that a divergence did exist between these two recensions, and that as there was very early a different system of vocalisation, as well as a difference in traditions between the Eastern and Western Jews, so there was also a difference in their MSS. of the Bible. But before the year 1840 the only record of that difference that had been preserved was the list of variations given in Yakob ben Chayyim's Bible, which was extremely defective. Now, however, a very important discovery has been made. Among the MSS. recently acquired by the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, there is, besides a fragment of the Pentateuch, a MS. containing the whole of the later Prophets, exhibiting the Eastern recension; and as this MS. has also the Massoreth, we are enabled thereby to ascertain the Oriental reading of a large number of passages in other books of the Bible, besides those which are comprised in the MS. We thus get a recension of the text which is very much earlier than any existing MS. of which the age is undisputed.

It must always be a matter of the deepest regret that no Hebrew MS. of the Bible of any antiquity has come down to us; for on how many dark passages might light be cast, if a codex were discovered even as ancient as the most ancient MSS. of the New Testament? It must always enhance our regret to reflect that Christian barbarism is to a large extent responsible for this calamity. The savage and unrelenting persecution of the Jews has left an indelible blot on the pages of Christian history from the beginning of the eleventh century to the
middle of the sixteenth. There is not a European nation, scarcely
a European town of any, magnitude, the annals of which are not
disgraced by the intolerable cruelties practised on this people.
Popes, Fathers, and Councils vied with one another in denouncing
them. Edict after edict was issued against them. No insult was too
course for them; Jew and devil were synonymous terms in the
Christian vocabulary; they were outside the pale of humanity.
Again and again the fury of the populace, stirred up often by
renegades of their own nation, was let loose upon them; their
houses were plundered, their property confiscated, their wives and
children violated before their eyes. The tale of "Christian
Atrocities" in those ages reads in many exact particulars like the
tale of "Turkish Atrocities" with which we have all of late been
familiar. Thousands of Jews were compelled to abjure their faith
and to submit to baptism; thousands more were banished from the
cities or countries in which they had settled; great multitudes were
tortured and cruelly put to death. Their Selichoth or Synagogue
hymns for centuries were one great wail going up to heaven, a
cry like the cry of the souls pleading beneath the altar, "Lord,
how long?" a bitter lamentation, a burden of weeping and great
mourning as of Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to
be comforted.

In these outbursts of religious fanaticism we know that many
precious books and MSS. perished. Synagogues were plundered,
burnt, razed to the ground, and the rolls of the Law torn to pieces
and strewed in the streets. On the 17th of June, 1244, twenty-four
cartloads of MSS. were burnt in Paris alone. "I have not a single
book left," writes a French Rabbi to R. Meir of Rothenburg; "the
oppressor has taken from us our treasures." Many books were
thrown into wells; many were buried in the earth to conceal them
from Christians. The possessor of one Codex thanks God that he
and not the earth has been the means of preserving it. "We are
forbidden," writes Abr. ibn Ramoch, at the close of the fourteenth
century, "to have the Torah (the Law) in our possession, and other
books which they have carried off into the churches." Another
complains that the holy books were disfigured by the ruthless hand
of the Christian scribe, and many a fair parchment cut to pieces
and made to serve for repairing the boots of the Nazarene. It is the
persecution of Antiochus Epiphanes repeated, intensified, prolonged,
through centuries.

Add to all this the fact, that it has been the practice of the Jews
themselves to consign to oblivion all imperfect copies of their Scrip-
tures. The Talmud enacts that if a copy of the Law have two errors
in a page, it shall be corrected; if three, it shall be stowed away. The act by which this is done is called *Genizah*. By the Karaite Jews the receptacle itself in which incorrect or mutilated copies of the Bible were placed were called Genizah, but it is not so called in the Talmud. The receptacles in which all imperfect or injured MSS. of the kind are placed are called by the German Jews "Shemoth-boxes," in allusion to the names (Shemoth) of God, because every scrap on which that name might chance to be written, as might be the case with any leaf of the Bible, was held too sacred to be destroyed, and must, therefore, be solemnly deposited in the receptacle prepared for it. No Hebrew MS. consequently was preserved by the Jews merely on the ground of antiquity, and taking this circumstance into connexion with the wholesale destruction of MSS. by Christians during the Middle Ages, to which we have already referred, it can no longer appear surprising that our oldest MSS. are so comparatively late.

Thus Jews and Christians have conspired together for the destruction of these precious documents. The earliest known MS. of the Old Testament (which is in the University Library at Cambridge) only dates from the middle of the ninth century. A fragment belonging to the beginning of the same century is in the Library at St. Petersburg. The beautiful MS. of the Later Prophets in the same Library, already referred to, bears the date A.D. 916. We must not, therefore, indulge unreasonable expectations. It is scarcely probable that even Dr. Ginsburg's collations will furnish us with a large harvest of important textual variations. But his work is one of which it is scarcely possible to exaggerate the value notwithstanding. It will give us, what we have never had before, a really accurate collation of all the best MSS. of the Old Testament, together with a complete view of the Masoreth of each. We shall at least have all the evidence with which we are ever likely to be furnished now, for constructing a critical text of the Hebrew Scriptures.
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