

and shall He not do it? hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" Glorious and glowing as are the predictions of Israel's future, we look for a full realization, a majestic completion. Cold and impassive as we may hear of this, we know not how near it may be to us, nor how much it may touch our interests. St. Paul warns us Gentiles not to be wise in our own conceits on this subject, for that blindness has happened in part unto Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be brought in, and then (it is said expressly) "*all Israel shall be saved.*" And is not this hinted by Simeon, when he speaks of light to the Gentiles *before* glory to Israel? The effect of this event upon the Gentiles St. Paul describes in startling terms: "*through their fall* (that of the Jews) *salvation is come unto the Gentiles* for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the universe, and their loss* the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?" "If the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead." *Life from the dead!* Can this mean anything less than such a revival and increase to the Gentile churches as shall quench the lustre of all that went before in Christianity, in comparison—as though now, for the first time, light and life did in reality visit the Gentiles. May God hasten the happy day! He will hasten it—it is His work. Nor let our faith be disheartened by the present unpromising appearances. It is true that it is impossible to conceive anything more utterly spiritually dead, than the stock of Judaism. Not a pulse, not a sign of life can be perceived. But should this make us despair? Rather the contrary. Man's necessity is God's opportunity. It is in the hour of extremest need that God ever interposes, that the glory may be visibly His. Never were the pulses of the national life of Israel more feeble than just before their deliverance from Egypt—the great, standing, authorized Type of God's deliverances. Never is the darkness deeper than before the rising dawn. And now, (as we ardently and not unreasonably hope, from prophetic signs,) should the dry bones begin to move—an unbelieving world will be awakened to faith by the visible working of God again, or the more awfully condemned to their own place. How should we endeavour, by prayers and gifts and personal exertions, to realize the sublime

* Margin.