

is itself a promise of hope and ^{it} is clear from the reference, "she shall become unto me as Ariel", that the word was not a mere name but retained its flavor of comfort. "Woe to Ariel" was in a way a paradox.¹ Isaiah tells indeed that Jerusalem will be brought very low, but she shall be raised again from her adversity to understand the doctrine of the Lord and therefore not to be ashamed, (vs.22). We might say that it was fulfilled in the great apostasy of Judaism in Christ's day and in the large expansion of the Christian church with its grasp on true doctrine. Or we may say that it refers primarily to Hezekiah's adversity and deliverance, and in a second or peculiar sense to the apostasy and restoration of the ~~church~~ ^{true faith} in Christ's day. But why should we read these elements into the Scripture? Rather we should see here true poetry, of course, and metaphor, to be sure, but all describing the events soon to take place of Sennacherib's invasion and disastrous defeat. "I will encamp against thee . . . thou shalt be brought low . . . but the multitude of thy foes shall be as small dust . . . suddenly . . . the multitude of all nations that fight against Ariel . . . shall be as when a hungry man dreameth and behold he eateth, but he awaketh and his soul is empty." It may be objected that v,6 (She shall be visited of Jehovah of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest and the flame of a devouring fire) speaks of physical events which must come to pass. But I am quite content to call ~~these~~ these mere figures for God's activity. Byron referring to the same event put it also poetically: "The might of the Gentile unmote by the sword hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord." It should

1. B.D.B. Lexicon derive the word from לֵךְ אֱרֵל , lioness of God. Delitzsch (in loc.) derives it from לֵךְ אֱרֵל , hearth of God. In support of the latter notice the reference in 31: 9 where the conclusion is, God's אֱרֵל is in Zion, which, while from a different root than hearth (אֱרֵל), may be a play upon words indicating hearth is intended rather than lioness.