THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET MICAH

This book begins as follows: "The word of the Lord that came to Micah, the Morasthite, in the days of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem." Micah, hence, was a contemporary of Isaiah.

The conents of the book of Micah alternates with Divine rebuke and propmises of restoration, peace and glory. It concludes with a truimphant song at the great deliverance like that from Egypt, and the final acknowledgment of God's mercy and faithfulness to His promises (Chapter 7:16-20).

In Micah 2:12, 13 we have a prophecy which refers to the return of Israel, which may in its first aspect point to the return from Babylon; but an expression in the latter verse strongly intimates that later regathering of which other prophecies speak more plainly.

> "I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee. I will surely gather the remnant of Isreal. I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as a flock in the midst of their pasture. They shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men. The Breaker is gone up before them: they have broken forth and passed on to the gate, and are gone out thereat; and their king is passed on before them, and Jehovah at the head of them."

Henderson says on this passage: "Most modern expositors are unanimous in viewing these two verses as predictive of the restoration of the Jews after their dispersion.....The point most difficult to determine is the point to which the prophecy has respect. Most Christian expositors explain it of the appearance of Christ, and his collecting of believers into his church; but this construction is altogether arbitrary, resting on no other foundation than the principle of giving a spiritual interpretation to whatever may, by possibility, be so interpreted. So far is there from being anything in the phraseology of the text to warrant such appropriation of it, that the very terms compel to an adoption of the literal sense. Kimchi, Jarchi, and the Jews generally, as also several mod-