

CHAPTER II.

As I reclined, and was sad, there came in unto me Gomer, the captain of my father's men of war, and he looked on my face, and said: Wherefore is my lord heavy of heart? And I answered, I cannot tell thee. A foreboding of evil is upon me, and it resteth on my soul as a horror of great darkness. Go, I pray thee, to the top of the little hill and look toward the east, and tell me if thou seest aught.

Then Gomer went forth and looked long toward the east, and came again, saying: My lord, there is the appearance of one riding this way, but so far off that I cannot tell whether a stranger cometh or one of my lord's own people.

Whereupon I arose and took my swiftest horse and rode forth to meet him that came. While he was yet a great way off I knew it was Salmon the scribe that came, and saw that he rode as one in haste and in distress. When we were come near together Salmon caused his dromedary to kneel, and when he had alighted, ran and stood beside my horse and bowed himself down to the ground; but I was speechless and could not ask him wherefore he came