

SIBYLLINE ORACLES

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THE ERYTHRÆAN SIBYL.

MICHELANGELO'S PAINTING, SISTINE CHAPEL, ROME.

THE
SIBYLLINE ORACLES

TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK
INTO ENGLISH BLANK VERSE

BY
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NEW EDITION REVISED AFTER THE TEXT OF RZACH

NEW YORK : EATON & MAINS
CINCINNATI : CURTS & JENNINGS

Transf. from Barnes
B.1956

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EATON & MAINS PRESS,
150 Fifth Avenue, New York.

PREFACE.

THE Sibyls occupy a conspicuous place in the traditions and history of ancient Greece and Rome. Their fame was spread abroad long before the beginning of the Christian era. Heraclitus of Ephesus, five centuries before Christ, compared himself to the Sibyl "who, speaking with inspired mouth, without a smile, without ornament, and without perfume, penetrates through centuries by the power of the gods." The ancient traditions vary in reporting the number and the names of these weird prophetesses, and much of what has been handed down to us is legendary. But whatever opinion one may hold respecting the various legends, there can be little doubt that a collection of Sibylline Oracles was at one time preserved at Rome. There are, moreover, various oracles, purporting to have been written by ancient Sibyls, found in the writings of Pausanias, Plutarch, Livy, and in other Greek and Latin authors. Whether any of these citations formed a portion of the Sibylline books once kept in Rome we cannot now determine; but the Roman capitol was destroyed by fire in the time of Sulla (B. C. 84), and again in the time of Vespasian (A. D. 69), and whatever books were at those dates kept therein doubtless perished in the flames. It is said by some of the ancients that a subsequent collection of oracles was made, but, if so, there is now no certainty that any fragments of them remain.

The twelve books of Greek hexameters, of which a rhythmic English translation is furnished in the following

pages, have been in existence for more than a thousand years, and may be properly called the Pseudo-Sibyllines. They belong to that large body of pseudepigraphical literature which flourished near the beginning of the Christian era (about B. C. 150–A. D. 300), and which consists of such works as the Book of Enoch, the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs, the Book of Jubilees, the Assumption of Moses, the Psalms of Solomon, the Ascension of Isaiah, and the Fourth Book of Esdras. The production of this class of literature was most notable at Alexandria in the time of the Ptolemies. The influence of Greek civilization and culture upon the large Jewish population of the Egyptian metropolis, and the marked favors shown this people in that country, turned them far from the strict usages of their Palestinian brethren. No fact could more strikingly show the results of this foreign influence than the building of the temple and altar at Leontopolis, as described by Josephus (*Ant.* xiii, 3). If the son of the high priest Onias saw propriety in converting a heathen temple to the worship of Almighty God, and building it after the pattern of the one in Jerusalem, we need not wonder that the religious and literary taste of the Alexandrian Jews found gratification in harmonizing Hebrew traditions and Greek philosophy. The ingenuity that found in *Isa.* xix, 19, a warrant for the building of such a temple and altar might easily discover among the responses of heathen oracles much that was capable of appearing to great advantage in a Jewish dress. In this way, no doubt, arose the Jewish Sibyl, assuming to be a daughter-in-law of Noah, and skilled in prophetic knowledge. And this passion for reproducing famous oracles spread beyond the land of Egypt, and gathered breadth and volume with its years of growth. Not only were the historical and philosophical productions of the Greeks made use of, but the specula-

tions of the Persians, the mysteries of Egyptian priests, and the poetical myths and legends of all nations contributed to the medley which Hellenistic Jews were fond of turning to a pious purpose. And just as the allegorical method of interpreting Scripture was handed over as a sort of inheritance to the early Christian Church, so the passion for producing pseudonymous books took easy possession of many Christian writers of the first centuries.

Like other pseudonymous apocalypses, these Sibyllines contain evidence of being the work of a number of different authors. They are obviously a composite of Jewish and Christian elements. The citation from the Sibyl which appears in Josephus (*Ant.* i, iv, 3) shows that the oldest portion of our present third book (line 117, *ff*) must have been current before the beginning of the Christian era. The verses of the Jewish Sibyl probably originated at Alexandria, and may possibly have incorporated some fragments of more ancient oracles once included in the Sibylline books which were kept at Rome. They presented such a fascinating form of pseudepigraphical composition that not a few other writers followed the successful example and put forth verses of various merit. And so it came to pass that after a few centuries the later Jewish and the early Christian literature abounded with poetic oracles purporting to be productions of the ancient Sibyls. Many independent compositions of this kind were accordingly in circulation some time before the task was taken in hand of arranging the entire body of so-called Sibylline Oracles into one connected and orderly series. This task was undertaken by the author of what is known as the "Anonymous Preface," who combined the scattered oracles into fourteen books. The repetitions of language and sentiment now found in these different books indicate that already, before this larger task was attempted, other minor

compilations had been made, and that the later compiler and editor left these smaller independent collections intact, not attempting to eliminate the repetitions, nor even to harmonize conflicting statements.

The first printed edition of the Greek text was brought out by Xystus Betuleius (Sixtus Birke) at Basel in 1545. A metrical Latin version of this by Sebastian Castalio appeared in 1546, and another edition of the Greek text, emended by the same scholar, in 1555. In 1599 Johannis Opsopœus (John Koch) published at Paris an edition of the Greek text, accompanied with the Latin version of Castalio, and with brief prolegomena and notes. But all these editions were superseded by that of Servatius Gallæus, published at Amsterdam in 1687-89, in two quarto volumes. One volume contains the Greek text, with the Latin version and extensive annotations; the other consists of dissertations on the Sibyls and their oracles. This text and translation, accompanied with numerous notes taken largely from the work of Gallæus, was republished at Venice in 1765, in the first volume of Gallandius's *Collection of the Fathers*. The next important contribution to the Sibyllines was the discovery in the Ambrosian library at Milan of the fourteenth book, which was published by Angelo Mai in 1817. The same distinguished prelate subsequently found in the Vatican library at Rome four books numbered xi-xiv, and published them in that city in 1828. The first to edit and publish the entire collection of twelve books (books i-viii and xi-xiv) was J. H. Friedlieb, whose single volume, issued at Leipsic in 1852, contains the entire Greek text, with a remarkably close metrical version in German, a valuable introduction, and a collection of various readings. A still more complete and critical edition is that of C. Alexandre, whose first volume appeared at Paris in 1841, and contains the Greek text

and a Latin version of the first eight books, and extensive critical and exegetical notes. Two subsequent volumes (Paris, 1853 and 1856) supplied the remaining books, seven *Excursus*, and a bibliography of the Sibylline literature. A new edition, condensing the material of his previous dissertations and presenting all in a single volume, appeared at Paris in 1869.

The latest and most improved edition of the Greek text of the twelve books now extant is that of Aloisius Rzach, published at Vienna in 1891. The editor had prepared himself for his task by extensive studies in the department of the later Greek literature. His work has not escaped criticism, especially on account of its numerous conjectural emendations, but it is to-day undoubtedly, as a whole, the best edition of the Greek text in existence. Whatever improvements future editors may make, this product of indefatigable labor is not likely to be soon superseded.

The following translation is based upon the text of Rzach, and is designed to supersede and displace my earlier translation, which appeared in 1890. The defects of that work and the numerous improvements made in the Greek text of Rzach warrant this thorough recasting of what appears so far to be the only complete translation of these interesting oracles in the English language.* Inasmuch as one distinguishing feature of the original is the fact that all its parts and fragments are cast in the form of

* An English translation from the texts of Opsopœus and Gallæus was published in London, 1713, by Sir John Floyer. This, of course, contains only the first eight books. In a preface of twenty pages the translator maintains the genuineness of the oracles, cites numerous testimonies from the Christian fathers, and finds the papacy and the Turks predicted therein. The book is out of print, and its dissertations attempting to answer the objections of Opsopœus and Vossius (pp. 249-262) are obsolete and worthless.

Greek hexameters, I have been governed by a conviction that the translation ought to be set in some poetic form. It need not be an imitation of the hexameter, which seems somewhat foreign to the genius of the English tongue. The poetic form which in our language holds a position more analogous is that of pentameter blank verse, and I have accordingly felt that this measure was on the whole best adapted to the purpose of this work. A prose translation would undoubtedly enable one in not a few instances to convey the meaning of the original more accurately, but the consequent loss of that which is enhancing in the matter of poetic form ought not to be ignored. Bayard Taylor, in the Preface to his translation of Goethe's *Faust*, argues that "the value of form in a poetical work is the first question to be considered. . . . Poetry, indeed, may be distinguished from prose by the single circumstance that it is the utterance of whatever in man cannot be perfectly uttered in any other than a rhythmical form. It is useless to say that the naked meaning is independent of the form." This argument has, of course, a force and relevancy in connection with poetic masterpieces like Goethe's *Faust* and the Homeric epics which it cannot have for a version of such a composite of heterogeneous elements as we find in these Pseudo-Sibyllines; and yet we believe that it ought to have great influence in an attempt to translate what exists only in poetic form.

In working out my task I have aimed, in spite of the restrictions involved in maintaining a rhythmic form, to keep very close to the order and sentiment of the Greek verses. Not a few of my renderings may perhaps be justly criticised as being too literal, and some may be thought to violate the usages of good English style; and I must crave the kindly forbearance of the critical reader. Let the offense of extreme literalism be condoned by the considera-

tion that I am a kind of pioneer in making these oracles accessible to English readers, and that I have risked adverse criticism for my occasional too close adherence to the letter of the Greek rather than expose myself to possibly greater error in the opposite extreme. It should be observed, also, that there are not a few very obscure and perplexing passages in these Pseudo-Sibyline, and in some verses one can at best only guess at the meaning. There are also numerous *lacunæ* and mutilations in all existing manuscripts, as, for example, at the conclusion of book xii. These are indicated in the translation just as they appear in the printed Greek texts. In the few places where a list of proper names occurs (for example, iii, 424-430) and English rhythm is impossible, my only course was simply to transfer the names in the order in which they stand in the Greek. For convenience in comparing the translation with the original the corresponding lines of the Greek text are indicated by the numbers inclosed in parentheses at the foot of each page of the translation.

I have aimed to supply in the footnotes such information as a reader of the oracles might wish to find by easy reference. My inability to explain all the obscure allusions has not deterred me from supplying as far as practicable such notes and comments as interested students may find to be a help. In the first footnote at the beginning of each book there is given a brief statement of the general character and the probable authorship and date of the contents, but I have not attempted the difficult task of a critical analysis, rearrangement, and formal discussion of the various parts of these now heterogeneous books and fragments. The task of the translator is at the present rather to accept the order of the books as they appear in all the printed texts of the Greek original.

The fact that many of the early Christian fathers cite

these pseudonymous oracles as veritable Holy Scripture gives the work an importance in biblical criticism and theology which justifies the attention I have given the matter in the footnotes. The various citations have been carefully noted, and, for the convenience of students disposed to examine or verify them, the place of each citation is designated not only by the common reference of book and chapter, but also by the volume and column in which the passage appears in Migne's *Complete Collection of Greek and Latin Fathers*. This latter designation is always put in brackets, the letter G denoting the Greek, and L the Latin patrology; the numbers which follow these letters refer respectively to the volume and column. The index at the end of this volume also designates, in connection with the name of each of these fathers, the pages of our translation where the various citations may be found.

Those fragments of Sibylline Oracles which are preserved among the citations of Theophilus and Lactantius, but which do not appear anywhere in the twelve books of our collection, are placed in the Appendix to this volume, where also we furnish a translation of the "Anonymous Preface," together with the passages from Varro and Lactantius which tell the story of the Sibyls, and a bibliography of the Sibylline literature.

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BOOK I.

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THE SIBYLLINE ORACLES.

BOOK I.

BEGINNING with the generation first
Of mortal men down to the very last
I'll prophesy each thing : what erst has been,
And what is now, and what shall yet befall
5 The world through the impiety of men.
First now God urges on me to relate
Truly how into being came the world.
And thou, shrewd mortal, prudently make known,
Lest ever thou should'st my commands neglect,
10 The King most high, who brought into existence
The whole world, saying, "Let there be," and there was.
For he the earth established, placing it
Round about Tartarus, and he himself

This book appears to be one of the latest in composition of this entire collection of oracles, but it was placed first on account of its contents, which relate to the creation and the earliest races of mankind. It is evidently of Christian origin, and was written probably as late as the third century.

13. *Tartarus*, the prison of the Titans, is here conceived as encompassed by the earth and forming its interior. Hesiod (*Theog.*, 720, *f*) represents it as surrounded by a brazen fence and situated as far beneath the earth as earth is beneath the heaven; it would require nine days and nights, he says, for an anvil to fall from heaven to earth, and as many more for it to fall from earth to Tartarus. Comp. Homer, *Il.*, viii, 13-16. Verg., *Æn.*, vi, 577-581. It will be seen in line 127 and elsewhere that Gehenna is regarded as a part of Tartarus or identical with it, while Hades (line 105) comprehends the abode of all the dead.

- Gave the sweet light ; he raised the heaven on high,
15 Spread out the gleaming sea, and crowned the sky
With an abundance of bright-shining stars,
And decked the earth with plants, and mingled sea
With rivers, and the air with zephyrs mixed
And watery clouds ; and then, another race
20 Appointing, he gave fishes to the seas
And birds unto the winds, and to the woods
The beasts of shaggy neck, and snakes that crawl,
And all things which now on the earth appear.
These by his word he made, and every thing
25 Was speedily and with precision done ;
For he was self-caused and from heaven looked down,
And finished was the world exceeding well.
And then thereafter fashioned he again
A living product, copying a new man
30 From his own image, beautiful, divine,
And bade him in ambrosial garden dwell,
That labors beautiful might be his care.
But in that fertile field of Paradise
He longed for conversation, being alone,
35 And prayed that he might see another form
Such as he had. And forthwith, from man's side
Taking a bone, God himself made fair Eve,
A wedded spouse, and in that Paradise
Gave her to dwell with him. And, when he gazed
40 Upon her, on a sudden filled with joy
Great admiration held his soul, he saw
A pattern so exact ; and with wise words
Spontaneous flowing answered he in turn ;
For God had care for all things. For the mind
45 They darkened not with passion, nor concealed
Their nakedness, but with hearts far from evil

Even like wild beasts they walked with limbs exposed.
And afterwards delivering them commands
God showed them not to touch a certain tree ;
50 But the dread serpent drew them off by guile
To go away unto the fate of death
And to gain knowledge of both good and evil.
But the wife then first traitress proved to God ;
She gave, and urged the unknowing man to sin.
55 And he, persuaded by the woman's words,
Forgot the immortal Maker utterly,
And treated plain commandments with neglect.
Therefore, instead of good, received they evil
According to their deed. And then the leaves
60 Of the sweet fig-tree piercing they made clothes
And put them on each other, and concealed
The sexual parts, because they were ashamed.
But on them the Immortal set his wrath
And cast them out of the immortal land.
65 For their abiding now in mortal land
Was brought to pass, since hearing they kept not
The word of the immortal mighty God.
And straightway they, upon the fruitful soil
Forthgoing, with their tears and groans were wet ;
70 And to them then the immortal God himself
A word more excellent spoke : " Multiply,
Increase, work constantly upon the earth,
That with the sweat of labor ye may have
Sufficient food." Thus he spoke ; and he made
75 The author of deceit to press the ground
On belly and on side, a crawling snake,
Driving him out severely ; and he sent
Dire enmity between them ; and the one

48-52. Cited by Lact., *Div. Inst.*, ii, 13. [L., 6, 325.]

(37-61.)

- Is on the look-out to preserve his head,
 80 But man his heel ; for death is neighbor near
 Of evil-plotting vipers and of men.
 And then indeed the race was multiplied
 As the Almighty himself gave command,
 And there grew up one people on another
 85 Innumerable. And houses they adorned
 Of all kinds and made cities and their walls
 Well and expertly ; and to them was given
 A day of long time for a life much-loved ;
 For they did not worn out with troubles die,
 90 But as subdued by sleep ; most happy men
 Of great heart, whom the immortal Saviour loved,
 The King, God. But they also did transgress,
 Smitten with folly. For with impudence
 They mocked their fathers and their mothers scorned ;
 95 Kinsmen they knew not, and they formed intrigues
 Against their brothers. And they were impure,
 Having defiled themselves with human gore,
 And they made wars. And then upon them came
 The last calamity sent forth from heaven,
 100 Which snatched the dreadful men away from life ;
 And Hades then received them ; it was called
 Hades since Adam, having tasted death,
 Went first and earth encompassed him around.
 And therefore all men born upon the earth
 105 Are in abodes of Hades called to go.

88. *Day of long time.*—Allusion to the remarkable longevity of the patriarchs as recorded in Gen. v.

102. *Hades.*—The conception of Hades here set forth, as the great receptacle of the souls of men after death, is in essential harmony with both the Jewish and the Christian doctrines. The derivation of the name from Adam is noticeable as a purely arbitrary conjecture. Comp. book iii, 30, note ; comp. Plato's explanation of the word in *Cratylus*, 404.

But even in Hades all these when they came
Had honor, since they were the earliest race.

But when Hades received these, secondly
[Of the surviving and most righteous men]

- 110 God formed another very subtle race
That cared for lovely works, and noble toils,
Distinguished reverence and solid wisdom ;
And they were trained in arts of every kind,
Finding inventions by their lack of means.
- 115 And one devised to till the land with plows,
Another worked in wood, another cared
For sailing, and another watched the stars
And practiced augury with winged fowls ;
And use of drugs had interest for one,
- 120 While for another magic had a charm ;
And others were in every other art
Which men care for instructed, wide awake,
Industrious, worthy of that eponym
Because they had a sleepless mind within
- 125 And a huge body ; stout with mighty form
They were ; but, notwithstanding, down they went
Into Tartarean chamber terrible,
Kept in firm chains to pay full penalty
In Gehenna of strong, furious, quenchless fire.
- 130 And after these a third strong-minded race
Appeared, a race of overbearing men
And terrible, who wrought among themselves

109. Lines thus inclosed in brackets are believed to be spurious interpolations, but have too much MS. authority to be omitted from the text.

130. *Third strong-minded race.*—The successive races here mentioned appear to be in imitation of Hesiod's ages or races of mankind. Hesiod applies to them the epithets of golden, silver, bronze, and iron. See *Works and Days*, 108–190, and comp. Aratus, *Phaenom.*, 100–134 ; Ovid, *Met.*, i, 89–150 ; Juvenal, *Sat.*, xiii, 27–30.

- Many an evil. And fights, homicides,
 And battles did continually destroy
 135 Those men possessed of overweening heart.
 And from these afterward another race
 Proceeded, late-completed, youngest born,
 Blood-stained, perverse in counsel ; of men these
 Were in the fourth race ; much the blood they spilled,
 140 Nor feared they God nor had regard for men,
 For maddening wrath and sore impiety
 Were sent upon them. And wars, homicides,
 And battles sent some into Erebus,
 Since they were overweening impious men.
 145 But the rest did the heavenly God himself
 In anger afterwards change from his world,
 Casting them into mighty Tartarus
 Down under the foundation of the earth.
 And later yet another race much worse
 150 [Of men he made, to whom no good thereafter]
 The Immortal formed, since they wrought many evils.
 For they were much more violent than those,
 Giants perverse, foul language pouring out.
 Single among all men, most just and true,
 155 Was the most faithful Noah, full of care
 For noblest works. And to him God himself
 From heaven thus spoke : "Noah, be of good cheer
 In thyself and to all the people preach
 Repentance, so that they may all be saved.
 160 But if, with shameless soul, they heed me not
 The whole race I will utterly destroy

143. *Erebus* appears to be here employed merely as another name for the underworld, and interchangeable with Hades. Comp. Homer, *Il.*, viii, 368. Tartarus is conceived as a still lower deep.

153. *Giants*.—The *nephilim* of Gen. vi, 4.

- With mighty floods of waters. Quickly now
 An undecaying house I bid thee frame
 Of planks strong and impervious to the wet.
- 165 I will put understanding in thy heart,
 And subtile skill, and rule of measurement
 And order ; and for all things will I care
 That thou be saved, and all who dwell with thee.
 And I am He who is, and in thy heart
- 170 Do thou discern. I clothe me with the heaven,
 And cast the sea around me, and for me
 Earth is a footstool, and the air is poured
 Around my body ; and on every side
 Around me runs the chorus of the stars.
- 175 Nine letters have I ; of four syllables
 I am ; discern me. The first three have each
 Two letters, the remaining one the rest,
 And five are mutes ; and of the entire sum
 The hundreds are twice eight and thrice three tens
- 180 Along with seven. Now, knowing who I am,

175. *Nine letters.*—The connection shows that the name intended must be some title or designation of the Creator, but no word has been discovered that fully meets the conditions of the puzzle. The nearest solution is found in the word *ἀνέκφωτος*. This word has nine letters, four syllables, and five mutes, or consonants. The first three syllables have two letters each, and the sum of all the letters taken at their numerical value is 1,696. But the number stated in the text is twice 800, plus three times thirty (= 90) and seven = 1,697. *Ἀνέκφωτος* must also be supposed to be a shortened form for *ἀνεκφώνητος*, used in ecclesiastical Greek writers to denote the *unutterable* name, Jehovah. Another name proposed is *Θεὸς Σωτήρ*, but an obvious objection is that we have here two words, not, as the text suggests, one word of four syllables. Besides, these letters amount to only 1,692. There is, perhaps, an error in the text. If for the words *with seven* (line 180) we read *with two*, the numerical difficulty of the last-named solution would be met ; or if we read *with six*, then the word *ἀνέκφωτος* solves the problem. Comp. the similar puzzle in lines 395-399 of this same book, and the well-known

Be thou not uninitiate in my lore."

- Thus he spoke ; and great trembling seized on him
 At what he heard. And then, within his mind
 Having contrived each matter, he besought
 185 The people and began with words like these :
 " O men insatiate, smit with madness great,
 Whatever things ye practiced they shall not
 Escape God's notice ; for he knows all things,
 Immortal Saviour overseeing all,
 190 Who bade me warn you, that ye perish not.
 Be sober, cut off badness, do not fight
 Perforce each other with blood-guilty heart,
 Nor irrigate much land with human gore.
 Revere, O mortals, the supremely great
 195 And fearless heavenly Creator, God
 Imperishable, whose dwelling is the sky ;
 And do ye all entreat him—he is kind—
 For life of cities and of all the world,
 And of four-footed beasts and flying fowls ;
 200 Entreat him to be gracious unto all.
 For when the whole unbounded world of men
 Shall be destroyed by waters loud ye'll raise

enigma of the number of the beast in Rev. xiii, 18. A like example is also found in Capella (book ii, 193), who thus addresses the sun : " Hail, thou veritable face and paternal countenance of God, eight and six hundred in number, whose first letter forms a sacred name, a surname, and a sign ; " which Kopp explains by the letters $\phi\phi\eta$ (= 608), representative of the Egyptian name of the sun. Comp. also the designation of the Roman emperors in book v, 16, and following.

