

matter to Him, as depending exclusively upon His grace and power. Presently the prophet is commanded to proclaim to them the purpose of God to endow them with powers and properties of life; the word is uttered and begins immediately to take effect, "there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone," they are at once clothed upon with sinews, and flesh, and skin, and then in obedience to another word of God, the breath of life from His creative spirit penetrates the mass, and they stand upon their feet a host of valiant men, instinct with the animation and energy of life.

Such was the scene which passed in vision before the prophet's eyes. In explanation, he is told that these bones represent the whole house of Israel, there indeed as to all the attributes of vitality as the bleached bones in the valley of vision, but destined to be one day quickened by the Word and Spirit of God, to regain their national and spiritual life, and to dwell safely in their own land beneath the righteous and benign rule of the mystical David.

That there has been no adequate fulfillment of this prophecy is too plain to require proof. There was indeed a partial return of the covenant-people after the Babylonish captivity: a partial re-possession of the land, and an external reconstruction of the temple and its worship, but all was confessedly imperfect and incomplete; whilst that part of the prophecy (verses 24,