

as it is impossible to conceive how a lion or lions should surround the hands and feet. At all events, the figure would be at least unsuitable, if not altogether unnatural. This is partly admitted, both by Alexander and De Wette, and has, no doubt induced Gesenius to supply another verb. He accordingly renders it, "As lions *they gape* upon my hands and feet," and explains, "They threaten to tear my hands and feet." (See his Lexicon, under the article "*Kur*.") Whether Gesenius considered the "lions *gaping* upon the hands and feet" a more rational idea than their surrounding them, we cannot say, but to us it appears that one is as absurd as the other.

In Scripture, we have many beautiful pictures drawn from the habits of the lion, as his going forth to prey, his crouching down and lurking in his hiding place, his seizing his victim and tearing it to pieces. Such pictures are perfectly in accordance with the well-known habits of this animal. Not so, however, the gaping at or surrounding of the hands and feet of his prey; if these, indeed, are traits in the character of the lion, naturalists have as yet failed to notice them. Ewald declares the rendering "as a lion" to be quite unsuitable here; but as the rendering "piercing" does not chime in with his rationalistic views, he forces in an arbitrary manner the signification of the Arabic verb *kara*, i.e., to bind upon the Hebrew verb, and renders, "bound my hands and feet." (See his Commentary on the Psalms, pp. 168, 169, German Edition.) This is, however, by no means an uncommon proceeding on the part of our adverse critics, if the Hebrew meaning of a word does not exactly suit their views. In the Targum of Jonathan, the passage is rendered "biting my hands and my feet like a lion." The verb "biting" certainly makes better sense than either "surround" or "gape," or "bound;" still the figure would hardly be more consistent. Why should the sacred writer particularly mention the hands and feet apart from the rest of the body, which is in equal danger of being torn or wounded when attacked by the lion? Besides, it is well known that this animal seizes the victim in the most vital part of the body, such as the neck, and then devours it indiscriminately. The reader will now perceive that the mentioning of *the hands* and *feet* in connection with