

realization of his glorious visions. "Ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."* To express the great and prosperous change to be wrought by Christianity, he employs yet bolder figures, representing the very qualities of the earth changed—the nature of its productions changed—the characters of men, and the economy of the cities of men changed, wherever it flourishes. "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle-tree;"†—"for brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron; I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. 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."‡—Whilst by glowing pictures of natural fertility and abundant temporal plenty, he endeavours to convey some idea of the extent of the spiritual riches of the Messiah's Kingdom.§ "Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me."§ "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon: they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God."||

Of Jeremiah's prophecies concerning the establishment of Christianity, the burthen and tenor are similar; they, too, tell of liberty and life, of rest and reconciliation, of pardon and peace, of healing and gladness and prosperity, as its results. "It shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of Hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: but they shall serve the LORD their GOD, and David their King, whom I will raise up

* Isaiah: lv., 12. † Is. lv., 13. ‡ Is. lx., 17, 18.
§ Is. lxv., 10. || Is. xxxv., 1, 2.