

And the depraved man his thoughts,
 And let him return unto Jehovah,
 And He will have mercy upon him ;
 And to our God,
 For He will abundantly pardon.

For you shall go out with joy,
 And be led forth with peace :
 The mountains and the hills shall break forth before
 you into triumphant-singing,
 And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands !"¹

In this bold and truly Oriental imagery, the mountains and hills are represented as singers at the glad millennial festival ; while the sound of the rushing rivers, and the waving boughs of the forests around their feet, is compared to the clapping of hands. "For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now," under the curse of man's sin, and the coming of Christ will be the day of its deliverance.² The Lord hasten it in its time !

It seems that it was in this way that the people of Ammon malignantly rejoiced over the downfall of the land of Israel, and in so doing brought upon themselves the sentence of national extinction.

"Thus said the Lord Jehovah :
 Because thou hast clapped hands and stretched forth with the
 foot,
 And rejoiced in soul with all thy spiteful-contempt
 Against the land of Israel ;
 Therefore, behold, I have stretched out My hand upon thee,
 And I will cut thee off from the peoples,
 And I will cause thee to perish out of the countries."³

This seems like a vivid description of the country dance called *Sahhdjeh*, which I have already described. This dance is mainly a slow "stretching forth" or stately stamping of the

¹ Isaiah lv. 7, 12.

² Rom. viii. 22.

³ Ezekiel xxv. 6, 7. See also a similar allusion in Ezekiel vi. 11, "Clap with thy hand and stretch forth with thy foot."