

cease and they shall become one rod in the hand of the Lord. (Ezek. xxxvii. 16, 17).

But further, Hosea sees from his conception of God's love to Israel that the punishment inflicted upon her was not in vengeance but as chastisement, as an educative discipline punishing for restoration. It was the chastisement of a tender, loving father who felt the wound more than the child. It was punishment inflicted by the recovering love of God for the purpose of bringing back the wanderer to itself and to purity. We are told, "an east wind shall come, the wind of the Lord shall come up from the wilderness, and his spring shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up; he shall spoil the treasures of all pleasant vessels. Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God; they shall fall by the sword, their infants shall be dashed to pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up." (xiii. 15, 16). "The Assyrian conqueror was this blustering east wind that ravaged the country, rifled the treasuries of the capital and put the inhabitants to the sword," but it was the wind of Jehovah seeking to purge Israel from her chaff and allure her into the wilderness that He might speak comfortably to her. Just as the prodigal in his poverty and distress was brought to his senses and began to think of the happy home he had left, and as Gomer by the brutal treatment of her paramour was led to reflect on her ways and remember the love of the prophet and became willing to return home, so God by smiting Israel with this Assyrian rod will have her know it was He who gave her corn and wine and oil and multiplied her silver and gold; and so she may be led to say "I will go and return to my first husband, for then it was better with me than now."

How grand is this conception of the Divine correction and how like the teaching of another writer who said, "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him, for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." (Heb. xii. 5).

Lastly, we notice Hosea teaches that God's love to Israel is such as to assure her final redemption. This love is moral and so great and constant that Israel must eventually re-