

CHAPTER XIX.

PROPHECY.

SPEAKING of the prophetic element in them, the essayist says, "No real and specific prediction of the advent of Jesus, or of any event in his life, can be produced from the books of the Old Testament." He thus criticises the indefinite character of the Old Testament prophecy of Christ.

This statement is incomplete and its implication is untrue. It implies that the Old Testament contains no prophecies of a future Messiah which were properly fulfilled in the New Testament Christ, whereas, from the time of Isaiah, the son of Amoz, the canonical prophets put forth the conception of an ideal Coming One, who as a divinely anointed King should reign over the Israelites as the perfected people of God.