184. *Besought the people.*—The O. T. narrative of the flood records nothing of Noah's preaching, but in 2 Pet. ii he is called a " preacher of righteousness " (comp. 1 Pet. iii, 20), and Josephus (*Ant.*, i, iii, 1) confirms this tradition of the Jews. Comp. also Theophilus, *ad Autol.*, iii, 19 [G., 6, 1.145].

- A fearful cry. And suddenly for you
 The air shall be disordered, and from heaven
 205 The fury of the mighty God shall come
 Upon you. And it certainly shall be
 That the immortal Saviour against men
 Will send wrath if ye do not placate God
 And from this time repent; and nothing more
 210 Fretful and evil lawlessly shall ye
 One to another do, but let there be
 A guarding of one's self by holy life."
 But when they heard him each turned up his nose,
 Calling him mad, a frenzy-smitten man.
 215 And then again did Noah sound this strain:
 "O men exceeding wretched, base in heart,
 Unstable, leaving modesty behind
 And loving shamelessness, rapacious lords,
 Fierce sinners, false, insatiate, mischievous,
 220 In nothing true, stealthy adulterers,
 Flippant in language, pouring forth foul words,
 The wrath of God most high not fearing, kept
 To the fifth generation to atone!
 In no way do ye wail, harsh men, but laugh;
 225 Sardonic smile shall ye laugh, when shall come
 That which I speak—God's dire incoming flood,
 When Eve's polluted race, in the great earth
 Blooming perennial in impervious stem,
 Shall, root and branch, in one night disappear,
 230 And cities, men and all, shall the Earth-shaker

225. *Sardonic smile*.—Expression supposed to have originated from a Sardinian plant so bitter as to cause the face of the eater to writhe in pain, though he might attempt to laugh. Comp. Hom. *Od.*, xx, 302.

230. *Earth-shaker*.—In the Greek poets an epithet of Poseidon (Nep-tune), the god of the sea, here evidently applied to the God of Noah.

- From the depths scatter and their walls destroy.
 And then the whole world of unnumbered men
 Shall die. But how shall I weep, how lament
 In wooden house, how mingle tears with waves?
 235 For, if this water bidden of God shall come,
 Earth shall float, hills float, and even sky shall float;
 Everything shall be water, and all things
 Shall be destroyed by waters. And the winds
 Shall stand still, and a second age shall come.
 240 O Phrygia, thou shalt from the water's crest
 First rise up, and thou first another race
 Of men shalt nourish, once again anew
 Beginning; and thou shalt be nurse for all.”
 But when now to the lawless generation
 245 He had thus vainly spoken, the Most High
 Appeared, and once more cried aloud and said:
 “The time is now come, Noah, to proclaim
 Each thing, even all which I that day to thee
 Did promise and confirm, and to complete,
 250 Because of a people disobedient,
 Throughout the boundless world even all the things
 Which generations of a former time
 Did practice, evil things innumerable.
 But do thou quickly enter with thy sons
 255 And the wives. Call as many as I bid,
 Of tribes of beasts and creeping things and birds,
 And in as many as I ordain for life
 Will I then put a willingness to go.”
 Thus spoke he; forth went (Noah) and aloud
 260 Cried out and called. And then wife, sons and brides,
 Entered the house of wood; then also went

240. *Phrygia* . . . *first*.—Comp. the statement of Herodotus (ii, 2), that the Phrygians were the most ancient of mankind.

The other things, as many as God willed
 To shut in. But when fitting bolt was put
 About the lid, and in its polished place
 265 Was fitted sideways, then was brought to pass
 Forthwith the purpose of the God of heaven.
 And he massed clouds, and hid the sun's bright
 disk,
 And moon, and stars, and circle of the heaven,
 Obscuring all things round; he thundered loud,
 270 Terror of mortals, sending lightnings forth;
 And all the winds together were aroused,
 And all the veins of water were unloosed
 By opening of great cataracts from heaven,
 And from earth's caverns and the tireless deep
 275 Appeared the myriad waters, and the whole
 Illimitable earth was covered o'er.
 But on the water swam that wondrous house;
 And torn by many furious waves, and struck
 By force of winds, it rushed on fearfully;
 280 But with its keel it cut the mass of foam
 While the loud-babbling waters dashed around.
 But when God deluged all the world with rains
 Then also Noah took thought to observe
 By counsels of the Immortal; for he now
 285 Had had enough of Nereus. And straightway
 The house he opened from the polished wall,
 That crosswise was bound fast with skillful stays.
 And looking out upon the mighty mass
 Of boundless waters Noah on all sides—

285. *Nereus*.—A sea god supposed to dwell in the bottom of the ocean, and called in Homer (*Il.* i, 556) the "old man of the sea." His daughters were called Nereids. Nereus is here put by metonymy for the sea itself, and the Sibyl means to say that Noah had been long enough in the water.

- 290 And 'twas his fortune with his eyes to see!—
Fear possessed and shook mightily his heart.
And then the air became a little calm,
Since it was weary wetting all the world
Many days; parting, then, it brought to light
295 How pale and blood-red was the mighty sky
And sun's bright disk awearied; scarcely held
Noah his courage. And then forth afar
Sent he a dove alone, that he might learn
If yet firm land appeared. But with tired wing,
300 Flying round all things, she again returned;
For not yet had the water ebbed away;
For it was deeply filling every place.
But after resting quietly for days
He sent the dove once more, to learn if yet
305 Had ceased the many waters. And she flew
And flew on, and went o'er the earth and, resting
Her body lightly on the humid ground,
Again to Noah back she came and bore
An olive branch—of tidings a great sign.
310 Courage now filled them all, and great delight,
Because they hoped to look upon the land.
But then thereafter yet another bird,
Of black wing, sent he forth as hastily;
Which, trusting to its wings, flew willingly,
315 And coming to the land continued there.
And Noah knew the land was nearer now.
But when on dashing waves the craft divine
Had here and there o'er ocean's billows swum,
It was made fast upon the narrow strand.
320 There is in Phrygia on the dark mainland

290. An aposiopesis. The poet is so appalled at the thought of what Noah saw that she leaves her sentence unfinished.

- A steep, tall mountain; Ararat its name,
 Because upon it all were to be saved
 From death, and there was great desire of heart;
 Thence streams of the great river Marsyas spring.
- 325 There on a lofty peak the ark abode
 When the waters ceased, and then again from heaven
 The voice divine of the great God this word
 Proclaimed: "O Noah, guarded, faithful, just,
 Come boldly forth, with thy sons and thy wife
- 330 And the three brides, and fill ye all the earth,
 Increasing, multiplying, rendering justice
 To one another through all generations,
 Until to judgment every race of men
 Shall come; for judgment shall be unto all."
- 335 Thus spoke the voice divine. Then from his couch
 Noah, encouraged, hastened on the land,
 And with him went his sons and wife and brides,
 And creeping things, and birds and quadrupeds,
 And all things else went from the wooden house
- 340 Into one place. And then went Noah forth
 As eighth, most just of men, when on the waters
 He had made full twice twenty days and one
 Because of counsels of the mighty God.
- Then a new stock of life again arose,
 345 Golden first, which indeed was sixth, and best,

321. *Ararat*.—Comp. the legends of this mountain and of the remains of the ark in Josephus, *Ant.*, i, iii, 6.

323. *From death*.—A reading proposed by Mendelssohn, and approved by Rzach in his *Addenda et corrigenda*.

324. *River Marsyas*.—Two rivers of antiquity bear this name, one a branch of the Mæander in Asia Minor, the other a branch of the Orontes in Syria. Neither of these seems to meet the conditions of our text.

342. *Twice twenty days and one*.—According to the statement in Gen. vii, 12.

- From the time when the first-formed man appeared;
 Heavenly its name, because all things to God
 Shall be a care. O first race of sixth age!
 O mighty joy which I thereafter shared,
 350 When I escaped sheer ruin, by the waves
 Much tossed, with husband and with brothers-in-
 law,
 Stepfather and stepmother, and with wives
 Of husband's brothers suffering terribly.
 Fitting things now will I sing: There shall be
 355 On the fig-tree a many-colored flower,
 And afterward the royal power and sway
 Shall Cronos have. For three kings of great soul,
 Men most just, shall distribute portions then,
 And many a year rule, rendering what is just
 360 To men who care for toil and deeds of love.
 And earth shall glory in her many fruits
 Self-growing, yielding much corn for the race.
 And the foster-fathers, ageless all their days,
 Shall from diseases chill and dreadful be
 365 Far aloof; they shall die as fallen on sleep,
 And unto Acheron in the abodes
 Of Hades they shall go away, and there
 Shall they have honor, since they were a race

348. *Sixth*.—"The Erythrean Sibyl says that she lived in the sixth age after the flood," writes Eusebius, *Oral. ad Sanct.*, xviii [G., 20, 1285]. Here we note that she assumes to be a daughter-in-law of Noah. Comp. close of book iii.

355. *Many-colored flower*.—Here employed as an image of the fertility of the royal race of whom she is about to sing.

357. *Three kings*.—The three sons of Noah would seem to have been identified in the Sibyl's thought with Cronos, Titan, and Iapetus of the Greek mythology. Comp. book iii, 130.

366. Acheron was a river of the lower world. Verg., *Æn.*, vi, 295.
 (285-303.)

- Of blessed ones, fortunate heroes, whom
 370 The Lord of Sabaoth gave a noble mind,
 And with whom always he his counsels shared.
 But blessed shall they be even when they go
 In Hades. And then afterward again
 Oppressive, strong, another second race
 375 Of earth-born men, the Titans. All excel
 In figure, stature, growth; and there shall be
 One language, as of old from the first race
 God in their breasts implanted. But even these,
 Having a haughty heart and rushing on
 380 To ruin, shall at last resolve to fight
 Against the starry heaven. And then the stream
 Of the great ocean shall upon them pour
 Its raging waters. But the mighty Lord
 Of Sabaoth though enraged shall check his wrath,
 385 Because he promised that again no flood
 Should be brought upon men of evil soul.
 But when the great high-thundering God shall
 cause
 The boundless swelling of the many waters—
 With their waves hither and thither rising high—
 390 To cease from wrath, and into other depths
 Of sea their measure lessen, setting bounds
 By harbors and rough headlands round the land;
 Then also shall a child of the great God
 Come, clothed in flesh, to men, and fashioned like
 395 To mortals in the earth; and he doth bear

375. *Titans*.—Mythical sons of heaven and earth who figure much in Greek legend and poetry. See book iii, 130–185. Lactantius records a number of the legends and observes: “The truth of this history is taught by the Erythræan Sibyl, who says almost the same things, varying only in a few unimportant details.” *Div. Inst.*, i, xiv [L., 6, 190].

- Four vowels, and two consonants in him
 Are twice announced; the whole sum I will name:
 For eight ones, and as many tens on these,
 And yet eight hundred will reveal the name
 400 To men insatiate; and do thou discern
 In thine own understanding that the Christ
 Is child of the immortal God most high.
 And he shall fulfill God's law, not destroy,
 Bearing his very image, and all things
 405 Shall he teach. Unto him shall priests convey
 And offer gold, and myrrh, and frankincense;
 For all these things he'll also bring to pass.
 But when a voice shall through the desert land
 Come bearing tidings to men, and to all
 410 Shall call to make straight paths, and from the heart
 Cast wickedness out and illuminate
 With water all the bodies of mankind,
 That being born again they may no more
 From what is righteous go at all astray—
 415 And one of barbarous mind, by dances bound,
 Cutting that (voice) off shall bestow reward—

396. *Four vowels*.—The name Jesus in Greek, Ἰησοῦς, contains four vowels and the consonant is twice told, and the numerical value of all the letters is 888. Comp. line 175, and note.

406. *Gold . . . myrrh*.—Comp. Matt. ii, 11.

408. *A voice*.—Comp. Isa. xl, 3; Matt. iii, 3.

411. *Illuminate*.—An expression relating to Christian baptism quite common with the early fathers, many of whom understood the word φωτισθέντες in Heb. vi, 4, as referring to baptism. Justin Martyr, 1 *Apol.*, lxi [G., 6, 421], says: "This washing is called *illumination*, inasmuch as those who learn these things have their understanding illuminated." Cyril of Jerusalem wrote eighteen books of religious instruction, which are entitled *Catechesis of the Illuminated* [G., 33, 369–1060]. See also *Apost. Const.*, viii, 8. For other references see Suicer, Thesaurus, under φάτισμα.

- Then on a sudden there shall be a sign
 To mortals, when, watched over, there shall come
 Out of the land of Egypt a fair stone;
 420 And on it shall the Hebrew people stumble;
 But by his guiding nations shall be brought
 Together; for the God who rules on high
 They also shall know through him, and the way
 In common light. For unto chosen men
 425 Will he show life eternal, but the fire
 Will he for ages on the lawless bring.
 And then shall he the sickly heal, and all
 Who are blameworthy who shall trust in him.
 And then the blind shall see, the lame shall walk,
 430 The deaf shall hearken, and the dumb shall speak.
 Demons shall he drive out, and of the dead
 There shall be an uprising; on the waves
 Shall he walk; also in a desert place
 Shall he five thousand satisfy with food.
 435 From five loaves and a fish out of the sea,
 And with the remnants of them, for the hope
 Of peoples, shall he fill twelve baskets full.
 And then shall Israel, drunken, not discern,
 Nor shall they hear, oppressed with feeble ears.
 440 But when the maddening wrath of the Most High
 Shall come upon the Hebrews, and take faith
 Away from them, because they slew the Son
 Of the heavenly God; then also with foul lips

415. *Dances*.—See Matt. xiv, 6-10.

418. *Watched over*.—By God and angels, as told in Matt. ii.

419. *Egypt*.—See Matt. ii, 13-15, 21. *Stone*.—Comp. Matt. xxi, 42, 44, and 1 Pet. ii, 4-8; Zech. iii, 9.

424. *Common light*.—Comp. John i, 4-9.

429-437. Comp. book viii, 270-274 and 361-369. Cited also by Lactantius in *Div. Inst.* iv, 15 [L., 6, 493].

- Shall Israel give him cuffs and spittle drugged.
 445 And gall for food and vinegar unmixed
 For drink will they, with evil madness smitten
 In bosom and in heart, give impiously,
 Not seeing with their eyes, more blind than moles,
 More terrible than crawling poisonous beasts,
 450 Fast bound by heavy sleep. But when his hands
 He shall spread forth and measure out all things,
 And bear the crown of thorns, and they shall pierce
 His side with reeds, for which dark monstrous night
 Shall be for three hours in the midst of day,
 455 Then also shall the temple of Solomon
 Bring to an end a mighty sign for men,
 When he shall to the house of Hades go
 Proclaiming resurrection to the dead.
 But when in three days he shall come again
 460 Unto the light, and show his form to men
 And teach all things, ascending in the clouds
 Unto the house of heaven shall he go
 Leaving the world a Gospel covenant.
 And in his name shall blossom a new shoot
 465 From nations that are guided by the law
 Of the Mighty One. But also after this
 There shall be wise guides, and then afterward
 There shall be a cessation of the prophets.
 After that, when the Hebrew people reap
 470 Their evil harvest, shall a Roman king
 Much gold and silver utterly destroy.
 And afterward shall other royal powers
 Continuously arise as kingdoms perish,

444. *Cuffs . . . spittle.*—Comp. Matt. xxvii, 30.

456. *Sign.*—Comp. Matt. xxvii, 51.

470. *Roman king.*—Titus, who carried the spoils of the temple to Rome.
 (365-390.)

BOOK II.

CONTENTS OF BOOK II.

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BOOK II.

- Now while I much entreated God restrained
 My wise song, also in my breast again
 He put the charming voice of words divine.
 In my whole body terror-stricken these
 5 I follow; for I know not that I speak,
 But God impels me to proclaim each thing.
 But when on earth come shocks, fierce thunderbolts,
 Thunders and lightnings, storms, and evil blight,
 And rage of jackals and of wolves, manslaughter,
 10 Destruction of men and of lowing kine,
 Four-footed cattle and laborious mules,
 And goats and sheep, then shall the ample field
 Be barren from neglect, and fruits shall fail,
 And there shall be a selling of their freedom
 15 Among most men, and robbery of temples.
 And then shall, after these, appear of men
 The tenth race, when the earth-shaking Lightener
 Shall break the zeal for idols and shall shake
 The people of seven-hilled Rome, and riches great

This second book appears to be a continuation of the preceding, and was probably written by the same author. In several manuscripts the two books are found united and placed after the third book. The appropriation of verses from the third and eighth books shows the later composition of these first two books, which our compiler assigned to their present position on account of their contents.

5. *I know not*.—Comp. Plato, *Apol.*, 22, where Socrates observes that “not by wisdom do poets write poetry, but by a sort of genius and inspiration, they are like diviners who also say many fine things, but do not understand the meaning of them.”

- 20 Shall perish, burned by Vulcan's fiery flame.
 And then shall bloody signs from heaven descend—
 But yet the whole world of unnumbered men
 Enraged shall kill each other, and in tumult
 Shall God send famines, plagues, and thunderbolts
- 25 On men who, without justice, judge of rights.
 And lack of men shall be in all the world,
 So that if anyone beheld a trace
 Of man on earth, he would be wonderstruck.
 And then shall the great God who dwells in heaven
- 30 Saviour of pious men in all things prove.
 And then shall there be peace and wisdom deep,
 And the fruit-bearing land shall yield again
 Abundant fruits, divided not in parts
 Nor yet enslaved. And every harbor then,
- 35 And every haven, shall be free to men
 As formerly, and shamelessness shall perish.
 And then will God show mortals a great sign:
 For like a lustrous crown shall shine a star,
 Bright, all-resplendent, from the radiant heaven
- 40 Days not a few; and then will he display
 From heaven a crown for contest unto men
 Who wrestle. And then there shall be again
 A mighty contest of triumphal march

21. There seems to be a lacuna of one line after this, containing perhaps a mention of omens and drops of blood, as in book xii, 73, where a similar thought is found.

43. *Contest of triumphal march.*—Allusion to the iselastic (*εἰσελαστικός*) contests, the victors in which were conducted into their own city through a broken part of the wall. See Pliny, book x, Epis. 119 and 120, in which these games are mentioned. Alexandre conjectures that this whole passage (lines 37–63) concerning contests and crowns was first written in a time of persecution to inspire to fidelity; but after persecution had ceased it was accommodated to the more common struggles of the Christian life.

Into the heavenly sky, and it shall be
 45 For all men in the world, and have the fame
 Of immortality. And every people
 Shall then in the immortal contests strive
 For splendid victory. For no one there
 Can shamelessly with silver buy a crown.
 50 For unto them will the pure Christ adjudge
 That which is due, and crown the ones approved,
 And give his martyrs an immortal prize
 Who carry on the contest unto death.
 And unto chaste men who run their race well
 55 Will he the incorruptible reward
 Of the prize give, and to all men allot
 That which is due, and also to strange nations
 That live a holy life and know one God.
 And those who have regard for marriages
 60 And keep themselves far from adulteries,
 To them rich gifts, eternal hope, he'll give.
 For every human soul is God's free gift,
 And 'tis not right men stain it with vile deeds.
 [Do not be rich unrighteously, but lead

64. The passage beginning here and ending with line 138, and consisting mainly of proverbs, has every appearance of an interpolation. It breaks the connection of thought and the figure of the iselastic contest, which is continued in lines 139-195. The passage is for the most part taken from a poem of 217 lines in hexameter verse, entitled *ποίημα νοουθετικόν* (*admonitory poem*), and attributed to Phocylides, a gnomic poet of Miletus (born about B. C. 560). Very few, however, will seriously accept these lines as a genuine production of a contemporary of Theognis. They are without much doubt the composition of a Christian writer, and possibly, but not probably, by the author of the second book of the Sibylline Oracles. The variations between the two texts are considerable, the Sibyllines adding many lines not found in Phocylides, and Phocylides having a few not found in the Sibyllines.

- 65 A life of probity. Be satisfied
 With what thou hast and keep thyself from that
 Which is another's. Speak not what is false,
 But have a care for all things that are true.
 Revere not idols vainly; but the God
- 70 Imperishable honor always first,
 And next thy parents. Render all things due,
 And into unjust judgment come thou not.
 Do not cast out the poor unrighteously,
 Nor judge by outward show; if wickedly
- 75 Thou judgest, God hereafter will judge thee.
 Avoid false testimony; tell the truth.
 Maintain thy virgin purity, and guard
 Love among all. Deal measures that are just;
 For beautiful is measure full to all.
- 80 Strike not the scales oneside, but draw them equal.
 Forswear not ignorantly nor willingly;
 God hates the perjured man in that he swore.
 A gift proceeding out of unjust deeds
 Never receive in hand. Do not steal seed;
- 85 Accursed through many generations he
 Who took it unto scattering of life.
 Indulge not vile lusts, slander not, nor kill.
 Give the toilworn his hire; do not afflict
 The poor man. Unto orphans help afford
- 90 And to widows and the needy. Talk with sense;
 Hold fast in heart a secret. Be unwilling
 To act unjustly nor yet tolerate
 Unrighteous men. Give to the poor at once
 And say not, "Come to-morrow." Of thy grain
- 95 Give to the needy with perspiring hand.

95. *With perspiring hand.*—So Mendelssohn, *Philologus*, xlix, 2, p. 246.
 Comp. Rzach, p. xix.

