

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders.
 But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.
 The Sun shall be no more thy light by day, neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee.
 But the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.
 Thy sun shall go no more down, neither shall thy moon withdraw itself.
 For the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

LXVIII. Consolations of the Upright. (Job.)

- M.* If thou seek diligently unto God, and make thy supplication to the Almighty ;
C. Surely He will watch over thee, and establish thy righteous habitation.
 Though thy beginning be small, thy latter end shall greatly increase.
 If thou set thy heart aright, and stretch out thy hands to Him ;
 If thou put iniquity out of thy hand, and let no unrighteousness dwell in thy house ;
 Then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot ; thou shalt be steadfast and shalt not fear.
 For thou shalt forget thy trouble ; as waters that are passed shalt thou remember it.
 Clearer than noonday shall be thine after-life ; though there be darkness, it shall be as the morn.

Behold God doth not reject the blameless, neither uphold the evildoer.

For inquire now of former ages, give heed to that which the fathers have sought out.

Can the rush grow up without mire ; can the reed grass grow without water ?

Whilst yet green nor fit to be plucked, it withereth before all herbs.

So are the ways of all that forget God, and the hope of the wicked shall perish.

What he trusteth breaketh in sunder ; a spider's web is his hope.

Upon his house he leaneth, it shall not stand ; he holdeth fast thereby, it shall not endure.

If he be removed from his place, then it shall deny him, saying, I have not seen thee.

But thou shalt be secure, because thou hast sure hope ; thou shalt lie down none making thee afraid.

He will yet fill thy mouth with gladness and thy lips with songs of joy.

LXIX. God in Nature. (Job.)

M. Canst thou by searching find out God, canst thou find out the Almighty to perfection ?

C. He is high as heaven, what canst thou do deeper than the grave, what canst thou know ?

Behold, I go forward, but He is not there and backwards, but I cannot perceive Him ;

On the left hand where He doth work, but I cannot behold Him, He hideth Himself on the right hand that I cannot see Him ;

But He knoweth the way that I take when He
hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.
He is of one mind, who can turn Him ; if He cut off
or shut up, or gather together, who can hinder
Him ?
He is wise in heart and mighty in strength, He
removeth the mountains and they know it not.
He shaketh the earth out of its place, the pillars
thereof tremble,
He spreadeth out the heavens, and walketh on the
waves of the sea.
He knoweth the place where light dwelleth, and
where is the place of darkness.
He laid the foundations of the earth, and placed
the corner-stone thereof ;
When the morning stars sang together and all the
sons of light shouted for joy.
With Him is wisdom and strength, He hath counsel
and understanding.
When He giveth quietness, who then can make
trouble ? when he hideth his face, who then can
behold Him ?
Behold, He breaketh down, and it can not be built
again, He shutteth up a man, and there can be
no release.
He revealeth deep things out of darkness, and
everything that is hid bringeth He forth to
light.
Dominion and fear are with Him, He maketh peace
in His high places.
Lo, these are a part of His ways, but how little is
heard of Him, the thunder of His power, who
can understand ?

LXX. *God's Forgiving Love.* (*Ben Sirach.*)

- M. How great is the lovingkindness of the Lord our God, and His compassion unto such as turn unto Him in holiness.
- C. Unto such as repent, He granteth them return and comforteth them that fail in patience.
 Ye that fear the Lord believe Him, hope for good, and for everlasting joy and mercy.
 Look at the generations of old, and see, did ever any trust in the Lord and were confounded, or whom did He ever despise?
 Return unto the Lord and forsake thy sins, make thy prayer before His face.
 Turn again to the Most High, and turn away from iniquity, for He will lead thee out of darkness into the way of light.
 As a drop of water unto the sea, and as a grain of sand, so are a thousand years to the days of eternity.
 Therefore is God patient with men, and poureth forth His mercy upon them.
 The mercy of man is toward his neighbor; but the mercy of the Lord is upon all flesh.
 He reproveth, and chasteneth, and teacheth, and bringeth again as a shepherd his flock.
 For the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering and very pitiful.
 Who shall find out His noble acts, and who shall tell out the number of his mercies?

LXXI. The Character of a Good Wife.

(Arranged from Prov. and Ben Sirach.)

Who can find a capable woman? Her worth is far
above pearls.
The heart of her husband trusteth in her, and he is
in no want of gain.
The wise woman buildeth her house, with the fruit
of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
He who findeth a good wife, findeth the highest
good, and obtaineth favor from the Lord.
Blessed is the man who has a virtuous wife, the
number of his days shall be double.
Whether a man be rich or poor, if he hath a good
wife, he shall at all times rejoice with a cheer-
ful countenance.
A silent and loving woman is the gift of God, and
there is nothing more precious than a woman's
mind well instructed.
As the sun when it ariseth in the high heavens, so
is the beauty of a good wife in the ordering of
her house.
As the splendor of the sky when the sun is setting,
so is the beauty of her face in ripe age.
A woman that honoreth her husband shall be
judged wisest of all.
She doeth him good and not evil, all the days of her
life.
Her husband is known in the gate, when he sitteth
with the elders of the Lord.
Strength and honor are her clothing, and she fear-
eth not the days to come.
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and
eateth not the bread of idleness.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and kind instruction is upon her tongue.

She spreadeth out her hand to the poor, with her counsel she aideth the needy.

Her children rise up and extol; her husband praiseth her.

Many daughters have done valiantly, but thou excellest them all!

Grace is deceitful and beauty is vain; the woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Give ye her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

LXXII. Hymn to the Forefathers. (Ben Sirach.)

M. Let us call to remembrance the great and good, through whom the Lord hath wrought great glory.

C. Those who were leaders of the people by their judgment, giving counsel by their understanding and foresight.

Wise and eloquent in their teachings, and through knowledge and might fit helpers of the people. All these were honored in their generation, and were the glory of their times.

There be some who have left a name behind them; whose remembrance is sweet as honey in all mouths.

And there be some who have no memorial; who are perished as though they had never been.

But their righteousness has not been forgotten, and the glory of their work cannot be blotted out.