

pause, and the same voice wails in low accents, "But thou hast utterly rejected us, thou art very wroth against us!"

The Synagogue is draped in black, woe is marked on every countenance, each head sprinkled with dust. There are no regular readers as at other times, their grief is too great to allow of keeping the formula of their liturgy. The perpetual lamp seems the only thing which bears no mark of sorrow. It still burns on,—the light for the dead,—as it has done, day and night, year after year, since the day the Synagogue was consecrated; as it will do for centuries, until the walls and roof it hangs from crumble into dust. Their grief is of the deepest character, and given utterance to, in the most impetuous outpouring of tears and lamentations; this depth of sorrow has been a feature of the Hebrew character from a very remote antiquity, the Bible is full of it. "They lifted up their voice and wept." "They rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads towards Heaven." The fast of Ab is kept to commemorate the destruction of the second temple by Titus, and is one of the most solemn fasts of the Hebrew church. The only day on which the Hebrew puts off his shoes on entering the Synagogue. It is worthy of note that the nations of the Gentiles celebrate their victories, the Hebrews alone commemorate their defeats!

Nathan has accomplished the purpose for which he sought Jerusalem, he has kept the fast of the ninth of Ab with his brethren, he has laid before the elders of Israel his plans for ameliorating the condition of 'The People' and has had the advice of those who know best