- He who gives alms knows how to lend to God.
Mercy redeems from death when judgment comes.
Not sacrifice, but mercy God desires
Rather than sacrifice. The naked clothe,
100 Share thy bread with the hungry, in thy house
Receive the shelterless and lead the blind.
Pity the shipwrecked; for the voyage is
Uncertain. To the fallen give a hand;
And save the man that stands without defense.
- 105 Common to all is suffering, life's a wheel,
Riches unstable. Having wealth, reach out
To the poor thy hand. Of what God gave to thee
Bestow thou also on the needy one.
Common is the whole life of mortal men;
- 110 But it comes out unequal. When thou seest
A poor man never banter him with words,
Nor harshly accost a man who may be blamed.
One's life in death is proven; if one did
The unlawful or just, it shall be decided
- 115 When he to judgment comes. Disable not
Thy mind with wine nor drink excessively.
Eat not blood, and abstain from things
Offered to idols. Gird not on the sword
For slaughter, but defense; and would thou might
- 120 It neither lawlessly nor justly use:
For if thou kill an enemy thy hand
Thou dost defile. Keep from thy neighbor's field,
Nor trespass on it; just is every landmark,
And trespass painful. Useful is possession
- 125 Of lawful wealth, but of unrighteous gains
'Tis worthless. Harm not any growing fruit
Of the field. And let strangers be esteemed
In equal honor with the citizens;

- For much-enduring hospitality
130 Shall all experience as each other's guests;
But let there not be anyone a stranger
Among you, since, ye mortals, all of you
Are of one blood, and no land has for men
Any sure place. Wish not nor pray for wealth;
135 But pray to live from few things and possess
Nothing at all unjust. The love of gain
Is mother of all evil. Do not long
For gold or silver; in them there will be
A double-edged and soul-destroying iron.
140 A snare to men continually are gold
And silver. Gold, of evils source, of life
Destructive, troubling all things, would that thou
Wert not to mortals such a longed-for bane!
For wars, because of thee, and pillaging
145 And murders come, and children hate their sires,
And brothers and sisters those of their own blood.
Plot no deceit, and do not arm thy heart
Against a friend. Keep not concealed within
A different thought from what thou speakest forth;
150 Nor, like rock-clinging polyp, change with place.
But with all be frank, and things from the soul
Speak thou forth. Whosoever willfully
Commits a wrong, an evil man is he;
But he that does it under force, the end
155 I tell not; but let each man's will be right.
Pride not thyself in wisdom, power, or wealth;
God only is the wise and mighty one
And full of riches. Do not vex thy heart
With evils that are past; for what is done
160 Can never be undone. Let not thy hand
Be hasty, but ferocious passion curb;

- For many times has one in striking done
Murder without design. Let suffering
Be common, neither great nor overmuch.
- 165 Excessive good has not brought forth to men
That which is helpful. And much luxury
Leads to immoderate lusts. Much wealth is proud,
And makes one grow to wanton violence.
Passionate feeling, creeping in, effects
- 170 Destructive madness. Anger is a lust,
And when it is excessive it is wrath.
The zeal of good men is a noble thing,
But of the base is base. Of wicked men
The boldness is destructive, but renown
- 175 Follows that of the good. To be revered
Is virtuous love, but that of Cypris works
Increase of shame. A silly man is called
Very agreeable among his fellows.
With moderation eat, drink, and converse;
- 180 Of all things moderation is the best;
But trespass of its limit brings to grief.
Be not thou envious, faithless, or abusive,
Or evil-minded, or a false deceiver.
Be prudent and abstain from shameless deeds.
- 185 Imitate not what's evil, but leave thou
Vengeance to justice; for persuasion is
A useful thing, but strife engenders strife.
Trust not too quickly ere thou see the end.]
This is the contest, these are the rewards;
- 190 These are the prizes; this the gate of life

176. *Cypris*.—Another name for Aphrodite (or Venus), the goddess of love. She is fabled to have sprung from the foam of the sea and to have first stepped ashore on the island of Cyprus. The love of *Cypris* here means impure sexual love.

189. *This is the contest*.—Obvious allusion to the iselastic contest de-
(130-150.)

- And entrance into immortality,
 Which God in heaven unto most righteous men
 Appointed a reward for victory;
 And through this gate shall gloriously pass
 195 Those who shall then receive the victor's crown.
 But when this sign shall everywhere appear—
 Children with gray hair on their temples born—
 And human sufferings, famines, plagues, and wars,
 And change of times, and many a tearful wail,
 200 Ah! of how many parents in the lands
 Will children mourn and piteously weep,
 And with shrouds bury flesh and limbs in earth,
 Mother of peoples, with the blood and dust
 Themselves defiling. O ye wretched men
 205 Of the last generation, evil doers,
 Terrible, childish, not perceiving this,
 That when the tribes of women do not bear
 The harvest time of mortal men is come.
 Near is the ruin when impostors come
 210 Instead of prophets speaking on the earth.
 And Beliar shall come and many signs
 Perform for men. And then of holy men,
 Elect and faithful, there shall be confusion,
 And pillaging of them and of the Hebrews.

scribed in lines 42–63 above, and showing the passage 64–188 to be an interpolation. The compiler who inserted the passage here probably considered these proverbs so many precepts to guide one in the great contest for immortality.

197. *Children with gray hair*.—Comp. a similar passage in Hesiod, *Works and Days*, 181. Children will become prematurely old by reason of the woes destined to visit the race in the last generation.

211. *Beliar*.—Same as Belial, named here for antichrist, whose coming in the last time is depicted in harmony with Paul's doctrine in 2 Thess. ii, 8–10.

- 215 And there shall be upon them fearful wrath
 When from the east a people of twelve tribes
 Shall come in search of kindred Hebrew people
 Whom Assyrian shoot destroyed ; and over these
 Shall nations perish. But they afterwards
- 220 Shall over men exceeding mighty rule,
 Elect and faithful Hebrews, and enslave
 Them as before, since their power ne'er shall fail.
 He that is highest of all, the all-surveying,
 Dwelling in heaven, will scatter sleep on men,
- 225 Covering the eyelids o'er. O blessed servants
 Whom when the Master comes he finds awake !
 And they all watch at all times and expect
 With sleepless eyes. For it will be at dawn
 Or eve or midday ; but he sure shall come,
- 230 And it shall be as I say, it shall be,
 To them that sleep, that from the starry heaven
 The stars at midday will to all appear
 With the two lights as the time hastens on.
 And then the Tishbite, urging from the heaven
- 235 His chariot celestial, and on earth
 Arriving, shall to all the world display
 Three evil signs of life to be destroyed.
 Alas for all the women in that day
 Who shall be found with burden in the womb !

215-222. A passage inexplicably obscure in its historical allusions, but apparently connected with the notion of the ten tribes of the Assyrian exile, who, according to 2 Esdras xiii, 40-50, are concealed in the far East, and to be restored in the last time.

225. Comp. Matt. xxiv, 46.

228. Comp. Mark xiii, 35 ; Homer, *Il.*, xxi, 111.

233. Comp. Matt. xxiv, 29.

234. *Tishbite* . . . *chariot*.—Comp. 2 Kings ii, 11 ; Mal. iv, 5.

238. Comp. Matt. xxiv, 19.

- 240 Alas for all who suckle tender babes !
 Alas for all who shall dwell on the waves !
 Alas for women who shall see that day !
 For a dark mist shall hide the boundless world,
 East, west, and south, and north. And then shall flow
- 245 A mighty stream of burning fire from heaven
 And every place consume, earth, ocean vast,
 And gleaming sea, and lakes and rivers, springs,
 And cruel Hades and the heavenly sky.
 And heavenly lights shall break up into one
- 250 And into outward form all-desolate.
 For stars from heaven shall fall into all seas.
 And all the souls of men shall gnash their teeth
 Burned both by sulphur stream and force of fire
 In ravenous soil, and ashes hide all things.
- 255 And then of the world all the elements
 Shall be bereft, air, earth, sea, light, sky, days,
 Nights ; and no longer in the air shall fly
 Birds without number, nor shall living things
 That swim the sea swim any more at all,
- 260 Nor freighted vessel o'er the billows pass,
 Nor kine straight-guiding plow the field, nor sound
 Of furious winds ; but he shall fuse all things
 Together, and shall pick out what is pure.
 But when the immortal God's eternal angels
- 265 Arakiel, Ramiel, Uriel, Samiel,
 And Azael, they that know how many evils

263. Comp. book iii, 105 ; viii, 546.

264-266. These names of the angels differ somewhat from those found in the Book of Enoch, where, in chap. ix, we find Michael, Gabriel, Surjan, and Urjan (the Greek fragment has Michael, Uriel, Raphael, and Gabriel) ; in chap. xx we have Uriel, Rnfael, Raguel, Michael, Saraquel, and Gabriel ; and in xl we meet the name Fanuel.

(191-216.)

- Anyone did before, shall from dark gloom
 Then lead to judgment all the souls of men
 Before the judgment-seat of the great God
 270 Immortal; for imperishable is
 One only, himself the almighty One,
 Who shall be judge of mortals; and to them
 That dwell beneath will then the heavenly One
 Give souls and spirit and voice, and also bones
 275 Fitted with joints unto all kinds of flesh,
 And both the flesh and sinews, veins and skin
 About the body, and hair as before ;
 Divinely fashioned and with breathing moved
 Shall bodies of those on earth one day be raised.
 280 And then shall Uriel, mighty angel, break
 The bolts of stern and lasting adamant
 Which, monstrous, hold the brazen gates of Hades,
 Straight cast them down, and unto judgment lead
 All forms that have endured much suffering,
 285 Chiefly the shapes of Titans born of old,
 And giants, and all whom the deluge whelmed,
 And all that perished in the billowy seas,
 And all that furnished banquet for the beasts
 And creeping things and fowls, these in a mass
 290 Shall (Uriel) summon to the judgment-seat ;
 And also those whom flesh-devouring fire
 Destroyed in flame, even these shall he collect
 And place before the judgment-seat of God.
 And when the high-thundering Lord of Sabaoth
 295 Making an end of fate shall raise the dead,
 Sit on his heavenly throne, and firmly fix
 The mighty pillar, then amid the clouds
 Christ, who himself is incorruptible,

297. *Pillar*.—Comp. lines 351 and 362, and also book vii, 86.

- Shall come unto the Incorruptible
300 In glory with pure angels, and shall sit
At the right hand on the great judgment-seat
To judge the life of pious and the way
Of impious men. And Moses, the great friend
Of the Most High, shall come enrobed in flesh ;
305 Also great Abraham himself shall come,
Isaac and Jacob, Joshua, Daniel,
Elijah, Habakkuk and Jonah, and
Those whom the Hebrews slew. But he'll destroy
The Hebrews after Jeremiah, all
310 Who are to be judged at the judgment-seat,
That worthy recompense they may receive
And pay for all each did in mortal life.
And then shall all pass through the burning stream
Of flame unquenchable ; but all the just
315 Shall be saved ; and the godless furthermore
Shall to all ages perish, all who did
Evils aforetime, and committed murders,
And all who are accomplices therein,
Liars and thieves, and ruiners of home,
320 Crafty and terrible, and parasites,
And marriage-breakers pouring forth vile words,
Dread, wanton, lawless, and idolaters ;
And all who left the great immortal God,
Became blasphemers, did the pious harm,
325 Destroying faith and killing righteous men ;
And all that with a shamelessness deceitful
And double-faced rush in as presbyters
And reverend ministers, who knowingly
Give unjust judgments, yielding to false words . .
330 More hurtful than the leopards and the wolves
And more vile ; and all that are grossly proud ;

- And usurers, who gains on gains amass
And damage orphans and widows in each thing ;
And all that give to widows and to orphans
335 The fruit of unjust deeds, and all that cast
Reproach in giving from their own hard toils ;
And all that left their parents in old age,
Not paying them at all, nor offering
To parents filial duty, and all who
340 Were disobedient and against their sires
Spoke a harsh word ; and all that pledges took
And then denied them ; and the servants all
Who were against their masters, and again
Those who licentiously defiled the flesh ;
345 And all who loosed the girdle of the maid
For secret intercourse, and all who caused
Abortions, and all who their offspring cast
Unlawfully away ; and sorcerers
And sorceresses with them, and these wrath
350 Of the heavenly and immortal God shall drive
Against a pillar, where shall all around
In a circle flow a restless stream of fire ;
And deathless angels of the immortal God,
Who ever is, shall bind with lasting bonds
355 In chains of flaming fire and from above
Punish them all by scourge most terribly ;
And in Gehenna, in the gloom of night,
Shall they be cast 'neath many horrid beasts
Of Tartarus, where darkness is immense.
360 But when there shall be many punishments
Enforced on all who had an evil heart,
Yet afterward shall there a fiery wheel
From a great river circle them around,
Because they had a care for wicked deeds.

- 365 And then one here, another there, shall sires,
 Young children, mothers, nursing babes, in tears
 Wail their most piteous fate. No fill of tears
 Shall be for them, nor piteous voice be heard
 Of them that moan, one here, another there,
- 370 But long worn under dark, dank Tartarus
 Aloud shall they cry; and they shall repay
 In cursed places thrice as much as all
 The evil work they did, burned with much fire;
 And all of them, consumed by raging thirst
- 375 And hunger, shall in anguish gnash their teeth
 And call death beautiful, and death shall flee
 Away from them. For neither death nor night
 Shall ever give them rest. And many things in vain
 Will they ask of the God that rules on high,
- 380 And then will he his face turn openly
 Away from them. For he to erring men
 Gave, in seven ages for repentance, signs
 By the hands of a virgin undefiled.
 But the others, all to whom right and fair works
- 385 And piety and thoughts most just were dear,
 Shall angels, bearing through the burning stream,
 Lead unto light and life exempt from care,
 Where comes the immortal way of the great God
 And fountains three—of honey, wine, and milk.
- 390 And equal land for all, divided not
 By walls or fences, more abundant fruits
 Spontaneous shall then bear, and the course
 Of life be common and wealth unapportioned.
 For there no longer will be poor nor rich,

376.—Comp. viii, 468; and xiii, 156.

381-383.—Comp. viii, 473-475.

394, 395.—Comp. viii, 145.

- 395 Tyrant nor slave, nor any great nor small,
 Nor kings nor leaders; all alike in common.
 No more at all will one say, "night has come,"
 Nor "morrow comes," nor "yesterday has been;"
 Nor shall there many days of anxious care,
 400 Nor spring, nor winter, nor the summer-heat,
 Nor autumn be [nor marriage, nor yet death,
 Nor sales, nor purchases], nor set of sun
 Nor rising; for a long day will God make.
 And to the pious will the almighty God
 405 Imperishable grant another thing,
 When they shall ask the imperishable God:
 That he will suffer men from raging fire
 And endless gnawing anguish to be saved;
 And this will he do. For hereafter he
 410 Will pluck them from the restless flame, elsewhere
 Remove them, and for his own people's sake
 Send them to other and eternal life
 With the immortals, in Elysian field,

397-400.—Comp. viii, 561-565.

404-415.—This passage, which savors of a final restoration from future punishment, has been thought to be contrary to orthodox teaching; and we find appended to some manuscripts the following lines, headed, "Contradiction of the 'To the pious will the Almighty,'" and professedly a disproof of the doctrine of Origen on this subject:

False manifestly; for the penal fire
 Shall never cease from those who are condemned.
 For also I might pray to have it thus,
 Branded with greatest scars of trespasses,
 Which need more kindness. But let Origen
 Of his presumptuous babble be ashamed,
 Saying there shall be end of punishments.

413. *Elysian field*.—In Homer (*Od.*, iv, 563) the Elysian fields are represented as situated on the western border of the earth by the ocean stream. Hesiod (*Works and Days*, 169) speaks of "the isles of the blessed, beside (323-337.)

- Where move far-stretching billows of the lake
 415 Of ever-flowing Acheron profound.
 Ah, miserable woman that I am!
 What shall I be in that day ? for I sinned—
 Being busy foolishly about all things,
 Caring for neither marriage-bond nor reason;
 420 But even in my wealthy husband's house
 I shut the needy out; and formerly
 I knowingly performed unlawful things.
 But, Saviour, though I shameless things performed,
 Do thou from my tormentors rescue me,
 425 A shameless woman. And I pray thee now
 Make me to rest a little from my song,
 Holy Giver of manna, King of the great realm.

deep-eddying ocean." But later, and with the Roman poets, Elysium was in the lower world, the blessed part of Hades, and is here conceived as bordering on the Acheronian lake.

416-425.—Comp. the conclusion of book vii.

(337-347.)

BOOK III.

CONTENTS OF BOOK III.

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BOOK III.

- O THOU high-thundering blessed heavenly One,
 Who hast set in their place the cherubim,
 I, who have uttered what is all too true,
 Entreat thee, let me have a little rest;
 5 For my heart has grown weary from within.
 But why again leaps my heart, and my soul
 With a whip smitten from within constrained
 To utter forth its message unto all?
 But yet again will I proclaim all things
 10 Which God commands me to proclaim to men.
 O men, that in your image have a form
 Fashioned of God, why do ye vainly stray

This third book of the Oracles is the most interesting and important of the entire collection. It is by far the longest, containing in the Greek text 829 verses. It is believed to be mainly of Jewish origin. In its present form, however, it is obviously a compilation of several distinct groups of oracles, one of which, lines 117-361 (Greek text, 97-294), contains the oldest portion of the Sibylline Oracles as they now exist. Two quite extensive fragments which have been preserved by Theophilus are by him said to have stood at the beginning of the Sibyl's prophecy and probably formed an introduction to this section of our third book (see Appendix, p. 257). In place of this more ancient introduction the compiler of our collection has inserted the first 116 lines of this book, which may be again subdivided into three parts, which appear to be so many separate fragments; lines 1-75, 76-111, 112-116. In some editions the first 75 lines (Greek text, 1-62) are appended to the preceding book, and some MSS. preface this book with the words, "Again in her third tome she says these things from the second discourse concerning God." Other clearly distinguishable sections of this book are the following: lines 362-615, 616-1003, 1004-1031 (Greek text, 295-488, 489-808, 809-827). The last section purports to be a personal vindication of the Sibyl.

- And walk not in the straight way, always mindful
 Of the immortal Maker? God is one,
 15 Sovereign, ineffable, dwelling in heaven,
 The self-existent and invisible,
 Himself alone beholding everything;
 Him sculptor's hand made not, nor is his form
 Shown by man's art from gold or ivory;
 20 But he, eternal Lord, proclaims himself
 As one who is and was erst and shall be
 Again hereafter. For who being mortal
 Can see God with his eyes? Or who shall bear
 To hear the only name of heaven's great God,
 25 The ruler of the world? He by his word
 Created all things, even heaven and sea,
 And tireless sun, and full moon and bright stars,
 And mighty mother Tethys, springs and rivers,
 Imperishable fire, and days and nights.
 30 This is the God who formed four-lettered Adam,
 The first one formed, and filling with his name
 East, west, and south, and north. The same is he
 Who fixed the pattern of the human form,
 And made wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls.
 35 Ye do not worship neither fear ye God,

28. *Mother Tethys*.—Wife of Oceanus, mother of the rivers, and the nymphs, three thousand in number. See Hesiod, *Theog.*, 335, *ff.*

30. *Four-lettered Adam*.—The ingenuity which sees in the four letters of this name the Greek initials of the words for east, west, north, and south surpasses even that noted in book i, 102, where Hades is traced in the word Adam. But Augustine adopts this, and says: "According to the Greek tongue, Adam himself signifies the whole world. For there are four letters, A, D, A, M, and in Greek speech these are the initial letters of the four quarters of the earth." *Ἀνατολή*, east; *Δύσις*, west; *Ἄρκτος*, north; *Μεσημβρία*, south. *Enarratio in Psalmum*, xev, 15 [L., 37, 1236]. See also *Tractatus in Joannis*, ix, 14, and x, 12 [L., 35, 1465, 1473].

(10-29.)

But vainly go astray and bow the knee
 To serpents, and make offering to cats,
 And idols, and stone images of men,
 And sit before the doors of godless temples;
 40 Ye guard him who is God, who keeps all things,
 And merry with the wickedness of stones
 Forget the judgment of the immortal Saviour
 Who made the heaven and earth. Alas! a race
 That has delight in blood, deceitful, vile,
 45 Ungodly, of false, double-tongued, immoral men,
 Adulterous, idolous, designing fraud,
 An evil madness raving in their hearts,
 For themselves plundering, having shameless soul;
 For no one who has riches will impart
 50 To another, but dire wickedness shall be
 Among all mortals, and for sake of gain
 Will many widows not at all keep faith,
 But secretly love others, and the bond
 Of life those who have husbands do not keep.
 55 But when Rome shall o'er Egypt also rule
 Governing always, then shall there appear
 The greatest kingdom of the immortal King
 Over men. And a holy Lord shall come
 To hold the scepter over every land
 60 Unto all ages of fast-hastening time.

55. The time when Rome obtained full control of Egypt was when Augustus became the undisputed master of the regions all about the Mediterranean Sea, and the Roman empire became fully established. This empire the Sibyl recognizes as beginning about the time of the appearance of the Christ, who was born during the reign of Augustus.

58. *Holy Lord shall come.*—The Messiah, for no other ruler could be described by such language as the writer here employs. This passage is evidence that at least lines 55-75 are of Christian or Jewish Christian authorship.

And then shall come inexorable wrath
 On Latin men ; three shall by piteous fate
 Endamage Rome. And perish shall all men,
 With their own houses, when from heaven shall flow
 65 A fiery cataract. Ah, wretched me !
 When shall that day and when shall judgment come
 Of the immortal God, the mighty King ?
 But just now, O ye cities, ye are built
 And all adorned with temples and race-grounds,
 70 Markets, and images of wood, of gold,
 Of silver and of stone, that ye may come
 Unto the bitter day. For it shall come,
 When there shall pass among all men a stench
 Of brimstone. Yet each thing will I declare,
 75 In all the cities where men suffer ills.

.
 From the Sebastenes Beliar shall come
 Hereafter, and the height of hills shall he
 Establish, and shall make the sea stand still
 And the great fiery sun and the bright moon ;
 80 And he shall raise the dead, and many signs
 Work before men : but nothing shall be brought
 By him unto completion but deceit,
 And many mortals shall he lead astray—
 Hebrews both true and choice, and lawless men

62. *Three*.—One most naturally thinks here of the famous triumvirate of Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus ; but it is difficult to explain the "fiery cataract" (line 65) and other pictures of judgment in immediate connection with those historic names.

76. The *Sebastenes* are most naturally understood of the inhabitants of Sebaste, or Samaria, and a Jewish writer living in the time of Augustus might have been readily disposed to think of a Beliar—antichrist—as issuing from among the hated Samaritans. Comp. the miracle-working antichrist of Dan. vii, 25 ; viii, 23–25 ; xi, 36 ; and also 2 Thess. ii, 8–10.

