

the Chaldeans, extending their conquests with rapacious and insatiable ambition, are represented as fishers "taking with the angle, catching in their net, and gathering in their drag" every thing of which they could make a prey.

VER. 16.—"Therefore they sacrifice unto their net,
And burn incense unto their drag;
Because by them their portion is fat,
And their meat plenteous."

The Chaldeans did not in any degree recognise the hand of Jehovah in their successes: they took all the glory of these to themselves, and to their own skill and valour.

VER. 17.—"Shall they therefore empty their net,
And not spare continually to slay the nations?"

Shall their deeds of violence be permitted to go on? Shall they, after repeated conquests, still "empty their net" to prepare for new acts of aggrandizement? The prophet intimates, as before, his desire and hope that this might not be suffered to be the case.

CHAPTER II.

Habakkuk, having made the above appeal to Jehovah regarding the rapacity of the Chaldeans, and having asked whether God would not set a limit to their oppression, represents himself now as waiting for an answer.

VER. 1.—"I will stand upon my watch,
And set me upon the tower"—

He compares himself to a sentinel keeping his "watch" on some "tower" or post of observation. There is no reason to suppose that there is reference to any particular place to which the prophet was accustomed to repair, when expecting divine communications. The words appear to be simply metaphorical. Like a sentinel keeping his watch upon a tower, Habakkuk remained looking out for a reply to his expostulation.