

2. "For as oft as speak, I cry alarm,  
Violence and havoc do I proclaim;  
For Iahvah's word is become to me a reproach,  
And a scoff all the day long.
3. "And if I say, I will not mind it,  
Nor speak any more in His Name;  
Then it becometh in my heart like a burning fire prisoned  
in my bones.  
And I weary of holding it in<sup>1</sup> and am not able.
4. "For I have heard the defaming of many, the terror on every  
side;<sup>2</sup>  
All the men of my friendship are watching for my fall;  
'Perchance he will be enticed, and we shall prevail over  
him,  
And take our revenge of him.'
5. "Yet Iahvah is with me as a dread warrior,  
Therefore my pursuers shall stumble and not prevail;  
They shall be greatly ashamed, for that they have not  
prospered,  
With eternal dishonour that shall not be forgotten.
6. "And Iahvah Sabaoth trieth the righteous,  
Seeth the reins and the heart;  
I shall see Thy revenge of them,  
For unto Thee have I committed my quarrel.
7. Sing ye to Iahvah, acclaim ye Iahvah!  
For He hath snatched the poor man's life out of the hand of  
evildoers."

The cause was of God. *Thou didst lure me, Iahvah, and I let myself be lured; Thou urgedst me and wert victorious.* He had not rashly and presumptuously taken upon himself this office of prophet; he had been called, and had resisted the call, until his scruples and his pleadings were overcome, as was only natural, by a Will more powerful than his own (chap. i. 6). In speaking of the inward persuasions which determined

<sup>1</sup> vi. 11 (or, of enduring, Mal. iii. 2).

<sup>2</sup> 'Denounce ye, and we will denounce him!'