- 85 Besides who never gave ear to God's word.
 But when the threatenings of the mighty God
 Shall draw near, and a flaming power shall come
 By billow to the earth, it shall consume
 Both Beliar and all the haughty men
- 90 Who put their trust in him. $\sqrt{\text{And}}$ thereupon
 Shall the whole world be governed by the hands
 Of a woman and obedient everywhere.
 Then when a widow shall o'er all the world
 Gain the rule, and east in the mighty sea
- 95 Both gold and silver, also brass and iron
 Of short-lived men into the deep shall east,
 Then all the elements shall be bereft
 Of order, when the God who dwells on high
 Shall roll the heaven, even as a scroll is rolled ;
- 100 And to the mighty earth and sea shall fall
 The entire multiform sky ; and there shall flow
 A tireless cataract of raging fire,
 And it shall burn the land, and burn the sea,
 And heavenly sky, and 'night, and day, and melt
- 105 Creation itself together and pick out
 What is pure. No more laughing spheres of light,
 Nor night, nor dawn, nor many days of care,
 Nor spring, nor winter, nor the summer-time,

92-93. *A woman . . . a widow.*—If we find in the "three" of line 62 a reference to the triumvirs Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus, it is but natural to understand this "widow" as Cleopatra of Egypt, who captivated by her charms both Julius Cæsar and Antony. But here again the picture of world-judgment which immediately follows is difficult to account for in connection with such a mention of Cleopatra. Is not the entire passage rather an ideal apocalyptic concept, to be understood somewhat after the manner of the woman portrayed in John's Apocalypse, xvii, 3; xviii, 7; a symbol of Rome herself conceived as the mistress of nations? Comp. book viii, 263; 165, Comp. book ii, 263; viii, 546.

(70-90.)

Nor autumn. And then of the mighty God
 110 The judgment midway in a mighty age
 Shall come, when all these things shall come to pass.]

O navigable waters and each land
 Of the Orient and of the Occident,
 Subject shall all things be to him who comes
 115 Into the world again, and therefore he
 Himself became first conscious of his power.

But when the threatenings of the mighty God
 Are fulfilled, which he threatened mortals once,
 When in Assyrian land they built a tower;—
 120 (And they all spoke one language, and resolved
 To mount aloft into the starry heaven ;
 But on the air the Immortal straightway put
 A mighty force; and then winds from above
 Cast down the great tower and stirred mortals up
 125 To wrangling with each other; therefore men
 Gave to that city the name of Babylon) ;—
 Now when the tower fell and the tongues of men
 Turned to all sorts of sounds, straightway all earth
 Was filled with men and kingdoms were divided;

112-116. This fragment has no necessary connection with what precedes or follows, and the MSS. are defective at this point.

117-129. This passage is cited in Theophilus, *ad Autol.*, ii, 31 [G., 6, 1101]; Josephus, *Ant.*, i, iv, 3. Comp. Eusebius, *Præp. Evang.*, ix, 14 [G., 21, 702, 703]. See Gen. xi, 1-9. It is one of the oldest portions of the Sibyllines, but begins abruptly, as if its natural preceding context had been omitted.

122. *Winds.*—"The idea that God threw down the tower by means of the winds was probably first written down by our poet, but it is really nothing but a subtile interpretation of Gen. xi, 7."—*Ewald*, p. 33.

- 130 And then the generation tenth appeared
 Of mortal men, from the time when the flood
 Came upon earlier men. And Cronos reigned,
 And Titan and Iapetus; and men called them
 Best offspring of Gaia and of Uranus,
 135 Giving to them names both of earth and heaven,
 Since they were very first of mortal men.
 So there were three divisions of the earth
 According to the allotment of each man,
 And each one having his own portion reigned
 140 And fought not; for a father's oaths were there
 And equal were their portions. But the time
 Complete of old age on the father came,
 And he died; and the sons infringing oaths
 Stirred up against each other bitter strife,
 145 Which one should have the royal rank and rule
 Over all mortals; and against each other
 Cronos and Titan fought. But Rhea and Gaia,
 And Aphrodite fond of crowns, Demeter,
 And Hestia and Dione of fair locks
 150 Brought them to friendship, and together called
 All who were kings, both brothers and near kin,
 And others of the same ancestral blood,

130. *Generation tenth.*—Cited by Athenagoras, *Legatio pro Christianis*, xxx [G., 6, 960], and Tertul., *ad Nationes*, ii, 12 [L., 1, 608]. In citing this passage Tertullian thus speaks of the Sibyl: "The Sibyl was earlier than all literature, that Sibyl, I mean, who was the true prophetess of truth. In hexameter verse she thus expounds the descent and exploits of Saturn."

132. *Cronos.*—Greek name for the more familiar Latin title Saturn. The story of the Titans in the following lines (132–187) is familiar to students of Greek mythology, but the old myth exists with numerous minor variations, and, according to Hesiod (*Theog.*, 453–500), the birth and preservation of Zeus were somewhat different from this story.

- And they judged Cronos should reign king of all,
 For he was oldest and of noblest form.
- 155 But Titan laid on Cronos mighty oaths
 To rear no male posterity, that he
 Himself might reign when age and fate should come
 To Cronos. And whenever Rhea bore
 Beside her sat the Titans, and all males
- 160 In pieces tore, but let the females live
 To be reared by the mother. But when now
 At the third birth the august Rhea bore,
 She brought forth Hera first; and when they saw.
 A female offspring, the fierce Titan men
- 165 Betook them to their homes. And thereupon
 Rhea a male child bore, and having bound
 Three men of Crete by oath she quickly sent
 Him into Phrygia to be reared apart
 In secret; therefore did they name him Zeus,
- 170 For he was sent away. And thus she sent
 Poseidon also secretly away.
 And Pluto, third, did Rhea yet again,
 Noblest of women, at Dodona bear,
 Whence flows Europus' river's liquid course,
- 175 And with Peneus mixed pours in the sea
 Its water, and men call it Stygian.

173-176. There was a *Dodona* in Epirus, ruins of which found near Janina were excavated in 1896; there was also a *Dodona* in northern Thessaly, and each of these places was the seat of an ancient and celebrated oracle. The Sibylline writer does not distinguish between the two. *Europus* is another name for the Titaresius, which, according to Strabo (*Geog.* ix, 5, 19; and *Fragment* 15) was a tributary to the *Peneus*, and flowed with it through the vale of Tempe to the sea. Comp. Homer, *Iliad* ii, 750-755, where mention is made of "wintry Dodona," and "lovely Titaresius," which, however, does not mingle with the Peneus, because it is a broken-off portion of the Styx.

- But when the Titans heard that there were sons
 Kept secretly, whom Cronos and his wife
 Rhea begat, then Titan sixty youths
 180 Together gathered, and held fast in chains
 Cronos and his wife Rhea, and concealed
 Them in the earth and guarded them in bonds.
 And then the sons of powerful Cronos heard,
 And a great war and uproar they aroused.
 185 And this is the beginning of dire war
 Among all mortals. [For it is indeed
 With mortals the prime origin of war.]
 And then did God award the Titans evil.
 And all of Titans and of Cronos born
 190 Died. But then as time rolled around there rose
 The Egyptian kingdom, then that of the Persians
 And of the Medes and Ethiopians,
 And of Assyria and Babylon,
 And then that of the Macedonians,
 195 Egyptian yet again, then that of Rome.
 And then a message of the mighty God
 Was set within my breast, and it bade me
 Proclaim through all earth and in royal hearts
 Plant things which are to be. And to my mind
 200 This God imparted first, how many kingdoms
 Have been together gathered of mankind.
 For first of all the house of Solomon
 Shall include horsemen of Phœnicia
 And Syria, and of the islands too,
 205 And the race of Pamphylians and Persians
 And Phrygians, Carians, and Mysians

202. *House of Solomon*.—The kingdom of Solomon is here made to rule over nations which Old Testament history never mentions as subject to Israel. Comp. 1 Kings iv, 21. But the poet wishes to magnify that realm.

And the race of the Lydians rich in gold.

- And then shall Hellenes, proud and impure,
Then shall a Macedonian nation rule,
210 Great, shrewd, who as a fearful cloud of war
Shall come to mortals. But the God of heaven
Shall utterly destroy them from the depth.
And then shall be another kingdom, white
And many-headed, from the western sea,
215 Which shall rule much land, and shake many men,
And to all kings bring terror afterwards,
And out of many cities shall destroy
Much gold and silver; but in the vast earth
There will again be gold, and silver too,
220 And ornament. And they will oppress mortals;
And to those men shall great disaster be,
When they begin unrighteous arrogance.
And forthwith in them there shall be a force
Of wickedness, male will consort with male,
225 And children they will place in dens of shame;
And in those days there shall be among men
A great affliction, and it shall disturb
All things, and break all things, and fill all things
With evils by a shameful covetousness.
230 And by ill-gotten wealth in many lands,

208. *Hellenes*.—The Græco-Macedonian kingdom is here evidently intended.

213. *Another kingdom*.—That of Rome, here called *white*, or brilliant, in allusion to the white toga worn by the Roman magistrates. Competitors for office were called *candidati*, because of the white robe in which they presented themselves. Martial (*Epig.*, viii, 65, 6) speaks of *candida cultu Roma*—"Rome white in apparel." The epithet *many-headed* has been supposed to point to Rome while she was yet a republic and had her hundred or more senators as rulers. But there may be an allusion to the biblical symbolism of Dan. vii, 6, and Rev. xiii, 1.

- But most of all in Macedonia.
 And it shall stir up hatred, and all guile
 Shall be with them even to the seventh kingdom,
 Of which a king of Egypt shall be king
 235 Who shall be a descendant from the Greeks.
 And then the nation of the mighty God
 Shall be again strong, and they shall be guides
 Of life to all men. But why did God place
 This also in my mind to tell: what first,
 240 And what next, and what evil last shall be
 On all men? Which of these shall take the lead?
 First on the Titans will God visit evil.
 For they shall pay to mighty Cronos's sons
 The penal satisfaction, since they bound
 245 Both Cronos and the mother dearly loved.
 Again shall there be tyrants for the Greeks
 And fierce kings overweening and impure,
 Adulterous and altogether bad;
 And for men shall be no more rest from war.
 250 And the dread Phrygians shall perish all,
 And unto Troy shall evil come that day.
 And to the Persians and Assyrians
 Evil shall straightway come, and to all Egypt
 And Libya and the Ethiopians,
 255 And to the Carians and Pamphylians—

233. *Seventh kingdom.*—Or seventh king (comp. line 765) of the Greek-Egyptian dynasty. This would point to Ptolemy Philometer if we reckon Alexander the Great as the first king, but Ptolemy Physcon if the line of the Ptolemies alone are reckoned. Ewald adopts this latter view, Alexandre the former. All the Ptolemies were of Greek (or Macedonian) origin.

237. *Again strong.*—The writer seems in the spirit and hope of Old Testament prophets to conceive a triumph for the chosen people as following hard upon the evils of his own time.

242-245.—This passage is in part a repetition of lines 188-190 above.

(190-209.)

- Evil to pass from one place to another,
 And to all mortals. Why now one by one
 Do I speak forth? But when the first receive
 Fulfillment, then straightway shall come on men
 260 The second. So the very first I'll tell.
 There shall an evil come to pious men
 Who dwell by the great temple of Solomon
 And who are progeny of righteous men.
 Alike of all these also I will tell
- 265 The tribe and line of fathers and homeland—
 All things with care, O mortal shrewd in mind.
 There is a city . . . on the earth,
 Ur of the Chaldees, whence there is a race
 Of men most righteous, to whom both good will
 270 And noble deeds have ever been a care.
 For they have no concern about the course
 Of the sun's revolution, nor the moon's,
 Nor wondrous things beneath the earth, nor depth
 Of joy-imparting sea Oceanus,
- 275 Nor signs of sneezing, nor the wings of birds,
 Nor soothsayers, nor wizards, nor enchanters,
 Nor tricks of dull words of ventriloquists,
 Neither do they astrologize with skill
 Of the Chaldeans, nor astronomize;
- 280 For these are all deceptive, in so far
 As foolish men go seeking day by day
 Training their souls unto no useful work;

266. *Mortal shrewd*.—Comp. i, 8.

287.—The passage is corrupt, and the reading adopted in our version is to some extent conjectural, but has some support in manuscripts and suits the context. The critical student should consult Alexandre's note in his edition of 1841, p. 111. On "Ur of the Chaldees" see Gen. xi, 31. Others, however, following another conjectural reading, understand the city to be Jerusalem. So Ewald, p. 21.

- And then did they teach miserable men
Deceptions, whence to mortals on the earth
285 Come many evils leading them astray
From good ways and just deeds. But they have
care
For righteousness and virtue, and not greed,
Which breeds unnumbered ills to mortal men,
War and unending famine. But with them
290 Just measure, both in fields and cities, holds,
Nor steal they from each other in the night,
Nor drive off herds of cattle, sheep, and goats,
Nor neighbor remove landmarks of a neighbor,
Nor any man of great wealth grieve the one
295 Less favored, nor to widows cause distress,
But rather aids them, ever helping them
With wheat and wine and oil; and always does
The rich man in the country send a share
At the time of the harvests unto them
300 That have not, but are needy, thus fulfilling
The saying of the mighty God, a hymn
In legal setting; for the Heavenly One
Finished the earth a common good for all.
Now when the people of twelve tribes depart
305 From Egypt, and with leaders sent of God
Nightly pursue their way by a pillar of fire
And during all the day by one of cloud,
For them then God a leader will appoint—
A great man, Moses, whom a princess found
310 Beside a marsh, and carried off and reared
And called her son. And at the time he came
As leader for the people whom God led
From Egypt unto the steep Sinai mount,

303. Repeated in line 321 below.

(231-256.)

- His own law God delivered them from heaven
 315 Writing on two flat stones all righteous things
 Which he enjoined to do; and if, perchance,
 One give no heed, he must unto the law
 Make satisfaction, either at men's hands
 Or, if men's notice he escape, he shall
 320 By ample satisfaction be destroyed.
 [For the Heavenly finished earth a common good
 For all, and in all hearts as best gift thought].
 To them alone the bounteous field yields fruit
 A hundredfold from one, and thus completes
 325 God's measure. But to them shall also come
 Misfortune, nor do they escape from plague.
 And even thou, forsaking thy fair shrine,
 Shalt flee away when it becomes thy lot
 To leave the holy land. And thou shalt be
 330 Carried to the Assyrians, and shalt see
 Young children and wives serving hostile men;
 And every means of life and wealth shall perish;
 And every land shall be filled up with thee,
 And every sea; and everyone shall be
 335 Offended with thy customs; and thy land
 Shall all be desert; and the altar fenced
 And temple of the great God and long walls
 Shall all fall to the ground, since in thy heart
 The holy law of the immortal God
 340 Thou didst not keep, but, erring, thou didst serve
 Unseemly images, and didst not fear
 The immortal Father, God of all mankind,
 Nor will to honor him; but images
 Of mortals thou didst honor. Therefore now

324, 325. *Hundredfold* . . . *God's measure*.—Comp. Gen. xxvi, 12; 2 Sam. xxiv, 3; Matt. xix, 29; Luke viii, 8.

- 345 Of time seven decades shall thy fruitful land
 And the wonders of thy temple all be waste.
 But there remains for thee a goodly end
 And greatest glory, as the immortal God
 Granted thee. But do thou wait and confide
- 350 In the great God's pure laws, when he shall lift
 Thy wearied knee upright unto the light.
 And then will God from heaven send a king
 To judge each man in blood and light of fire.
 There is a royal tribe, the race of which
- 355 Shall be unfailing; and as times revolve
 This race shall bear rule and begin to build
 God's temple new. And all the Persian kings
 Shall aid with bronze and gold and well-wrought iron.
 For God himself will give the holy dream
- 360 By night. And then the temple shall again
 Be, as it was before. . . .

345. *Seven decades.*—See Jer. xxv, 9–12.

352. The king here referred to is perhaps best explained of Cyrus, and the description should be compared with Isa. xlv, 28; xlv, 1–4. Ewald (p. 32) understands the king to be the Messiah, and, indeed, the language of lines 352 and 353 (Greek text, 286, 287), taken apart from the context, naturally suggests a supernatural ruler and judge. The poet may have intended to connect the advent of the Messiah with the restoration of the Jews and the rebuilding of their temple. But the context here and in the parallel passage, lines 817–826 below, points rather to Cyrus, whom Isaiah calls the anointed one of Jehovah and represents as the conqueror of nations, “saying of Jerusalem, She shall be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.”

354. *Royal tribe.*—Judah, which returned from Babylonian exile, and under Zerubbabel, a descendant of the house of David (Matt. i, 12; Luke iii, 27), rebuilt the temple.

357, 358. *Kings shall aid.*—Comp. Ezra i, 4; vi, 8; vii, 15, 16, 22.

359. *The holy dream.*—Perhaps alluding to the visions and prophecies of Zechariah and Haggai (comp. Ezra v, i).

(280–294.)

- Now when my soul had rest from inspired song,
 And I prayed the great Father for a rest
 From constraint ; even in my heart again
 365 Was set a message of the mighty God
 And he bade me proclaim through all the earth
 And plant in royal minds things yet to be.
 And in my mind God put this first to say :
 How many lamentable sufferings
 370 The Immortal purposed upon Babylon
 Because she his great temple had destroyed.
 Alas, alas for thee ! O Babylon,
 And for the offspring of the Assyrian men !
 Through all the earth the rush of sinful men
 375 Shall some time come, and shout of mortal men
 And stroke of the great God, who inspires songs,
 Shall ruin every land. For high in air to thee,
 O Babylon, shall it come from above,
 And out of heaven from holy ones to thee
 380 Shall it come down, and the soul in thy children
 Shall the Eternal utterly destroy.
 And then shalt thou be, as thou wast before,
 As one not born ; and then shalt thou be filled
 Again with blood, as thou thyself before
 385 Didst shed that of good, just, and holy men,
 Whose blood yet cries out to the lofty heaven.
 To thee, O Egypt, shall a great blow come

362. *When my soul had rest.*—Comp. similar exordium in lines 1–10, 196–201, and 616–619. The passage beginning here and ending with line 615 forms a section by itself, and is regarded by Alexandre as an interpolation belonging to the times of the Antonines. Others, however, find in it evidences of a pre-Christian date.

372. *Babylon.*—Comp. how Jeremiah (xxv, 12) passes from the Jews' calamities to the penal visitation of Babylon.

387. *Blow.*—The constant wars of the times of the Ptolemies.

- And dreadful, to thy homes, which thou didst
 hope
 Might never fall on thee. For through thy midst
 390 A sword shall pass, and scattering and death
 And famine shall prevail until of kings
 The seventh generation, and then cease.
 Alas for thee, O land of Gog and Magog
 In the midst of the rivers of Ethiopia !
 395 What pouring out of blood shalt thou receive,
 And house of judgment among men be called,
 And thy land of much dew shall drink black blood !
 Alas for thee, O Libya, and alas,
 Both sea and land ! O daughters of the west,
 400 So shall ye come unto a bitter day.
 And ye shall come pursued by grievous strife,
 Dreadful and grievous; there shall be again
 A dreadful judgment, and ye all shall come
 By force unto destruction, for ye tore
 405 In pieces the great house of the Immortal,
 And with iron teeth ye chewed it dreadfully.
 Therefore shalt thou then look upon thy land
 Full of the dead, some of them fallen by war
 And by the demon of all violence,
 410 Famine and plague, and some by barbarous foes.
 And all thy land shall be a wilderness,

392. *Seventh*.—See line 233, and note.

393. *Gog and Magog*.—Names derived from Ezek. xxxviii, 2. Comp. Rev. xx, 8. Here apparently applied as symbolical names to the Ethiopians of the Upper Nile.

399. *Daughters of the west*.—Roman cities lying west of Egypt on or near the Mediterranean sea.

405. *Great house*.—Obvious allusion to the temple at Jerusalem and its destruction by the Romans.

406. *Iron teeth*.—Comp. Dan. vii, 7, 19.

And desolations shall thy cities be.

And in the west there shall a star shine forth
Which they will call a comet, sign to men
415 Of the sword and of famine and of death,
And murder of great leaders and chief men.

And yet again there shall be among men
Greatest signs; for deep-eddying Tanais
Shall leave Mæotis's lake, and there shall be
420 Down the deep stream a fruitful furrow's track,
And the vast flow shall hold a neck of land.
And there are hollow chasms and yawning pits;
And many cities, men and all, shall fall :—

In Asia—Iassus, Cebren, Pandonia,
425 Colophon, Ephesus, Nicæa, Antioch,
Syagra, Sinope, Smyrna, Myrina,
Most happy Gaza, Hierapolis,
Astypalaia; and in Europe—Tanagra,
Clitor, Basilis, Meropeia, Antigone,

430 Magnessa, Mykene, Oiantheia.
Know then that the destructive race of Egypt
Is near destruction, and the past year then
Is better for the Alexandrians.

As much of tribute as Rome did receive

412. *Desolations*.—Rzach's text here proposed the reading *ἔρμα*, *support*, *prop*; but in his *Corrigenda* he concedes that the reading *ἔρημα πόλιες*, proposed by Gomperz, is far preferable. Comp. Isa. i, 7.

414. Among most nations the appearance of a comet has been regarded by the superstitious as a sign of the evils here specified.

418. *Tanais*.—Ancient classic name of the Don, which empties into the modern sea of Azof, the ancient Lake Mæotis.

424–430. These names of cities are inserted in the translation in the order in which they stand in Rzach's text. Of course no rhythmic arrangement is practicable.

434–450. This prophecy of the subjugation of Rome by Asia is referred (333–350.)

- 435 Of Asia, even thrice as many goods
 Shall Asia back again from Rome receive,
 And her destructive outrage pay her back.
 As many as from Asia ever served
 A house of the Italians, twenty times
- 440 As many Italians shall in Asia serve
 In poverty, and numerous debts incur.
 O virgin, soft rich child of Latin Rome,
 Oft at thy much-remembered marriage feasts
 Drunken with wine, now shalt thou be a slave
- 445 And wedded in no honorable way.
 And oft shall mistress shear thy pretty hair,
 And wreaking satisfaction cast thee down
 From heaven to earth, and from the earth again
 Raise thee to heaven, for mortals of low rank
- 450 And of unrighteous life are held fast bound.
 And of avenging Smyrna overthrown
 There shall be no thought, but by evil plans
 And wickedness of them that have command

to by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 15 [L., 6, 787-790], who declares that "the Sibyls openly say that Rome shall perish, and that too by the judgment of God, because she held his name in contempt, was an enemy of righteousness, and slew a people that was a keeper of truth." Previously, in the same chapter, he says: "The Roman name by which the world is now ruled shall be taken from the earth, and the power will revert to Asia, and the East will again rule, and the West will be in subjection." The "virgin" addressed in line 442, being a "child of Latin Rome," cannot without unnatural violence be understood of "the virgin daughter of the true God, the community of Israel, which, while inflicting divine punishment, also contributes to the true welfare" (Ewald, p. 19), but is rather a poetical name for Rome herself. The "mistress," in line 446, is understood by Alexandre of the goddess Fortune, whom Horace (*Od.*, i, 35) addresses as able "in a moment either to lift a mortal body from the lowest place, or to turn the noblest triumphs into funeral scenes."

