

them bread. They come to Bethlehem together in the beginning of barley harvest, thus arriving at the place of blessing at the very moment when it is dispensed. It is there that they are about to meet with Boaz !

The reader, even slightly acquainted with prophecy, cannot fail to see in all this scene a picture of the past history of Israel and of the future ways of Jehovah with them. Although they have been banished among the Gentiles for their unfaithfulness, certain links may still exist between the people and God. Has not Jehovah spoken by their prophet : " Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come" (Ezek. xi. 16)? But their Elimelech is dead ; the sole head of the family of Israel, Christ—the Messiah—has been cut off ; then the nation has become as a widow stript of her children and barren in the midst of the Gentiles. But when they acknowledge and accept the judgment of God on them and drink, in humiliation, this cup of bitterness, then there will be the dawn of a new day for this poor people. The old Israel of God, object, in its hoary old age, of the ways of Jehovah to the stranger, will set forth in bitterness of soul to recover the blessings of grace. With it arises a new Israel, a Lo-ammi which was " not His people" but which finding a germ in Ruth, returns, a poor remnant from the fields of Moab to become again