

MATHATHIAS.

Said I not the truth?

O tale of woe! And thou alone remainest
Of all who sought the mountain wilderness?

ISRAELITE MESSENGER.

Alas! the heathen on the Sabbath-day
Sent to us, saying: "Do you still resist?
Come forth and do according to the edict,
And you shall live!"

MATHATHIAS.

List, list, my brethren, now
The bright example.—What answer gave they back?

ISRAELITE MESSENGER.

"We will not come forth, nor yet profane
God's Sabbath."—Then they came in haste
To give us battle, but we answered not,
Nor downward cast a stone, nor stopped the way
To the fastness. But we said: "Let us all die
In innocence: and heaven and earth shall witness
Our wrongful death."

MATHATHIAS.

O God! and nought was done!