- Shall Samos be sand, Delos shall be dull,
 455 And Rome a room; but the decrees of God
 Shall all of them be perfectly fulfilled.
 And a calm peace to Asian land shall go.
 And Europe shall be happy then, well fed,
 Pure air, full of years, strong, and undisturbed
 460 By wintry storms and hail, bearing all things,
 Even birds and creeping things and beasts of earth.
 O happy upon earth shall that man be
 Or woman; what a home unspeakable
 Of happy ones ! For from the starry heaven
 465 Shall all good order come upon mankind,
 And justice, and the prudent unity
 Which of all things is excellent for men,
 And kindness, confidence, and love of guests;
 But far from them shall lawlessness depart,
 470 Blame, envy, wrath, and folly; poverty
 Shall flee away from men, and force shall flee,
 And murder, baneful strifes and bitter feuds,
 And theft, and every evil in those days.
 But Macedonia shall to Asia bear
 475 A grievous suffering, and the greatest sore
 To Europe shall spring up from Cronian stock,
 A family of bastards and of slaves.
 And she shall tame fenced city Babylon,

454, 455. These lines contain a notable play on the names Samos, Delos, and Rome. Comp. also book iv, 126, and viii, 218. Comp. also Tertulian, *De Pallio*, ii [L., 2, 1034]; Lactantius, vii, 25 [6, 812]; Palladius, *Lausiaca*, cxviii [G., 34, 1227].

474-482. This passage is most naturally explained as referring to the Macedonian rule of Alexander and his successors, who endeavored to appear as haughty, world-ruling sons of Cronos (Saturn), but were, as a matter of fact, of heathen origin, ignoble, and really a bastard race. Perscus, the last of them, was truly a bastard. So Ewald, *Abhandlung*, p. 12.

- And of each land the sun looks down upon
 480 Call herself mistress, and then come to naught
 By ruinous misfortunes, having fame
 In later generations distant far.
- And sometime into Asia's prosperous land
 Shall come a man unheard of, shoulder-clad
 485 With purple robe, fierce, unjust, fiery;
 And this man he who wields the thunderbolt
 Roused forwards; and all Asia shall sustain
 An evil yoke, and her soil wet with rain
 Shall drink much murder. But even so shall Hades
 490 Destroy the unknown king; and that man's offspring
 Shall forthwith perish by the race of those
 Whose offspring he himself would fain destroy;
 Producing one root which the bane of men
 Shall cut from ten horns, and plant by their side
 495 Another plant. A father purple-clad
 Shall cut a warlike father off, and Ares,
 Baneful and hostile, by a grandson's hand
 Shall himself perish; and then shall the horn
 Planted beside them forthwith bear the rule.
- 500 And unto life-sustaining Phrygia
 Straightway shall there a certain token be,
 When Rhea's blood-stained race, in the great earth

483-489. This passage seems best to describe Antiochus Epiphanes, but Alexandre understands it of Hadrian. The "thunderbolt," in line 486 (Greek *κεραυνός*), is thought by Ewald (p. 13) to be a manifest allusion to Seleucus Ceraunus, one of the predecessors of Antiochus Epiphanes, but the epithet seems more properly to denote the god of the thunder.

493-499. Here, too, the exact references are uncertain, but the imagery of being cut from ten horns is manifestly from Daniel (vii, 7, 8, 20, 24), and favors the opinion that the writer had in mind one of the Syrian kings. We must not suppose, however, that these Sibylline authors were always accurate in their knowledge or exact in their descriptions.

- Blooming perennial in impervious roots,
 Shall, root and branch, in one night disappear
 505 With a city, men and all, of the Earth-shaker
 Poseidon; which place they shall sometime call
 Dorylæum, of dark ancient Phrygia
 Much-bewailed. Therefore shall that time be called
 Earth-shaker; dens of earth shall he break up
 510 And walls demolish. And not signs of good
 But a beginning of evil shall be made;
 The baneful violence of general war
 Ye'll have, sons of Æneas, native blood
 Of Ilus from the soil. But afterwards
 515 A spoil shalt thou become for greedy men.
 O Ilium, I pity thee; for there shall bloom
 In Sparta an Erinys very fair,
 Ever-famed, noblest scion, and shall leave
 On Asia and Europe a wide-spreading wave;
 520 But to thee most of all she'll bear and cause
 Wailings and toils and groans; but there shall be
 Undying fame with those who are to come.
 And there shall be an aged mortal then,
 False writer and of doubtful native land;
 525 And in his eyes the light shall fade away;
 Large mind and verses measured with great skill
 Shall he have and be blended with two names,

507. *Dorylæum*.—Situated on the river Thymbris, in Phrygia, and noted for its hot baths. The entire region round about has suffered fearfully from earthquakes. That time, according to the poet, would be so noted for earthquakes as to take the title of the Earth-shaker himself.

517. *An Erinys*.—Here referring to Helen, wife of Menelaus of Sparta, who was the occasion of the Trojan war, and is called by Vergil (*Æn.*, ii, 573) "the common Erinys of Troy and native land." Comp. book xi, 166.

523. *Aged mortal*.—Reference to the blind Homer.

527. *Two names*.—Besides his common name, Homer is also called "a

- Shall call himself a Chian and shall write
 Of Ilium, not truthfully, indeed,
 530 But skillfully; for of my verse and meters
 He will be master; for he first my books
 Will open with his hands; but he himself
 Will much embellish helmed chiefs of war,
 Hector of Priam and Achilles, son
 535 Of Peleus, and the others who have care
 For warlike deeds. And also by their side
 Will he make gods stand, empty-headed men,
 False-writing every way. And it shall be
 Glory the rather, widely spread, for them
 540 To die at Ilium; but he himself
 Shall also works of recompense receive.
 Also to Lycia shall a Locrian race
 Cause many evils. And thee, Chalcedon,
 Holding by lot a strait of narrow sea,
 545 Shall an Ætolian youth sometime despoil.
 Cyzicus, also thy vast wealth the sea
 Shall break off. And, Byzantium of Ares,
 Thou some time shalt by Asia be laid waste,
 And also groans and blood immeasurable
 550 Shalt thou receive. And Cragus, lofty mount
 Of Lycia, from thy peaks by yawning chasms
 Of opened rock shall babbling water flow,
 Until even Patara's oracles shall cease.
 O Cyzicus, that dwellest by Propontis
 555 The wine-producing, round thee Rhyndacus

Chian" because the island Chios was said to be his birthplace. Possibly the reference is to Melesigenes and Mæonides, two names often applied to Homer.

553. *Patara*.—A chief city of Lycia and place of a very famous oracle of Apollo.

- Shall crash the crested billow. And thou, Rhodes,
 Daughter of day, shalt long be unenslaved,
 And great shall be thy happiness hereafter,
 And on the sea thy power shall be supreme.
- 560 But afterwards a spoil shalt thou become
 For greedy men, and put upon thy neck
 By beauty and by wealth a fearful yoke.
 A Lydian earthquake shall again despoil
 The power of Persia, and most horribly
- 565 Shall the people of Europe and Asia suffer pain.
 And Sidon's hurtful king with battle-din
 Dreadful shall work a mournful overthrow
 To the seafaring Samians. On the soil
 Shall slain men's dark blood babble to the sea;
- 570 And wives together with the noble brides
 Shall their outrageous insolence lament,
 Some for their bridegrooms, some for fallen sons.
 O sign of Cyprus, may an earthquake waste
 Thy phalanxes away, and many souls
- 575 With one accord shall Hades hold in charge.
 And Trallis near by Ephesus, and walls
 Well made, and very precious wealth of men
 Shall be dissolved by earthquake; and the land
 Shall burst out with hot water; and the earth

556. *Rhodes*.—The famous island off the southern coast of Caria, where now, as of old, it is said there is scarcely a day of the whole year in which the sun is not visible. Not mingling in the quarrels of Alexander's successors, Rhodes enjoyed a considerable period of peace and prosperity, and carried an extensive commerce with Egypt. Its subsequent enslavement and downfall were mainly due to the fact that it was such a tempting spoil for greedy conquerors.

577. *Very precious wealth*.—Mendelssohn's emendation approved by Rzach in his *Corrigenda*. The common reading of MSS. is, *wealth of heavy-hearted men*.

- 580 Shall swallow down those who are by the fire
 And stench of brimstone heavily oppressed.
 And Samos shall in time build royal houses.
 But to thee, Italy, no foreign war
 Shall come, but lamentable tribal blood
- 585 Not easily exhausted, much renowned,
 Shall make thee, impudent one, desolate.
 And thou thyself beside hot ashes stretched,
 As thou in thine own heart didst not foresee,
 Shalt slay thyself. And thou shalt not of men
- 590 Be mother, but a nurse of beasts of prey.
 But when from Italy shall come a man,
 A spoiler, then, Laodicea, thou,
 Beautiful city of the Carians
 By Lycus's wondrous water, falling prone,
- 595 Shalt weep in silence for thy boastful sire.
 Thracian Crobyzi shall rise up on Hæmus.
 Chatter of teeth to the Campanians comes
 Because of wasting famine ; Corsica
 Weeps her old father, and Sardinia
- 600 Shall by great storms of winter and the strokes

587. *Hot ashes.*—Allusion to eruptions of Vesuvius. Comp. book. iv, 172.

592. *Spoiler.*—L. Scipio, according to some ; Nero, according to others ; but the reference is uncertain. "The entire picture," says Ewald (p. 38), "is so vast and so general that we cannot think of it as referring to an event that had already taken place." *Laodicea.*—Situated on the Lycus as here described, and on the borders of Lydia, Caria, and Phrygia. It suffered much by wars and earthquakes.

595. *Boastful sire.*—Antiochus Theos, who named it in honor of his wife Laodice.

596. *Crobyzi.*—Mentioned by Strabo (vii, 5, 12) as occupying the district near Mt. Hæmus and south of the Danube.

597. *Campanians.*—Campania was the district of Italy south of Latium, on the seacoast. Vesuvius was near its central part.

Of a holy God sink down in ocean depths,
 Great wonder to the children of the sea.
 Alas, alas, how many virgin maids
 Will Hades wed, and of as many youths
 605 Will the deep take charge without funeral rites !
 Alas, alas, the helpless little ones
 And the vast riches swimming in the sea !
 O happy land of Mysians, suddenly
 A royal race shall be formed. Truly now
 610 Not for a long time shall Chalcedon be.
 And there shall be a very bitter grief
 To the Galatians. And to Tenedos
 Shall there a last but greatest evil come.
 And Sicyon, with strong yells, and Corinth, thou
 615 Shalt boast o'er all, but flute shall sound like strain.

 Now, when my soul had rest from inspired song,
 Even again within my heart was set
 A message of the mighty God, and he
 Commanded me to prophesy on earth.
 620 Woe, woe to the race of Phœnician men
 And women, and all cities by the sea ;
 Not one of you shall in the common light
 Abide before the shining of the sun,
 Nor of life shall there any longer be
 625 Number and tribe, because of unjust speech
 And lawless life impure which they all lived,
 Opening a mouth impure, and fearful words

616. Here a new section begins, and has an exordium similar to those of lines 1-10, 196-201, and 362-371.

620. *Phœnician men*.—Famed for their extensive commerce. Ewald (p. 38) sees in this oracle an evidence of the bitter feeling of the author toward Phœnicia, chiefly on account of commercial rivalry.

- Deceitful and unrighteous they put forth,
 And stood against the mighty God, the King,
 630 And opened loathsome mouth deceitfully.
 Therefore may he subdue them terribly
 By strokes o'er all the earth, and bitter fate
 Shall God send on them, burning from the ground
 Cities and of the cities the foundations.
- 635 Woe, woe to thee, O Crete! To thee shall come
 A very painful stroke, and terribly
 Shall the Eternal sack thee; and again
 Shall every land behold thee black with smoke,
 Fire ne'er shall leave thee, but thou shalt be burned.
- 640 Woe, woe to thee, O Thrace! So shalt thou come
 Beneath a servile yoke, when the Galatians
 United with the sons of Dardanus
 Rush on to ravage Hellas, thine shall be
 The evil; and unto a foreign land
- 645 Much shalt thou give, not anything receive.
 Woe to thee, Gog and Magog, and to all,
 One after another, Mardians and Daians;
 How many evils fate shall bring on thee!
 Woe also to the sons of Lycia,
- 650 And those of Mysia and Phrygia.
 And many nations of Pamphylians
 And Lydians, Carians, Cappadocians,
 And Ethiopian and Arabian men
 Of a strange tongue shall fall. How now may I
- 655 Of each speak fitly? For on all the nations

647. *Mardians and Daians*.—The Mardians were a warlike tribe which occupied the southern shore of the Caspian Sea, and the Daians, or Dahæ, were a great Scythian people whose territory lay on the southeast of the same sea. They were naturally associated in thought with Gog and Magog. Comp. line 393 above.

Which dwell on earth the Highest shall send dire
plague.

- When now again a barbarous nation comes
Against the Greeks it shall slay many heads
Of chosen men ; and they shall tear in pieces
660 Many fat flocks of sheep of men, and herds
Of horses and of mules and lowing kine ;
And well-made houses shall they burn with fire
Lawlessly ; and unto a foreign land
Shall they by force lead many slaves away,
665 And children, and deep-girded women soft
From bridal chambers creeping on before
With delicate feet ; and they shall be bound fast
With fetters by their foes of foreign tongue,
Suffering all fearful outrage ; and to them
670 There shall not be one to supply the toil
Of battle and come to their help in life.
And they shall see their goods and all their wealth
Enrich the enemy ; and there shall be
A trembling of the knees. And there shall fly
675 A hundred, and one shall destroy them all ;
And five shall rout a mighty company ;
But they, among themselves mixed shamefully,
Shall by war and dire tumult bring delight
To enemies, but sorrow to the Greeks.
680 And then upon all Hellas there shall be
A servile yoke ; and war and pestilence
Together shall upon all mortals come.
And God will make the mighty heaven on high
Like brass and over all the earth a drought,

657. The passage beginning here is best explained as referring to the subjugation of Greece by the Romans, B. C. 146.

675. Comp. Lev. xxvi, 8 ; Dent. xxxii, 30 ; Isa. xxx, 17.

- 685 And earth itself like iron. And thereupon
 Shall mortals all lament the barrenness
 And lack of cultivation ; and on earth
 Shall he set, who created heaven and earth,
 A much-distressing fire ; and of all men
 690 The third part only shall thereafter be.
 O Greece, why hast thou trusted mortal men
 As leaders, who cannot escape from death ?
 And wherefore bringest thou thy foolish gifts
 Unto the dead and sacrifice to idols ?
 695 Who put the error in thy heart to do
 These things and leave the face of God the mighty ?
 Honor the All-Father's name, and let it not
 Escape thee. It is now a thousand years,
 Yea, and five hundred more, since haughty kings
 700 Ruled o'er the Greeks, who first to mortal men
 Introduced evils, setting up for worship
 Images many of gods that are dead,
 Because of which ye were taught foolish thoughts.
 But when the anger of the mighty God
 705 Shall come upon you, then ye'll recognize
 The face of God the mighty. And all souls
 Of men, with mighty groaning lifting up
 Their hands to the broad heaven, shall begin
 To call the great King helper, and to seek
 710 The rescuer from great wrath who is to be.

690. *Third part.*—Comp. Ezek. v, 2 ; Zech. xiii, 8 ; Rev. viii, 7-9. Also Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 16 [L., 6, 792].

691-697. Quoted (omitting one line) by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, i, 15 [L., 6, 196].

698. The number here given seems to be intended not as an exact, but as a general and vaguely oracular, designation. The prophetess seems to forget her time and place as the daughter-in-law of Noah, to which she pretends in the closing lines of this book.

- But come and learn this and store in your hearts
 What troubles in the rolling years shall come.
 And what as whole burnt-offering Hellas brought
 Of cows and bellowing bulls unto the temple
 715 Of the great God, she from ill-sounding war
 And fear and pestilence shall flee away
 And from the servile yoke escape again.
 But until that time there shall be a race
 Of godless men, even when that fated day
 720 Shall reach its end. For offering to God
 Ye should not make till all things come to pass,
 Which God alone shall purpose not in vain
 To be all fulfilled; and strong force shall urge.
 And there shall be again a holy race
 725 Of godly men who, keeping to the counsels
 And mind of the Most High, shall honor much
 The great God's temple with drink-offerings,
 Burnt-offerings, and holy hecatombs,
 With sacrifices of fat bulls, choice rams,
 730 Firstlings of sheep and the fat thighs of lambs,
 Sacredly offering whole burnt-offerings
 On the great altar. And in righteousness,
 Having obtained the law of the Most High,
 Blest shall they dwell in cities and rich fields.
 735 And prophets shall be set on high for them
 By the Immortal, bringing great delight
 Unto all mortals. For to them alone
 The mighty God his gracious counsel gave
 And faith and noblest thought within their hearts;
 740 They have not by vain things been led astray,

730. *Fat thighs*.—This conjectural reading of Mendelssohn (*μηρα* instead of *μηλα*) is approved by Rzach in his *Addenda et Corrigenda*.

- Nor pay they honor to the works of men
 Made of gold, brass, silver, and ivory,
 Nor statues of dead gods of wood and stone
 [Besmeared clay, figures of the painter's art],
 745 And all that empty-minded mortals will;
 But they lift up their pure arms unto heaven,
 Rise from the couch at daybreak, always hands
 With water cleanse, and honor only Him
 Who is immortal and who ever rules,
 750 And then their parents; and above all men
 Do they respect the lawful marriage-bed;
 And they have not base intercourse with boys,
 As do Phœnicians, Latins, and Egyptians
 And spacious Greece, and nations many more
 755 Of Persians and Galatians and all Asia,
 Transgressing the immortal God's pure law
 Which they were under. Therefore on all men
 Will the Immortal put bane, famine, pains,
 Groans, war, and pestilence and mournful woes;
 760 Because they would not honor piously
 /The immortal Sire of all men, but revered
 And worshiped idols made with hands, which things
 Mortals themselves will cast down and for shame
 Conceal in clefts of rocks, when a young king,
 765 The seventh of Egypt, shall rule his own land,
 Reckoned from the dominion of the Greeks,
 Which countless Macedonian men shall rule;
 And there shall come from Asia a great king,

741-750. Cited by Clem. Alex., *Cohort.*, vi [G., 8, 176].

757. For the text see Rzach's *Addenda et Corrigenda*.

764. *Young king*.—Or *new king*; Ptolemy Philometer, the *seventh* from Alexander, including the latter, as the poet evidently intends.

768. *Great king*.—Antiochus Epiphanes, who invaded Egypt B. C. 170, and carried off Ptolemy Philometer as prisoner.

(586-611.)

- A fiery eagle, who with foot and horse
 770 Shall cover all the land, cut up all things,
 And fill all things with evils; he will cast
 The Egyptian kingdom down; and taking off
 All its possessions carry them away
 Over the spacious surface of the sea.
- 775 And then shall they before the mighty God,
 The King immortal, bend the fair white knee
 On the much-nourishing earth; and all the works
 Made with hands shall fall by a flame of fire.
 And then will God bestow great joy on men;
- 780 For land and trees and countless flocks of sheep
 Their genuine fruit to men shall offer—wine,
 And the sweet honey, and white milk, and wheat,
 Which is for mortals of all things the best.
- But thou, O mortal full of various wiles,
 785 Do not delay and loiter, but do thou,
 Tossed to and fro, turn and propitiate God.
 Offer to God your hecatombs of bulls
 And firstling lambs and goats, as times revolve.
 But him propitiate, the immortal God,
- 790 If haply he show mercy. For he is
 The only God, and other there is none.
 And honor justice and oppress no man.
 For these things the Immortal doth enjoin
 On miserable men. But do thou heed
- 795 The cause of the wrath of the mighty God,
 When on all mortals there shall come the height
 Of pestilence and conquered they shall meet
 A fearful judgment, and king shall seize king
 And wrest his land away, and nations bring
- 800 Ruin on nations and lords plunder tribes,

779-783. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 24 [L., 6, 811].
 (611-636.)

- And chiefs all flee into another land,
 And the land change its men, and foreign rule
 Ravage all Hellas and drain the rich land
 Of its wealth, and to strife among themselves
 805 Because of gold and silver they shall come—
 The love of gain an evil shepherdess
 Will be for cities—in a foreign land.
 And they shall all be without burial,
 And vultures and wild beasts of earth shall spoil
 810 Their flesh; and when these things are brought to pass,
 Vast earth shall waste the relics of the dead.
 And all unsown shall it be and unplowed,
 Proclaiming sad the filth of men defiled
 Many lengths of time in the revolving years,
 815 And shields and javelins and all sorts of arms;
 Nor shall the forest wood be cut for fire.
 And then shall God send from the East a king,
 Who shall make all earth cease from evil war,
 Killing some, others binding with strong oaths.
 820 And he will not by his own counsels do
 All these things, but obey the good decrees
 Of God the mighty. And with goodly wealth,
 With gold and silver and purple ornament,
 The temple of the mighty God again
 825 Shall be weighed down; and the full-bearing earth
 And the sea shall be filled full of good things.
 And kings against each other shall begin

806, 807. A parenthetic statement, occasioned by the reference to gold and silver. Comp. book ii, 136-143; viii, 21-26.

814-816. Comp. a similar statement in Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 26 [L., 6, 814]. See also Isa. ix, 5, and Ezek. xxxix, 9, 10, and lines 907-911, where we have the fuller form of what seems here to be fragmentary.

817. *Send from the East a king.*—Best explained by Cyrus. Comp. line 352 above, and Isa. xli, 2, 25.

