

And animate him for his farewell words  
To all his sons, who 'round about him stood  
With bowed heads, with trembling hearts and hands,  
To hear the declarations of the Lord  
Relating to their life and destiny.  
From Reuben down to Benjamin he spake,  
And skilfully portrayed in striking lines  
Their character, and vividly revealed  
To each the varied things that should befall  
Them and their race within the latter times.  
"Reuben, thou art my first begotten son,  
In strength and dignity supreme, yet thou  
Shalt not excel, because irresolute  
In soul, and did'st not hesitate to sin,  
Nor yet to desecrate thy father's name.  
Levi and Simeon are leagued as one,  
And instruments of cruelty remain  
In their abode. O soul of mine come not  
Within their secret snares, mine honor with  
Their councils be not joined; for anger caused  
Their hands to slay a man, and stubborn will,  
To wound their oxen in the field of toil!  
Now cursed be their anger which was fierce,  
In Jacob I shall all their host divide,  
And scatter them abroad in Israel.  
Judah, thou art the one who shall be feared  
By all thy brethren now and evermore,  
Thy hand shall rest upon the wilful neck