

They shall tauntingly ask, "How long" has his dominion continued? He thought that it should last for ever. He has found how greatly he was mistaken.

"And to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!"

There has been a difference of opinion as to the meaning of the term rendered "thick clay." Probably the correct interpretation is not that given in our version, but "an accumulation of pledges." A grasping usurer, who, by every species of fraud and harshness, is gathering an accumulation into his hand, is certainly an expressive emblem of the Chaldeans, with their vast, but ill-gotten, dominions and treasures.

VER. 7.—"Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee"—
"They;" the ministers of divine vengeance upon the Chaldeans.

"And awake that shall vex thee,
And thou shalt be for booties unto them?"

How "suddenly," according to the prediction, destruction overtook the Chaldeans, we have only to read the story of Belshazzar's feast, to perceive.

VER. 8.—"Because thou hast spoiled many nations,
All the remnant of the people shall spoil thee;
Because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land,
Of the city, and of all that dwell therein."

The words, "men," "land," "city," are here to be taken indefinitely. The meaning is, that the ruin denounced should overtake the Chaldeans because of the blood of men which they had shed,—because of the violence they had done to various lands,—because of the cities they had overthrown, and the outrages they had perpetrated upon their inhabitants.

VER. 9.—"Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house,
That he may set his nest on high,
That he may be delivered from the power of evil!"

„ 10.—"Thou hast consulted shame to thy house
By cutting off many people,
And hast sinned against thy soul."