- To hold ill will, in heart abetting evils.
 Envy is not a good to wretched men.
- 830 But again kings of nations on this land
 Shall rush in masses, bringing on themselves
 Destruction; for they'll purpose to despoil
 The great God's temple and the noblest men.
 What time they reach the land, polluted kings
- 835 Shall set around the city each his throne
 And have his people that obey not God.
 And then shall God speak with a mighty voice
 To all rude people of an empty mind,
 And judgment from the mighty God shall come
- 840 Upon them, and they all shall be destroyed
 By his immortal arm. And fiery swords
 Shall fall from heaven on earth; and great bright lights
 Shall come down flaming in the midst of men.
 And in those days shall earth, all-mother, reel
- 845 By his immortal arm, and shoals of fish
 In the deep sea, and all wild beasts of earth,
 And countless tribes of winged fowl, and all
 The souls of men and every sea shall tremble
 Before the face of the Immortal One,
- 850 And there shall be dismay. High mountain peaks
 And monstrous hills shall he asunder break,
 And to all shall dark Erebus appear.
 And misty gorges in the lofty hills

830. Here assuredly a new paragraph ought to begin, though Rzach's text allows none. After the prophecy of the restoration of the temple the writer turns (lines 830-836) to the wars of the post-exile period, and the despoiling of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes. With such attempts to destroy the holy people he conceives, after the manner of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. xi, 40-45), that the sudden judgment of heaven intercepts the daring and impious transgressor. Hence the sublime apocalyptic passage, lines 837-871, follows in the regular order of prophetic thought.

(661-682.)

- Shall be full of the dead; and rocks shall stream
 855 With blood and every torrent fill the plain.
 And well-built walls of evil-minded men
 Shall all fall to the earth, since they knew not
 The law nor judgment of the mighty God,
 But with a senseless soul all hurried on
 860 Against the temple and raised up their spears.
 And God shall judge all by war and by sword
 And by fire and by overwhelming storm;
 And brimstone there shall be from heaven, and stones
 And great and grievous hail; and death shall come
 865 Upon the quadrupeds. And then shall they
 Know God, the Immortal, who performs these things;
 And wailing, and upon the boundless earth
 Shall be at once a shout of perishing men;
 And all the unholy shall be bathed in blood;
 870 And earth herself shall also drink the blood
 Of the perishing, and beasts be gorged with flesh.
 And all these things the great eternal God
 Himself bade me proclaim. And that shall not
 Be unaccomplished, or be unfulfilled,
 875 Whatever only in my heart he put;
 For truthful is God's spirit in the world.
 But children of the mighty God shall all
 Again around the temple live in peace,
 Rejoicing in those things which he shall give
 880 Who is Creator, righteous Judge and King.
 For he himself, great, present far and wide,
 Shall be a shelter, as on all sides round
 A wall of flaming fire. And they shall be
 In cities and in country without war.
 885 For not the hand of evil war, but rather
 The Immortal shall himself be their defender

And the hand of the Holy One. And then shall all
 The islands and the cities tell how much
 The immortal God loves those men; for all things
 890 Help them in conflict and deliver them—
 Heaven, and divinely fashioned sun, and moon.
 [And in those days shall earth, all-mother, reel.]
 Sweet word shall they send from their mouths in
 hymns:

“Come, falling on the earth let us all pray
 895 The immortal King, and great eternal God.
 To the temple let us in procession go,
 Since he alone is Lord; and let us all
 Meditate on the law of God most high,
 Which is most righteous of all (laws) on earth.
 900 And from the path of the Immortal we
 Have wandered and with senseless soul we honor
 Works made by hand and wooden images
 Of dead men.” These things souls of faithful men
 Shall cry out: “Come, having at the house of God
 905 Fallen on our faces, let us with our hymns
 Make joy to God the Father at our homes,
 Supplied through all our land with arms of foes
 Seven lengths of time in the revolving years;
 Even shields and helmets and all sorts of arms,
 910 And a great store of bows and arrows barbed;
 For forest wood shall not be cut for fire.”

But, wretched Hellas, stop thy arrogance
 And be wise; and entreat the Immortal One
 Magnanimous, and be upon thy guard.

900-903. Cited by Justin Martyr, *Cohort. ad Græcos*, xvi [G., 6, 273].

907-911. Comp. lines 815-816 above, and note.

912. *Wretched Hellas*.—Addressed apparently to the Greek dominion of Egypt under the Ptolemies.

- 915 Send now against this city yet again
 The people inconsiderate, who are come
 Out of the holy land of the mighty One.
 Do not move Camarina; for 'tis better
 She be unmoved; a leopard from the lair,
 920 Do thou not let an evil meet with thee.
 But keep off, do not hold within thy breast
 An arrogant and overbearing soul,
 Ready for mighty contest. And serve God
 The mighty, that thou mayest share those things;
 925 And when that fated day shall reach its end
 [And judgment of the immortal God shall come
 To mortals], judgment great and power shall come
 Upon men. For all-mother earth shall yield
 To mortals best fruit boundless, wheat, wine, oil;
 930 Also from heaven a delightful drink

915. *Send now against this city.*—Several critics have proposed to read, "Send *not*," and understand the passage as an exhortation to the Greeks of Egypt not to send to Jerusalem an army of Alexandrine Jews, who might be excited by bad counsel to mix up with the Palestinian wars so constantly raging between the Seleucids and the Ptolemies. Such ill-advised action would be "moving Camarina," or provoking a fierce leopard in his lair. Another view is that the oracle dates about the beginning of the rise of the Maccabees, and is an exhortation to the Ptolemies to send to Jerusalem Jewish forces, numerous in Alexandria, to help their brethren in the Holy Land. But all the attempts to make the passage fit particular persons and events involve so much of fancy and conjecture that one may well hesitate to adopt any of them.

918. *Camarina.*—The allusion is to the well-known story of draining the marsh of Camarina, a city of southern Sicily. The inhabitants, disregarding the oracle, drained the neighboring marsh, which was believed to breed pestilence, and by so doing they opened a way for their enemies to come and destroy their city. Hence the proverb, "Move not Camarina," was equivalent to: Do not seek to remove one evil in a way that is likely to bring on another and greater one. Comp. Vergil, *Æn.*, iii, 701.

(734-745.)

- Of honey sweet, and trees shall give their fruit,
 And fatted sheep and cattle there shall be,
 Young lambs and kids of goats; earth shall break forth
 With sweet springs of white milk; and of good things
- 935 The cities shall be full and fat the fields;
 Nor sword nor uproar shall be on the earth;
 No more shall earth groan heavily and quake;
 Nor shall war longer be on earth, nor drought,
 Nor famine, nor the fruit-destroying hail;
- 940 But great peace shall be upon all the earth,
 And king to king be friend until the end
 Of the age, and o'er all earth common law
 Will the Immortal in the starry heaven
 Perfect for men, touching whatever things
- 945 Have been by miserable mortals done;
 For he alone is God, there is no other;
 And the stern rage of men he'll burn with fire.
 But change entirely the thoughts in thy heart,
 And flee unrighteous worship; serve the One
- 950 Who liveth; guard against adultery
 And deeds of lewdness; thine own offspring rear
 And do not murder; for the Immortal One
 Is angry with him who in these things sins.
 And then a kingdom over all mankind
- 955 Shall he raise up for ages, who once gave
 Holy law to the pious, unto whom
 He pledged to open every land, the world
 And portals of the blessed, and all joys,
 And mind immortal and eternal bliss.
- 960 And out of every land unto the house
 Of the great God shall they bring frankincense
 And gifts, and there shall be no other house

948-950. Cited by Lactantius, *de Ira Dei*, xxii [L., 7, 143].
 (746-773.)

- To be inquired of by men yet to be,
 But what God gave for faithful men to honor;
 965 For mortals temple of the mighty God
 Shall call it. And all pathways of the plain
 And rough hills and high mountains and wild
 waves
 Of the deep shall be easy in those days
 For crossing and for sailing; for all peace
 970 On the land of the good shall come; and sword
 Shall prophets of the mighty God remove;
 For they are judges and the righteous kings
 Of mortals. And there shall be righteous wealth
 Among mankind; for of the mighty God
 975 This is the judgment and also the power.
 Be of good cheer, O maiden, and be glad;
 For he who made the heaven and earth gave thee
 Joy in thy age. And he will dwell in thee;
 And thine shall be immortal light; and wolves
 980 And lambs shall in the mountains feed on grass
 Together, and with kids shall leopards graze;
 And bears shall lodge among the pasturing calves;
 And the carnivorous lion shall eat chaff
 At the manger like the cow; and little children
 985 In bonds shall lead them; for he will make beasts
 Helpless on earth. With babes shall fall asleep
 Serpents, along with asps, and do no harm;
 For over them shall be the hand of God.
 Now tell I thee a sign exceeding clear,
 990 That thou may'st know when the end of all things

964. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 6 [L., 6, 462].

976. Comp. Zech. ii, 10; ix, 9.

979-987. Comp. Isa. xi, 6-9. Cited also, with some verbal variations, by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 24 [L., 6, 811].

(774-797.)

- On earth shall be. When in the starry heaven
Swords shall by night point straight toward west and
east,
Straightway shall there be also from the heaven
A cloud of dust borne forth to all the earth,
995 And the sun's brightness in the midst of heaven
Shall be eclipsed, and the moon's beams appear
And come again on earth; by drops of blood
Distilling from the rocks a sign shall be;
And in the clond shall ye behold a war
1000 Of foot and horse, like the chase of wild beasts
In the dense fog. This end of all things God
Shall consummate, whose dwelling is in heaven.
But all must sacrifice to the great King.
These things I show thee, I who madly left
1005 The long walls of Assyrian Babylon
For Hellas to proclaim to all the wrath
Of God, fire sent. . . .
- And that I might to mortals prophesy
Of mysteries divine. And men shall say
1010 In Hellas that I am of foreign land,
Of Erythre born, shameless; others say
That I'm a Sibyl, born of mother Circe
And father Gnostos, raving mad and false;
But at that time when all things come to pass
1015 Ye shall remember me, and no one more

991-1000. Comp. with this section Josephus, *Wars*, vi, v, 3.

1005. *Babylon*.—Lactantius understood the Sibyl to predict that she would be called Erythrean, "although she was born in Babylon." *Div. Inst.*, i, 6 [L., 6, 145].

1013. *Gnostos*.—Some have thought that *Glaucus* is intended, the seagod and father of Deiphobe. See Vergil, *Æn.*, vi, 36.

1014-1016. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 15 [L., 6, 495].

Shall call me mad, the great God's prophetsess.

For he showed me what happened formerly
 To my ancestors; what things were the first
 Those God made known to me; and in my mind
 1020 Did God put all things to be afterwards,
 That I might prophesy of things to come,
 And things that were, and tell them unto men.
 For when the world was deluged with a flood
 Of waters, and one man of good repute
 1025 Alone was left and in a wooden house
 Sailed o'er the waters with the beasts and birds,
 In order that the world might be refilled,
 I was his son's bride and was of his race
 To whom the first things happened, and the last
 1030 Were all made known; and thus from mine own mouth
 Let all these truthful things remain declared.

1028. *His son's bride*.—Literally and strictly, *I was his bride* (*νύμφη*); but the word is probably employed here as in the later Greek usage, in the sense of *daughter-in-law*. Nevertheless, in book vii, 219, the Sibyl says she had a son by her father. Compare, however, book i, 350-353; ii, 416-425. In book v, 75, she calls herself sister of Isis.

BOOK IV.

CONTENTS OF BOOK IV.

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BOOK IV.

PEOPLE of boastful Asia and of Europe,
 Hear how much, all too true, I am about,
 Through a mouth many-toned, from my great hall
 To prophesy; no oracle am I
 5 Of lying Phœbus, whom vain men called god,
 And further falsified by calling seer;
 But of the mighty God, whom hands of men
 Formed not like speechless idols carved of stone.
 For he has not for his abode a stone
 10 Most dumb and toothless to a temple drawn,
 Of mortals a dishonor very sore;
 For he may not be seen from earth nor measured
 By mortal eyes, nor formed by mortal hand;
 He, looking down at once on all, is seen
 15 Himself by no one; his are murky night,
 And day, and sun, and stars, and moon, and seas
 With fish, and land, and rivers, and the mouth

This fourth book was probably written by a Jew who lived during the latter part of the first century A. D. In lines 162-165 we find allusion to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, and lines 169-174 are most naturally explained as referring to the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A. D., which overwhelmed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. The Nero legends also appear in this book (lines 154-159, 178-180), and serve to prove the date not earlier than about 80 A. D.

5. *Phœbus*.—The god of archery, prophecy, and music, who had temples at Delos, Delphi, Patara, Claros, Miletus, Grynium, and other places, in all of which he gave forth oracles of the future. His oracles were, according to Herodotus (i, 66, 75), often ambiguous and misleading.

5-8. Cited by Clem. Alex., *Cohort. ad Græcos*, iv [G., 8, 141].

(1-15.)

- Of springs perennial, creatures meant for life,
 And rains at once producing fruit of field
 20 And tree and vine and oil. This God a whip
 Struck through my heart within to make me tell
 Truly to men what things have now befallen
 And how much shall befall them yet again
 From the first generation to the eleventh;
 25 For he himself by bringing them to pass
 Will prove all things. But do thou in all things,
 O people, to the Sibyl give an ear,
 Who pours from hallowed mouth a truthful voice.
 Blessed of men shall they be on the earth
 30 As many as shall love the mighty God,
 Offering him praise before they drink and eat;
 Trusting in piety. When they behold
 Temples and altars, figures of dumb stones,
 [Stone images and statues made with hands]
 35 Polluted with the blood of living things
 And sacrifices of four-footed beasts,
 They will reject them all; and they will look
 To the great glory of one God and not
 Commit presumptuous murder nor dispose
 40 Of stolen gain, which things most horrid are;
 Nor shameful longing for another's bed
 Have they, nor vile and hateful lust of males.
 Their manner, piety, and character

24. *Eleventh*.—Or *tenth*? Comp. lines 58 and 110. The reckoning begins with the first generation after the flood. Comp. lines 64 and 65. By *generation* the author evidently means a long period, an age, but its duration is left indefinite.

29–37. Cited by Justin Martyr, *Cohort. ad Græcos*, xvi [G., 6, 273]; also by Clem. Alex., *Cohort. ad Græcos*, iv [G., 8, 161].

41, 42. Cited by Clem. Alex., *Pæd.*, ii, 10 [G., 8, 516].

(15–35.)

- Shall other men, that love a shameless life,
 45 Not ever imitate; but, mocking them
 With jest and joke like babes in senselessness,
 They'll falsely charge to them as many deeds
 Blameful and wicked as they do themselves.
 For slow is the whole race of human kind
 50 To believe. But when judgment of the world
 And mortals comes, which God himself shall bring
 Judging at once the impious and the pious,
 Then indeed shall he send the ungodly back
 To lower darkness [and then they shall know
 55 How much impiety they wrought]; but the pious
 Shall still remain upon the fruitful land,
 God giving to them breath and life and grace.
 But these things all in the tenth generation
 Shall come to pass; and now what things shall be
 60 From the first generation, those I'll tell.
 First over all mortals shall Assyrians rule,
 And for six generations hold the power
 Of the world, from the time the God of heaven
 Being wroth against the cities and all men
 65 Sea with a bursting deluge covered earth.
 Them shall the Medes o'erpower, but on the throne
 For two generations only shall exult;
 In which times these events shall come to pass:

49-57. Cited with verbal variations by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 23 [L., 6, 807].

57. Comp. Acts xvii, 25.

61. *First . . . Assyrians.*—Comp. Gen. x, 11.

63-65. Cited by Lactantius, *de Ira Dei*, xxiii [L., 7, 144].

66. *The Medes o'erpower.*—Comp. Herod., i, 95: "When the Assyrians had ruled over upper Asia five hundred and twenty years, first the Medes began to revolt from them, . . . and, having thrown off their slavery, became free."

- Dark night shall come at the mid hour of day ;
 70 And from the heaven the stars and circling moon
 Shall disappear; and earth in tumult shaken
 By a great earthquake shall throw many cities
 And works of men headlong; and from the deep
 Then shall peer out the islands of the sea.
- 75 But when the great Euphrates shall with blood
 Be surging, then shall there be also set
 Between the Medes and Persians dreadful strife
 In battle; and the Medes shall fall and fly
 'Neath Persian spears beyond the mighty water
- 80 Of Tigris. And the Persian power shall be
 Greatest in all the world, and they shall have
 One generation of most prosperous rule.
 And there shall be as many evil deeds
 As men shall wish away—the din of war,
- 85 And murders, and disputes, and banishments,
 And overthrow of towers and waste of cities,
 When Hellas very glorious shall sail
 Over broad Hellespont, and shall convey
 To Phrygia sorrow and to Asia doom.
- 90 And unto Egypt, land of many furrows,
 Shall sorry famine come, and barrenness
 Shall during twenty circling years prevail,
 What time the Nile, corn-nourisher, shall hide

69. *Night . . . day.*—Probably to be understood of a notable eclipse of the sun. Herodotus (i, 74) relates that during the wars of the Medes and Lydians it happened that in the heat of battle the day was suddenly turned into night. This event, he observes, Thales had foretold, designating beforehand the very year in which it actually occurred.

87-89. Reference to the Trojan War according to most critics, but according to Badt (*Das vierte Buch d. Sibyl. Orakel*, p. 10) to the beginning of the Persian War by the revolt of southwestern Asia Minor, and the attack on Sardis by the Greeks.

- His dark wave somewhere underneath the earth.
 95 And there shall come from Asia a great king
 Bearing a spear, with ships innumerable,
 And he shall walk the wet paths of the deep,
 And shall sail after he has cut the mount
 Of lofty summit; him a fugitive
 100 From battle fearful Asia shall receive.
 And Sicily the wretched shall a stream
 Of powerful fire set all aflame while Etna
 Her flame disgorges; and in the deep chasm
 Down shall the mighty city Croton fall.
 105 And strife shall be in Hellas; they shall rage
 Against each other, cast down many cities,
 And fighting make an end of many men;
 But equally balanced is the strife with both.
 But, when the race of mortal men shall come
 110 To the tenth generation, also then
 Upon the Persians shall a servile yoke
 And terror be. But when the Macedonians
 Shall boast the scepter there shall be for Thebes
 An evil conquest from behind, and Carians
 115 Shall dwell in Tyre, and Tyrians be destroyed.

95-100. Reference to Xerxes' invasion of Greece.

104. *Croton*.—No city of this name is known to have existed in Sicily, and the well-known Croton, or Croto, in southern Italy, cannot be thought of as perishing by lava streams of Etna. Another reading (*βροτων*) is, "the great city of men."

105-108. Reference to the Peloponnesian War.

110-120. Reference to the Macedonian power, which, under Alexander the Great, subdued the Persian Empire, and spread Greek colonies over its broad territory. The allusions are to be understood poetically, and were probably not designed to be altogether strict statements of fact.

113. *Thebes*, in Bœotia, which was razed to the ground by Alexander before his expedition into Asia.

- And Babylon, great to see but small to fight,
 Shall stand with walls that were in vain hopes built.
 In Bactria Macedonians shall dwell;
 But those from Susa and from Bactria
 120 Shall all into the land of Hellas flee.
 It shall take place among those yet to be,
 When silver-eddying Pyramus his banks
 O'erpouring to the sacred isle shall come.
 And Cibyra shall fall and Cyzicus,
 125 When, earth being shaken by earthquakes, cities fall.
 And sand shall hide all Samos under banks.
 And Delos visible no more, but things
 Of Delos shall all be invisible.
 And to Rhodes shall come evil last, but greatest.
 130 The Macedonian power shall not abide;
 But from the west a great Italian war
 Shall flourish, under which the world shall bear
 A servile yoke and the Italians serve.
 And thou, O wretched Corinth, thou shalt look
 135 Sometime upon thy conquest. And thy tower,

118. *Bactria*.—The northeastern extreme of the Persian Empire, bordering on northern India.

119. *Susa*.—The biblical Shushan, one of the capital cities of the Persian Empire.

122. *Pyramus*.—A river of Cilicia flowing southward from Mount Taurus and emptying into the Mediterranean. Strabo (book i, chap. iii, 7) describes it and quotes these lines of the Sibyl as an ancient oracle.

123. *Sacred isle*.—Referring probably to Cyprus, which word Strabo here reads.

124. *Cibyra*.—City of Asia Minor, in Phrygia, near the border of Caria. *Cyzicus* was a city of Mysia, on an island of the same name in the Propontis.

126, 127. On *Samos* and *Delos* comp. book iii, 454.

134. *Corinth*.—Destroyed by the Romans the same year as Carthage, B. C. 146.

- O Carthage, shall press lowly on the ground.
 Wretched Laodicea, thee sometime
 Shall earthquake lay low, casting headlong down,
 But thou, a city firmly set, again
 140 Shalt stand. O Lycian Myra beautiful,
 Thee never shall the agitated earth
 Set fast; but falling headlong down on earth
 Shalt thou, in manner like an alien, pray
 To flee away into another land,
 145 When sometime the dark water of the sea
 With thunders and earthquakes shall stop the din
 Of Patara for its impieties.
 Also for thee, Armenia, there remains
 A slavish fate; and there shall also come
 150 To Solyma an evil blast of war
 From Italy, and God's great temple spoil.
 But when these, trusting folly, shall cast off
 Their piety and murders consummate
 Around the temple, then from Italy
 155 A mighty king shall like a runaway slave
 Flee over the Euphrates' stream unseen,

138. *Lay low*.—Read *σπρώσει*. Comp. book v, 587 (Greek text, 438).
 So Mendelssohn, favored by Rzach.

140. *Myra*.—Chief city of Lycia, on the southern coast, about a league
 from the sea. Its ruins witness to its ancient wealth and beauty.

147. *Patara*.—See book iii, 553.

148. *Armenia*.—There was Armenia Major, the vast territory south of
 the Caucasus Mountains and between the Euxine and Caspian Seas; and
 Armenia Minor, a small section on the west of Armenia Major, and east of
 Cappadocia. All these lands were subject to Alexander, then to the Syrian
 princes, and were made a Roman province under Trajan.

150. *Solyma*.—That is, Jerusalem.

155. *Mighty king*.—Nero, whose murder of his mother is notorious, and
 whose flight beyond the Euphrates and expected return as antichrist was a
 superstitious tradition long maintained.

(106-120.)

