

than Sennacherib and all his mercenaries.—
MacLaren.

2. Verses 9-14.

O world, with all thy smiles and loves,
With all thy song and wine,
What mockery of human hearts,
What treachery is thine!

Thou woundest, but thou canst not heal;
Thy words are warbled lies;
Thy hand contains the poisoned cup,
And he who drinks it dies.

—*Horatius Bonar.*

3. Verse 15.

Their daily bread and draw the breath of
heaven,
Without thought or thanks. Heaven's roof
to them,

Is but a painted ceiling hung with lamps,
No more, that lights them to their purposes.
They wander loose about; they nothing see,
Themselves except, and creatures like them-

selves,
Short-lived, shortsighted, impotent to save.
To their dissolute spirits, soon or late,
Destruction cometh, like an armed man,
Or like a dream of murder in the night,
Withering their mortal faculties, and breaking
The bones of all their pride.—*Charles Lamb.*

4. Verse 17.

The following meditation of the great Lincoln, written in the year 1862, is in striking contrast with the boastful note of Sennacherib's servants: "The will of God prevails. . . . In the present civil war it is quite possible that God's purpose is something different from the purpose of either party; and yet the human instrumentalities, working just as they do, are of the best adaptation to effect his purpose. . . . By his mere great power on the minds of the now contestants he could have either saved or destroyed the Union without a human contest. Yet the contest began. And, having begun, he could give the final victory to either side any day."

5. Verse 20. Abraham's servant prays. Rebekah appears. Jacob wrestles and prays, and prevails with Christ; Esau's mind is wonderfully turned from the purpose he had harbored for twenty years. Moses prays, Amalek is discomfited. Joshua prays, Achan is discovered. Hannah prays, Samuel is born. David

prays, Ahithophel hangs himself. Asa prays, a victory is gained. Jehoshaphat cries to God, God turns away his foes. Isaiah and Hezekiah pray, one hundred and eighty-five thousand Assyrians are dead in twelve hours. Daniel prays, the lions are muzzled. . . . Mordecai and Esther fast, Haman is hanged on his own gallows in three days. . . . Elijah prays, rain descends apace. Elisha prays, Jordan is divided.—
Ryland.

6. Verse 21.

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the
fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and
gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on
the
sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Gal-
ilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when summer is
green,
That host with their banners at sunset were
seen;
Like the leaves of the forest when autumn hath
blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered and
strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on
the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he
passed;
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and
chill,
And their hearts but once heaved—and forever
grew still.

And there lay the steed with his nostril all
wide,
But through it there rolled not the breath of
his pride;

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his
mail;
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal!
And the might of the Gentile, unsmeared by the
sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the
Lord.—*Byron.*

Lesson Side-Lights and Illustrations

1. It has strangely happened that the vanity, the boastfulness, and the arrogance of this in some respects most illustrious of the Assyrian kings have proved to be elements whereby historic confirmations of the Scripture story have been in recent generations established through the instrumentality of the Oriental discoverers

and archaeologists. Many of the inscriptions, carvings, grotesque and colossal statues exhumed at Nineveh within the past century are the work of artists and architects who wrought at the bidding of Sennacherib, and who under his direction glorified his prowess and monumentalized his conquests. When we read his