- Unknown, who shall some time dare loathsome guilt
 Of matricide, and many other things,
 Having confidence in his most wicked hands.
- 160 And many for the throne shall stain with blood
 Rome's soil while he flees over Parthian land.
 And out of Syria shall come Rome's foremost man,
 Who having burned the temple of Solyma,
 And having slaughtered many of the Jews,
- 165 Shall bring destruction on their great broad land.
 And then too shall an earthquake overthrow
 Both Salamis and Paphos, when dark water
 Shall dash o'er Cyprus washed by many a wave.
 But when from deep cleft of Italian land
- 170 Fire shall come flashing forth in the broad heaven,
 And many cities burn and men destroy,
 And much black ashes shall fill the great sky,
 And small drops like red earth shall fall from heaven,
 Then know the anger of the God of heaven,
- 175 For that they without reason shall destroy
 The nation of the pious. And then strife
 Awakened of war shall come to the West,
 Shall also come the fugitive of Rome,
 Bearing a great spear, having marched across

162-165. This evidently refers to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, and the subjugation of all Palestine by the Romans under Vespasian and Titus.

167. *Salamis and Paphos*.—Famous cities, one at the east and the other at the west end of Cyprus. "How often," says Seneca (*Epist.* 91), "has this calamity (earthquake) laid Cyprus waste? How often has Paphos fallen into ruin?"

171-176. The great eruption of Vesuvius, which destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum, A. D. 79, is construed by the Sibyl as a sign of God's anger against the Romans for the slaughter of the Jews.

178. *Fugitive of Rome*.—Nero, referred to in lines 154-159 above.

(121-138.)

- 180 Euphrates with his many myriads.
 O wretched Antioch, they shall call thee
 No more a city when around their spears
 Because of thine own follies thou shalt fall.
 And then on Seyros shall a pestilence
 185 And dreadful battle-din destruction bring.
 Alas, alas! O wretched Cyprus, thee
 Shall a broad wave of the sea cover, thee
 Tossed on high by the whirling stormy winds.
 And into Asia there shall come great wealth,
 190 Which Rome herself once, plundering, put away
 In her luxurious homes ; and twice as much
 And more shall she to Asia render back,
 And then there shall be an excess of war.
 And Carian cities by Mæander's waters,
 195 Girded with towers and very beautiful,
 Shall by a bitter famine be destroyed,
 When the Mæander his dark water hides.
 But when piety shall perish from mankind,
 And faith and right be hidden in the world,
 200 . . . Fickle . . . and in unhallowed boldness
 Living shall practice wanton violence,
 And reckless evil deeds, and of the pious
 No one shall make account, but even them all
 From thoughtlessness they utterly destroy
 205 In childish folly, in their violence
 Exulting and in blood holding their hands;
 Then know thou that God is no longer mild,

184. *Scyros*.—Large island of the *Ægean* Sea east of Eubœa.

191. *Twice as much*.—Comp. book iii, 434–441.

194. *Mæander*.—This stream, having its sources in Phrygia, ran westward between Caria and Lydia, and was famous for its many windings. Comp. Ovid, *Metam.*, viii, 162–166.

- But gnashing with fury and destroying all
 The race of men by conflagration great.
- 210 Ah! miserable mortals, change these things,
 Nor lead the mighty God to wrath extreme;
 But giving up your swords and pointed knives,
 And homicides and wanton violence,
 Wash your whole body in perennial streams,
- 215 And lifting up your hands to heaven seek pardon
 For former deeds and expiate with praise
 Bitter impiety; and God will give
 Repentance; he will not destroy; and wrath
 Will he again restrain, if in your hearts
- 220 Ye all will practice honored piety.
 But if, ill-disposed, ye obey me not,
 But with a fondness for strange lack of sense
 Receive all these things with an evil ear,
 There shall be over all the world a fire
- 225 And greatest omen with sword and with trump
 At sunrise; the whole world shall hear the roar
 And mighty sound. And he shall burn all earth,
 And destroy the whole race of men, and all
 The cities and the rivers and the sea;
- 230 All things he'll burn, and it shall be black dust.
 But when now all things shall have been reduced
 To dust and ashes, and God shall have calmed

209. See lines 224-230, and comp. 2 Pet. iii, 7; Cicero, *de Natura Deorum*, ii, 49; Ovid, *Metam.* i, 256-258. Justin Martyr refers to this passage in his first *Apology*, chap. xx.

212. *Knives*.—Read *στόνυχας* instead of *στροναχάς*. This emendation proposed by Mendelssohn seems more suitable than the reading *groanings*, and finds favor with Rzach.

214. *Wash*.—Reference to Christian baptism.

218-220. Cited in Lactantius, *de Ira Dei*, xxiii.

231-248. This picture of resurrection, judgment, and awarding of pun-

- The fire unspeakable which he lit up,
 The bones and ashes of men God himself
 235 Again will fashion, and he will again
 Raise mortals up, even as they were before.
 And then shall be the judgment, at which God
 Himself as judge shall judge the world again;
 And all who sinned with impious hearts, even them
 240 Shall he again hide under mounds of earth
 [Dark Tartarus and Stygian Gehenna].
 But all who shall be pious shall again
 Live on the earth [and (shall inherit there)
 The great immortal God's unwasting bliss,]
 245 God giving spirit life and joy to them
 [The pious; and they all shall see themselves
 Beholding the sun's sweet and cheering light.
 O happy on the earth shall be that man].

ishments and rewards embodies the substance of familiar Christian doctrine. This passage is quoted in the *Apostolical Constitutions*, book v, 7 [G., 1, 844], where we find a somewhat abbreviated text.

(180-192.)

BOOK V.

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BOOK V.

BUT come, now, hear of me the mournful time
 Of sons of Latium. And first of all,
 After the kings of Egypt were destroyed
 And the like earth had downwards borne them all,
 5 And after Pella's townsman, under whom
 The whole East and the rich West were cast down,
 Whom Babylon dishonored, and stretched out
 For Philip a dead body (not of Zeus,
 Of Ammon not true things were prophesied),
 10 And after that one of the race and blood
 Of king Assaracus, who came from Troy,
 Even he who cleft the violence of fire,
 And after many lords, and after men
 To Ares dear, and after the young babes,
 15 The children of the beast that feeds on sheep,
 The very first lord shall be, who shall sum
 Twice ten with the first letter of his name;

Next to the third, this fifth book is the longest in our present collection of oracles. It is clearly a composite of Jewish and Christian material, and as the three Antonines are referred to in line 72, we cannot suppose that the book in its present form existed prior to the middle of the second century of the Christian era.

5. *Pella's townsman*.—Alexander the Great.

9. *Not true things*.—In this parenthetic way the Sibyl declares that the popular traditions of Alexander as having sprung from Zeus or from Ammon were proven untrue.

11. *Assaracus*.—Ancestor of Æneas.

14. *Babes*.—Romulus and Remus.

16. *The very first lord*.—First in the line of Cæsars or emperors. This Sibylline writer, as well as Suetonius, the Roman historian, begins the list

(1-12.)

- In wars exceeding powerful shall he be;
 And he shall have the initial sign of ten;
 20 And in like manner after him to reign
 Is one who has the alphabet's first letter;
 Before him Thrace and Sicily shall crouch,
 Then Memphis, Memphis cast headlong to earth
 By reason of the cowardice of rulers
 25 And of a woman unenslaved who falls
 Upon the wave. And laws will he ordain
 For peoples and put all things under him;
 But after a long time shall he transmit
 His power unto another, who shall have
 30 Three hundred for his first initial sign,
 And of a river the beloved name,
 And the Persians he shall rule and Babylon;
 And then shall he smite Medians with his spear.
 Then shall one rule who has the initial sign
 35 Of the number three. And then shall be a lord
 Who shall for first initial have twice ten;
 And he shall come to Ocean's utmost water
 And by Ausonia cleave the reflux tide.

with Julius Cæsar, who is designated by the numerical value of the initial letters of his name. The Greek letter Kappa (K) stands for twenty, and Iota (I) stands for ten.

21. *First letter.*—Alpha, initial of Augustus.

25. *Woman.*—Allusion to Cleopatra of Egypt. Her *falling upon the wave* is ambiguous, and probably the text is an error. In the parallel in book xii, 29, the reading is *under the spear*.

30. *Three hundred.*—Represented by the letter T, the initial of Tiberius, as well as of the river Tiber.

35. *Three.*—The letter Γ, Greek initial of Caius (Gaius) Cæsar, commonly known as Caligula.

36. *Twice ten.*—As in line 16, but here designating Claudius (Greek, *Klaudios*).

- And one whose mark is fifty shall be lord,
 40 A dreadful serpent breathing grievous war,
 Who sometime stretching forth his hands shall make
 An end of his own race and stir all things,
 Acting the athlete, driving chariots,
 Putting to death and daring countless things;
 45 And he shall cleave the mountain of two seas
 And sprinkle it with gore; but out of sight
 Shall also vanish the destructive man;
 Then, making himself equal unto God,
 Shall he return; but God will prove him naught.
 50 And after him shall three kings be destroyed
 By one another. Then a great destroyer
 Of pious men shall come, whom seven times ten
 Shall point out clearly. But from him a son,
 Whom the first letter of three hundred proves,
 55 Shall take the power. And after him shall be
 A ruler, of the initial sign of four,
 A life-destroyer. Then a reverend man
 Of the number fifty. Next, succeeding him
 Who has the first mark of the initial sign
 60 Three hundred, shall a Celtic mountaineer,
 Into the strife of battle pressing on,

39. *Fifty*.—The letter N, here denoting Nero, and Nerva in line 58.
 45. *Mountain of two seas*.—Isthmus of Corinth, which Nero attempted to open to the two adjoining bodies of water.
 50. *Three kings*.—Galba, Otho, and Vitellius.
 52. *Seven times ten*.—This number is denoted by the Greek O, initial of the Greek form of the name of Vespasian (Ὀβεισπασιανός).
 54. *Three hundred*.—Here denoting Titus.
 56. *Four*.—The letter Δ, initial of Domitian.
 60. *Three hundred*.—Here denoting Trajan, who was of Spanish origin, and so reckoned by the Sibyl as a "Celtic mountaineer," not accurately, but in a loose, general way as a Western.

Escape not fate unseemly, but shall be
 Worn weary unto death; him foreign dust,
 But dust that of Nemea's flower has name,
 65 Shall hide a corpse. And after him shall rule
 Another man, with silver helmet decked;
 And unto him shall be the name of a sea;
 And he shall be a man the best of all
 And in all things discreet. And upon thee,
 70 Thou best of all, above all, dark-haired one,
 And upon thy shoots shall be all these days.
 After him three shall rule; but the third one
 Shall at a late time hold the royal power.
 Worn out am I, thrice-miserable one,
 75 Sister of Isis, to lay up in heart
 An evil message, and an inspired song
 Of oracles. First Mænades shall dart

64. *Nemea's flower*.—Nemea in Argolis was the spot where biennial games were celebrated by the Greeks, and the victors were crowned with parsley, the Greek name of which is *selinon*. The emperor Trajan died in Selinus, a city of Cilicia, in Asia Minor; hence the allusion of the Sibyl.

67. *Name of a sea*.—The Adriatic (or Hadriatic), from which it is apparent Hadrian is referred to.

72. *Three*.—The three Antonines, namely, Antonius Pius, M. Aurelius, and L. Verus. This last named, being only seven years old at the time of his adoption, was thought by the Sibyl to be likely to come late to the throne. Comp. book viii, 85.

75. *Sister of Isis*.—The Sibyl, who elsewhere (book iii, 1028) represents herself as a daughter-in-law of Noah, here assumes to be sister or friend (*γυωστή*) of the Egyptian goddess Isis, sadly prophesying the doom of Egypt, and especially of Memphis.

77. *First*.—Lactantius seems to have had this passage in mind when he says: "First of all, Egypt shall suffer punishment for her foolish superstitions, and will be covered with blood as if with a river." *Div. Inst.*, vii, 15 [L., 6, 786]. *Mænades*.—A name applied to the priestesses of Bacchus, who were wont to work themselves into mad frenzy, and are here named as avenging furies, fit to execute judgment. Comp. line 651.

Around thy much-lamented temple's steps,
 And thou shalt be in evil hands that day
 80 When the Nile some time shall fill the whole land
 Of Egypt even to sixteen cubits deep;
 It shall wash all the land, and water it
 For mortals; and the pleasure of the land
 Shall be still and the glory of her face.
 85 Memphis, thou most shalt over Egypt wail;
 For of old ruling mightily the land
 Thou shalt become poor, so that out of heaven
 The Thunderer shall himself with great voice cry:
 "O mighty Memphis, who didst boast of old
 90 O'er craven mortals greatly, thou shalt wail
 Full of pain and all-hapless, so that thou
 Thyself shalt the eternal God perceive
 Immortal in the clouds. Where among men
 Is now thy mighty pride? Because thou didst
 95 Against my God-anointed children rave,
 And didst urge evil forward on good men,
 Thou shalt for such things suffer penalty
 In some like manner. No more openly
 For thee shall there be right among the blessed;

78. *Thy much-lamented temple.* The temple of Isis is referred to.

79. *Evil hands.* Allusion perhaps to the tearing in pieces of Pentheus by the hands of his mother and aunts, to whom Bacchus made him appear as a wild beast.

81. *Sixteen cubits.*—The elevation of the Nile, in the vicinity of Memphis, is about twenty-three feet, according to Humboldt, which would be equivalent to the ordinary estimate of sixteen cubits. It is interesting to note that the famous piece of statuary in the Vatican, representing the Nile as a reclining human figure, has the childlike forms of sixteen genii climbing about it, as if to represent the sixteen cubits of the usual annual overflow.

85. *Memphis.*—Ancient capital of lower Egypt. Comp. line 243.

95. *God-anointed children.*—The Jewish people. Comp. Psa. cv, 15; Hab. iii, 13.

- 100 Fallen from the stars, thou shalt not rise to heaven.”
 Now these things unto Egypt God bade me
 Speak out for the last time, when men shall be
 Utterly evil. But they labor hard,
 Evil men evil things awaiting, wrath
 105 Of the immortal Thunderer in heaven,
 Worshiping stones and beasts instead of God,
 And also fearing many things besides
 Which have no speech, nor mind, nor power to hear;
 Which things it is not right for me to mention,
 110 Each one an idol, formed by mortal hands;
 Of their own labors and presumptuous thoughts
 Did men receive gods made of wood and stone
 And brass, and gold and silver, foolish too,
 Without life and dumb, molten in the fire
 115 They made them, vainly trusting such things. . . .
 Thmois and Xoïs are in sore distress,
 And smitten is the hall of Heracles
 And Zeus and Hermes (king). And as for thee,
 O Alexandria, famed nourisher
 120 (Of cities) war shall not leave, nor (plague) . . .
 For thy pride thou shalt pay as many things
 As thou before didst. Silent shalt thou be
 A long age, and the day of thy return . . .

 No more for thee shall flow luxurious drink . . .

100. Comp. Isa. xiv, 12, 13 ; Matt. xi, 23.

116. *Thmois and Xoïs*.—Cities of Egypt, the former mentioned by Herodotus (ii, 166), the latter by Strabo (xvii, 1, 19).

117. *Heracles*.—Son of *Zeus*, as was also *Hermes*, and these deities are thus naturally associated in the Sibyl's thought with their halls or temples of worship in Egypt. The corruption in the Greek text of this passage is indicated by the lacunæ visible in the translation.

- 125 For there shall come a Persian on thy dale,
 And like hail shall he all the land destroy,
 And artful men, with blood and corpses. . . .
 By sacred altars one of barbarous mind,
 Strong, full of blood and raging senselessly,
- 130 With countless numbers rushing to destruction.
 And then shalt thou, in cities very rich,
 Be very weary. Falling on the earth
 All Asia shall wail on account of gifts
 Crowning her head with which she was by thee
- 135 Delighted. But, as he himself obtained
 The Persian land by lot, he shall make war
 And killing every man destroy all life,
 So that there shall remain for wretched mortals
 A third part. But with nimble leap shall he
- 140 Himself speed from the West, and all the land
 Besiege and waste. But when he shall possess
 The height of power and odious reverence,
 He shall come, wishing to destroy the city
 Even of the blessed. And a certain king
- 145 Sent forth from God against him shall destroy
 All mighty kings and bravest men. And thus
 Shall judgment by the Immortal come to men.
 Alas, alas for thee, unhappy heart!
 Why dost thou move me to declare these things,
- 150 The painful rule of Egypt over many?
 Go to the East, to races of the Persians
 Who lack in understanding, and show them

125. *A Persian*.—The allusion is uncertain. According to the scholium found in a Paris codex, he is one who is to be associated with the coming of antichrist. Much in the description corresponds to what is said of Nero in lines 39-49 above.

144-147. A Messianic passage quoted by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 18 [L., 6, 796].

- That which is now and that which is to be.
 The river of Euphrates shall bring on
 155 A deluge, and it shall destroy the Persians,
 Iberians and Babylonians
 And the Massagetæ that relish war
 And trust in bows. All Asia fire-ablaze
 Shall to the isles beam brightly. Pergamos,
 160 Revered of old, shall perish from its base,
 And Pitane among men shall appear
 All-desolate. All Lesbos shall sink deep
 Into the deep, and thus shall be destroyed.
 Smyrna, whirled down her cliffs, shall wail aloud,
 165 She that was once revered and given a name
 Shall perish utterly. Bithynians
 Shall over their own country, then reduced
 To ashes, wail, and o'er great Syria,
 And o'er Phœnicia that has many tribes.
 170 Alas, alas for thee, O Lycia;
 How many evils does the sea contrive
 Against thee, mounting up of its own will
 Upon the painful land! And it shall dash
 With evil earthquake and with bitter streams
 175 On the rough Lycian land that once breathed per-
 fume.

156. *Iberians*.—Those north of Armenia, and between the Euxine and Caspian Seas, are probably intended; but they, as well as the *Massagetæ* mentioned in the next line, were in no contact with the Euphrates. The *Massagetæ* were east of the Caspian, in Scythia.

161. *Pitane*.—A city on the east coast of Mysia, southwest of Pergamos.

162. *Lesbos*.—Large island near the coast of Mysia.

164. *Smyrna*.—Well-known city on the coast of Lydia, distinguished for its commerce in ancient and modern times.†

170. *Lycia*.—Province on the southern coast of Asia Minor, having Phrygia to the north.

And there shall be for Phrygia fearful wrath
Because of sorrow for which Rhea came,
Mother of Zeus, and there continued long.

The sea shall overthrow the Centaur race
180 And barbarous nation, and beneath the earth
Shall tear away the Lapithæan land.

The river of deep eddies and deep flow,
Peneus, shall destroy Thessalian land,
Snatching men from the earth. Eridannus
185 (Pretending once to bear the forms of beasts).

Hellas thrice wretched shall the poets weep,
When one from Italy shall smite the neck
Of the isthmus, mighty king of mighty Rome,
A man made equal to God, whom, they say,
190 Zeus himself and the august Hera bore ;
He, courting by his voice all-musical
Applause for his sweet songs, shall put to death
With his own wretched mother many men.

From Babylon shall flee the fearful lord
195 And shameless whom all mortals and best men
Abhor ; for he slew many and laid hands
Upon the womb ; against his wives he sinned
And of men stained with blood had he been
formed.

177. *Rhea*.—Comp. book iii, 165–182.

179. *Centaur race*.—Fabulous race in Thessaly, represented as half man and half horse.

181. *Lapithæan land*.—The mountainous parts of Thessaly, so called from a fabulous people, the Lapithæ, who are said to have once dwelt there.

185. The Greek text is here corrupt, and the words in parentheses are conjectural.

187. *One from Italy*.—Another picture of Nero (comp. lines 39–49) who is here represented as the author of the Roman war which resulted in the overthrow of Jerusalem and the temple.

- And he shall come to monarchs of the Medes
 200 And Persians, first whom he loved and to whom
 He brought renown, while with those wicked
 men
 He lurked against a nation not desired ;
 And on the temple made by God he seized
 And citizens and people going in,
 205 Of whom I justly sang the praise, he burned ;
 For when this man appeared the whole creation
 Was shaken and kings perished—and yet power
 Remained among them, and they quite destroyed
 The mighty city and the righteous people.
 210 But when the fourth year a great star shall
 shine,
 Which alone shall the whole earth overpower
 Because of honor, which was first assigned
 To lord Poseidon ; then a great star shall come
 From heaven into the dreadful sea and burn
 215 The vasty deep, and Babylon itself,
 And the land of Italy, because of which
 There perished many holy faithful men
 Among the Hebrews and a people true.
 Thou shalt be among evil mortals made

210. *Fourth year.*—Perhaps in allusion to the time, times, and dividing of time (three and a half years) in Dan. vii, 25, a symbolic number for a period of woe.

213. *To lord Poseidon.*—Reading doubtful. Some MSS. read, *Poseidon who is in the sea.* Mendelssohn proposes the Homeric phrase, *Ἐνναλίῳ ἀνδρείφοντῳ, the man-slaying, warlike one.*

213, 214. *Star . . . into the . . . sea.*—Comp. Rev. viii, 8 ; xvi, 3. This passage is an apocalyptic prophecy of judgment to come on Rome, and is so interpreted by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 15 [L., 6, 790].

215. *Babylon.*—Here used as a symbolic name for Rome.

219. *Thou.*—Direct address to Rome.

- 220 To suffer evils, but thou shalt remain
 All-desolate whole ages by thyself,
 Hating thy soil ; for thou didst have desire
 For sorcery, adulteries were with thee
 And lawless carnal intercourse with boys,
- 225 Thou evil city, womanish, unjust,
 Ill-fated above all. Alas, alas !
 Thou city of the Latin land, unclean
 In all things, Mænad having joy in snakes,
 Over thy banks a widow shalt thou sit
- 230 And the river Tiber shall lament for thee,
 His consort thee, who hast a blood-stained heart
 And impious soul. Didst thou not understand
 What God can do, and what he doth de-
 vise ?
 But thou saidst, "I'm alone, and me no one
 235 Shall sack." But now shall God, who ever is,
 Thee and all thine destroy, and in that land
 No longer shall thy ensign yet remain,
 As of old, when the mighty God received
 Thy honors. Stay, O lawless one, alone,
- 240 And mixed with burning fire inhabit thou
 In Hades the Tartarean lawless land.
 And now again, O Egypt, I bewail
 Thy blind delusion ; Memphis, first in toils,
 Thou shalt be filled up with the dead ; in thee
 245 The pyramids shall speak a ruthless sound.

221. This line is in substance repeated in the codices and editions of the Greek text, but is so evidently a corruption that we omit the repetition from our text.

223, 224. Cited by Clement of Alex., *Pæd.*, ii, 10 [G., 8, 516].

229. *Widow*.—Comp. Lam. i, 1.

242. *Again, O Egypt*.—Comp. lines 74–100.

(163–181.)

- O Python, who wast justly called of old
 The double city, be for ages silent,
 So that thou mayest cease from wickedness.
 Reckless in evils, treasury of toils,
 250 Much-wailing Mænad, suffering dire ills,
 Much-weeping, thou a widow shalt remain
 Through all time. Thou didst full of years become
 While thou alone wast ruling o'er the world ;
 But when the white dress Barca round herself
 255 Shall put on over that which is defiled,
 Would that I neither were nor had been born !
 O Thebes, where is thy great strength? A fierce
 man
 Shall slay the people ; but thou, wretched one,
 Grasping thy dusky dress shalt wail alone,
 260 And thou shalt make atonement for all things
 Which thou aforetime with a shameless soul
 Didst perpetrate. They also shall behold
 A mourning on account of lawless deeds.
 And a mighty man of the Ethiopians
 265 Shall overthrow Syene ; by their might

246. *Python*.—This name seems to be here applied to Memphis as a symbolical name, equivalent to "oracle city," in allusion to the famous Delphic oracle in Greece.

250. *Mænad*.—A raving priestess of Bacchus. Comp. lines 77 and 223.

254. *White dress*.—According to Alexandre, the nomad population of Barca, in the northern part of Africa, were wont to put on a white garment over their sunburned and filthy bodies when about to go into battle.

257. *Thebes*.—The ancient and famous capital of Upper Egypt, as Memphis was of Lower. The *fierce man* of this line and the *mighty man* of line 264 are both understood by Alexandre to refer to antichrist, but it is better perhaps to understand this whole passage as apocalyptic in the broad, general way, and so no particular person known in history need be supposed.

- Shall swarthy Indians occupy Teucheira.
 Pentapolis, a man of mighty strength
 Shall burn thee whole. All-tearful Libya,
 Who shall explain thy follies? And Cyrene,
 270 Of mortals who shall pitiably weep
 For thee? Thou shalt not even to the time
 Of thy destruction cease thy hateful wail.
 Among the Britons and among the Gauls,
 Rich in gold, Ocean shall be roaring loud
 275 Filled with much blood; for evil things
 Did they unto God's children, when a king
 Of the Sidonians, a Phœnician, led
 A mighty Gallic host from Syria;
 And he shall slaughter thee, thyself, Ravenna,
 280 And unto slaughter shall he lead the way.
 O Indians and great-hearted Ethiops,
 Together fear; for when with these the course
 Of Capricorn and Taurus in the Twins
 Shall wind about the middle of the heaven,
 285 Virgo then rising, and about his front
 Fastening a belt the sun shall lead all heaven,
 There shall be moving downwards to the earth
 A mighty conflagration high in air,

266. *Teucheira*.—Doubtful reading.

273-280. In these verses the Sibyl foretells punishment on the Britons and Gauls, who are supposed to have furnished soldiers for the legions led by Vespasian against the Jews. These last are to be understood by "God's children" in line 276. The Phœnician king is Vespasian, who led his forces out of Ptolemais in Syria to carry the war into Galilee. See Josephus, *Wars*, iii, vi, 2, 3, and Tacitus, *Hist.*, iv, 39; v, 1. Ravenna, the great naval station of the Romans on the Adriatic, comes in for its share of the curse, for it was a chief city of Cisalpine Gaul, and was naturally associated with the military operations of Rome in the time of the Cæsars.

282-291. Comp. the war of the constellations in lines 690-711 below.

(195-211.)

- And a new nature in the warlike stars,
 290 So that the whole land of the Ethiops
 Shall perish in the midst of fire and groans.
 And weep thou, Corinth, the destruction sad
 Which is in thee ; for when with pliant threads
 The Fates, three sisters, spinning shall aloft
 295 Lead him who flees by guile against the voice
 Of the isthmus, until all shall look at him
 Who once cut out the rock with ductile brass,
 He also shall destroy and smite thy land,
 As it hath been appointed. For to him
 300 God gave strength to accomplish that which could
 No earlier of all the kings together.
 And first with sickle cleaving off the roots
 From three heads he shall give food in excess
 To others, so that kings unclean shall eat
 305 The flesh of parents. For unto all men
 Slaughter and terrors are laid up in store
 Because of the great city and just people
 Saved through all time, whom Providence held high.
 O thou unstable one and ill-advised,

294. *Fates*.—These, according to popular mythology, were three sisters, named Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos, who are continually spinning out the destiny of mortals. Clotho, it was said, held the distaff, Lachesis spun out the thread of existence, and Atropos cut it off.

295. *Him who flees*.—The reference seems to be to Nero and his cleaving the isthmus (comp. lines 45 and 188). His return from the East as anti-christ was a superstitious apprehension prevalent for some time after his death.

303. *Three heads*.—Comp. Dan. vii, 8, 24 ; 2 Esdras xi, 23 ; xii, 22. Hippolytus, *de Christo et Antichristo*, lii [G., 10, 772].

307. *City . . . people*.—Jerusalem and the Jews.

309–334. A prophetic curse against Rome as the greatest source of misery to men.

- 310 By evil fates surrounded, for mankind
 Both a beginning and great end of toil,—
 Of suffering creation and of part
 Restored again,—thou leader insolent
 Of evils, and for men a great curse, who
- 315 Of mortals wished for thee? Who has not been
 Embittered from within? Cast down in thee
 A king his honored life lost. Evilly
 Hast thou disposed all things and washed away
 All that is fair, and by thee have been changed
- 320 The world's fair folds. In strife with us perhaps
 Thou hast brought forward these unstable things;
 And how dost thou say, "I will thee persuade,"
 And "If in any thing thou blame me, speak?"
 There was once among men the sun's bright light
- 325 The prophets' common ray being spread abroad;
 Speech dripping honey, fair drink for all men,
 Appeared and grew, and day arose on all.
 Because of this, thou narrow-minded one
 Leader of greatest evils, both a sword
- 330 And grief shall come in that day. For mankind
 Both a beginning and great end of toil,—
 Of suffering creation and of part
 Restored again,—hear, O thou curse of men,
 The bitter oracle intolerable.
- 335 But when the Persian land shall keep away
 From war and plague and groaning, in that day
 A race divine of blessed heavenly Jews

335. *Persian land*.—All western Asia, which the Roman and other wars destructive to the Jews had long ravaged, and which was also often visited with pestilence. In the midst of this land, namely, at Jerusalem, the restored Jewish race, according to the Sibyl, are to dwell in peace and glory.

337. *Heavenly Jews*.—This line is cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 20 [L., 6, 516].

Shall offer prayer, who shall dwell round about
 God's city in mid portions of the land,
 340 And even as far as Joppa building round
 A great wall they shall carry it aloft
 Unto the gloomy clouds. No more shall trump
 Sound battle-din nor by a foe's mad hands
 Shall they be cut off; but they shall set up
 345 Their trophies for an age of evil men.

And one shall come again from heaven, a man
 Preeminent, whose hands on fruitful tree
 By far the noblest of the Hebrews stretched,
 Who at one time did make the sun stand still
 350 When he spoke with fair word and holy lips.

No longer vex thy soul within thy breast
 By reason of the sword, rich child of God,
 Flower longed for by him only, goodly light
 And noble branch, a scion much beloved,
 355 Pleasant Judea, city beautiful,
 Inspired by hymns. No more shall unclean foot
 Of Greeks keep revel round about thy land,
 Who held within their breast a lawless mind;
 But thee shall glorious children honor much
 360 [And be expert in songs and holy tongues],
 With sacrifices of all kinds and prayers
 Honored of God. All who endure the toils
 Of small affliction and the just shall have

338. *Shall offer prayer.*—This reading, *εἰξεται*, as in book xiii, 206 (Greek text, 153), Rzach now prefers to the *ἔσεται* of the MSS., and his own former conjecture of *ἀρθησεται*, *shall be raised up*.

346–350. In this passage the Messiah is conceived as both Moses and Joshua coming down out of the heavens. The allusions are to Moses stretching out his hands with the wonder-working rod (comp. *Exod. vii, 17–20*, and *xvii, 9–12*), the rod that put forth buds and fruit (*Num. xvii, 8*), and Joshua commanding the sun to stand still (*Josh. x, 12*).

- More that is altogether beautiful;
 365 But the wicked, who to heaven sent lawless speech,
 Shall cease their speaking one against another,
 And hide themselves until the world be changed.
 And there shall be a rain of gleaming fire
 From the clouds; and no more shall mortals reap
 370 The fair corn from the earth; all things unsown
 And unplowed, until mortal men shall know
 The Lord of all things, the immortal God
 Always existing, and no more revere
 Mortal things, neither dogs nor vultures' nests,
 375 And what things Egypt taught to magnify
 With dumb mouths and dull lips. But all these things
 The holy land of the only pious men
 Shall bring forth, from the honey-dripping rock
 A stream and from a spring ambrosial milk
 380 Shall flow for all the just; for in one God,
 One Father, who alone is glorious,
 Having great piety and faith they hoped.
 But why does the wise mind grant me these things?
 And now thee, wretched Asia, piteously
 385 I mourn and the race of Ionians
 And Carians and Lydians rich in gold.
 Alas, alas for thee, O Sardis; and alas
 For Trallis much beloved; alas, alas,
 Laodicea, city beautiful;
 390 Thus shalt thou be by earthquakes overthrown

376-380. These lines are cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 42 [L., 6, 811]; comp. Joel iii, 18.

383-398. The Sibyl here pronounces woe on several well-known provinces and cities of Asia Minor, all which have been repeatedly shaken by earthquakes. Especially interesting is the mention of the famous temple of Artemis (Diana) at Ephesus. Comp. Acts xix, 24-28.

And ruined, and be also changed to dust.
And to Asia gloomy. . . .

Artemis' temple fixed at Ephesus . . .

By chasms and earthquakes shall come headlong down
395 Sometime into the dreadful sea, as storms
Overwhelm ships. And up-turned Ephesus
Shall wail aloud, lament beside her banks,
And for her temple search which is no more.

And then incensed shall God the imperishable,
400 Who dwells on high, hurl thunderbolts from heaven
Down on the head of him that is impure.
And in the place of winter there shall be
In that day summer. And to mortal men
Shall then be great woe; for the Thunderer
405 Shall utterly destroy all shameless men
And with his thunders and with lightning-flames
And blazing thunderbolts men of ill-will,
And thus shall he destroy the impious ones,
So that there shall remain upon the earth
410 Dead bodies more in number than the sand.

For Smyrna also, weeping her Lycurgus,
Shall come unto the gates of Ephesus
And she herself shall perish even more.

And foolish Cyme with her inspired streams
415 Cast down by hands of godless men unjust
And lawless, shall to heaven not so much
As a word utter; but she shall remain
Dead in Cymæan streams. And then shall they
Together weep, awaiting evil things.

396-398. These lines are cited by Clem. Alex., *Cohort.*, iv [G., 8, 141].

414. *Cyme*.—Situating some fifteen miles north of Smyrna. Its rough populace (line 420) is said by Strabo (xiii, iii, 6) to have been ridiculed for their stupidity.

- 420 Cyme's rough populace and shameless tribe,
 Having a sign, shall know for what they toiled.
 And then, when they shall have bewailed their land
 Reduced to ashes, by Eridanus
 Shall Lesbos be forever overthrown.
- 425 Alas, Corcyra, city beautiful,
 Alas for thee, cease from thy revelry.
 Thou also, Hierapolis, sole land
 With riches mixed, what thou hast longed to have
 Thou shalt have, even a land of many tears,
- 430 Since thou wast angry towards a land beside
 Thermodon's streams. Rock-clinging Tripolis,
 Beside the waters of Mæander, thee
 Shall by the nightly surges under shore
 God's wrath and foresight utterly destroy.
- 435 Take me not, willing, to the neighboring land
 Of Phœbus; sometime shall a thunderbolt
 Dainty Miletus from above destroy,
 Because she seized on Phœbus' crafty song
 And the wise care and prudent plan of men.
- 440 Father of all, be gracious to the land
 Of Judah, well fed, fruit-abounding, great,

423. *Eridanus*.—Usually understood as a mythical name of the river Po; but in this passage it is apparently intended as the name of a destructive sea-god. Comp. Hesiod, *Theog.*, 338.

425. *Corcyra*.—City on an island of the same name off the coast of Epirus, identical with the modern Corfu.

427. *Hierapolis*.—In Phrygia, not far from Laodicea and Colossæ.

431. *Thermodon*.—River of Pontus, emptying in the Euxine. *Tripolis*.—Northwest of Hierapolis, on the Mæander.

437. *Miletus*.—Said to have been founded by, and named after, a son of Phœbus (that is, Apollo; see note on book iv, line 5), and hence called land of Phœbus, as in this passage. According to Strabo (book xiv, i, 6), the Milesians invoke Phœbus as the dispenser of health and healer of diseases.

- In order that thy judgments we may see.
 For thou, O God, in kindness didst regard
 This land first that it might appear to be
 445 Thy gracious gift unto all mortal men
 And to hold fast what God put in their charge.
 The works thrice wretched of the Thracians
 I yearn to see, and wall between two seas
 Trailed in the dust along beneath the mist,
 450 Even like a river for the swimming fish.
 O wretched Hellespont, sometime a child
 Of the Assyrians shall throw a yoke
 Across thee; battle of the Thracians comes
 And shall despoil thy strength. And there shall rule
 455 Over the land of Macedonia
 A king of Egypt, and a barbarous clime
 Shall waste the strength of captains. Lydians
 And the Galatians, and Pamphylians
 With the Pisidians, all equipped for war
 460 Shall in a mass bring evil strife to pass.
 Thrice wretched Italy, thou shalt remain
 All-desolate, unwept, in blooming land
 By deadly sting to perish utterly.
 And sometime high in the broad heaven above
 465 Like thunder-roaring shall God's voice be heard.

447. *Works . . . of the Thracians.*—Reference probably to the wall, mentioned in next line, built by Miltiades across the isthmus of the Thracian Chersonese. See Herodotus, book vi, 36.

452. *Assyrians.*—Here put for Persians, who occupied the Assyrian territory. The reference is manifestly to Xerxes, who bridged the Hellespont, as described by Herodotus, book vii, 34-36.

456. *King of Egypt.*—Lysimachus seems to be referred to, and is thought of as being Egyptian because of his marriage with Ptolemy's daughter. The provinces of Asia Minor named in lines 457-459 were all involved in the wars of Lysimachus.

- And the unwasting flames of the sun himself
 Shall be no more, nor shall the brilliant light
 Of the moon again be in the latest time,
 When God shall be the ruler. And dark gloom
 470 Shall be o'er all the earth, and blinded men
 And evil beasts and woe; that day shall be
 A long time, so that men shall see that God
 Himself is Lord, the overseer of all
 In front of heaven. And then will he himself
 475 Not pity hostile men, who sacrifice
 Their herds of lambs and sheep and calves and goats
 And bellowing golden-horned bulls, offering them
 To lifeless Hermæ and to gods of stone.
 But let the law of wisdom be your guide
 480 And the glory of the righteous; lest sometime
 The imperishable God incensed destroy
 Each race of men and shameless tribe of life,
 It doth behoove them faithfully to love
 The Father, the wise God who ever is.
 485 In the last time, at the turning of the moon,
 There shall be raging through the world a war
 And carried on with cunning and in guile.
 And from the limits of the earth shall come
 Fleeing, and pondering sharp things in his mind,

478. *Hermæ*.—Statues surmounted with a head of Hermes, the god of arts and of traffic. They were numerous in Athens and Rome, and many specimens are to be seen in the museums of Europe.

480-484. Cited by Lactantius, *de Ira Dei*, xxiii [L., 7, 144].

488-490. Reference to Nero, here conceived as returning from his flight beyond the Euphrates (see book iv, 156) and embodying the traits of the vile king described in Dan. viii, 23-25. This passage is quoted by Lactantius, *de Morte Persec.*, ii [L., 7, 197], and he says that some persons of his own time understood it of Nero, who was supposed to be still living in some distant region whither he had been secretly conveyed.

(346-364.)

- 490 A matricidal man who every land
 Shall overpower and over all things rule,
 And see all things more wisely than all men;
 And that for whose sake he himself was slain
 Shall he seize forthwith. And he shall destroy
- 495 Many men and great tyrants and shall burn
 All of them, as none other ever did,
 And he shall raise up them that are afraid
 For emulation's sake. And from the West
 Much war shall come to men, and blood shall flow
- 500 Down hill till it becomes deep-eddying streams.
 And in the plains of Macedonia
 Shall wrath distil and give help from the West,
 But to the king destruction. And a wind
 Of winter then shall blow upon the earth,
- 505 And the plain be filled with evil war again.
 For fire shall rain down from the heavenly plains
 On mortals, and therewith blood, water, flash
 Of lightning, murky darkness, night in heaven,
 And waste in war and o'er the slaughter mist,
- 510 And these together shall destroy all kings
 And noblest men. Thus shall be made to cease
 Then the destruction pitiable of war.
 And no more shall one fight with swords or iron
 Or even darts, which things shall not again
- 515 Be lawful. But wise people shall have peace,
 Who were left, having made proof of wicked-
 ness,
 That they might at the last be filled with joy.

493. That for which he perished, and which the returning Nero would again seize, was the sovereignty.

501-503. The exact import of these lines is quite unintelligible, except that by various concurring forces the Nero antichrist is to be destroyed.

Ye matricides, leave off your impudence
 And evil-working boldness, who of old
 520 Provided lawlessly lewd couch with boys,
 And placed as harlots maidens pure before
 In brothels by assault and punishment
 And by much-laboring indecency.
 For in thee mother with her child did hold
 525 Unlawful intercourse, and daughter was
 With her own father wedded as a bride;
 And in thee kings have their ill-fated mouth
 Polluted, and in thee have wicked men
 Found couch with cattle. Be in silence hushed,
 530 Thou wicked city all-bewailed, possessed
 Of revelry; for by thee virgin maids
 Shall care no longer for the fire divine
 Of sacred wood that fondly nourisheth;
 Before thee was a much-loved house of old
 535 Extinguished, when I saw the second house
 Cast headlong down and overwhelmed with fire
 By an unholy hand, house ever flourishing,
 God's watchful temple, brought forth of his saints
 And being always indestructible,
 540 By the soul hoped for and the body itself.
 For not without the rites of burial
 Shall one praise God out of the unseen earth,
 Nor did wise workman make a stone by them,
 Nor had he fear of gold, cheat of the world

518. *Matricides*.—The Romans are thus addressed, as if they were conceived in the Sibyl's mind as so many Neros. Comp. line 490.

532. *Fire divine*.—This was kept burning in the temple of Vesta at Rome, and attended by six virgin priestesses known as Vestal virgins. The safety of the city was believed to depend on keeping this fire ever burning.

534. *Loved house*.—The temple in Jerusalem, laid waste first by the Chaldeans (2 Kings xxv, 8-11) and a second time by the Romans under Titus.

- 545 And of souls, but the mighty Father, God
 Of all things God-inspired, did he revere
 With holy offerings and fair hecatombs.
 But now an unseen and unholy king
 With multitude great and with men renowned
- 550 Rose into power and cast his dwelling down
 And let it go unbuilt. But he himself
 When he set foot on the immortal land
 Destroyed the ground. And such a sign no more
 Was wrought upon men, so that it appeared
- 555 That others the great city should destroy.
 For there came from the heavenly plains a man,
 One blessed, with a scepter in his hand,
 Which God gave him, and he ruled all things well,
 And unto all the good did he restore
- 560 The riches which the earlier men had seized.
 And many cities with much fire he took
 From their foundations, and he set on fire
 The towns of mortals who before did evil,
 And he did make that city, which God loved,
- 565 More radiant than stars and sun and moon,
 And he set order, and a holy house
 Incarnate made, pure, very fair, and formed
 In many stades a great and boundless tower
 Touching the clouds themselves and seen by all,
- 570 So that all holy and all righteous men
 Might see the glory of the eternal God,
 A sight that has been longed for. Rising sun

548. *Unholy king*.—The reference seems to be to Nero, under whom was begun the Jewish war which ended in the destruction of the temple. Comp. lines 187-209 above.

556-580. A Messianic passage depicting the ideal period of future glory, a golden age to come.

564-565. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 24 [L., 6, 809].

(406-427.)

- And setting day hymned forth the praise of God.
 For there are then no longer fearful things
- 575 For wretched mortals, nor adulteries
 And lawless love of boys, nor homicide
 Nor tumult, but a righteous strife in all.
 It is the last time of the saints when God
 Accomplisheth these things, high Thunderer,
- 580 Founder of temple most magnificent.
 Alas, alas for thee, O Babylon,
 For golden throne and golden sandal famed,
 Kingdom of many years and of the world
 Sole ruler, who wast great in olden time
- 585 And city of all cities, thou no more
 Shalt lie in golden mountains and by streams
 Of the Euphrates; thou shalt be laid low
 By rout of earthquake. But the Parthians dire
 Caused thee to suffer all things. Hold thou fast
- 590 Thy unknown speech, impure Chaldean race;
 Ask not nor be concerned how thou shalt lead
 The Persians or how thou shalt rule the Medes;
 For on account of thy supremacy,
 Which thou hadst, sending hostages to Rome
- 595 And serving Asia, thou that formerly
 Didst also think thyself a queen, shalt come
 Unto the judgment of antagonists,

581. *Babylon*.—Here put for Ctesiphon on the Tigris, the metropolis of the Parthian Empire. This empire was one of the great powers of the East, and, after long conflict with the Syrian king, spread its dominion over western Asia, and very successfully resisted the Romans until the third century of our era.

594. *Hostages to Rome*.—A little while before the beginniug of the Christian era the Parthian king Phraates sent four of his sons to Rome, and the Roman writers speak of them as hostages to Augustus. See Rawlinson, *Sixth Oriental Monarchy*, chap. xiii.

(428-444.)

Because of whom thou hast suffered baneful things;
 And thou shalt give instead of crooked words
 600 Bitter vexation to the enemies.

And in the last time shall the sea be dry
 And ships no longer sail to Italy,
 And Asia the great then, all-hapless, shall
 Be water, and then Crete shall be a plain.
 605 And Cyprus shall endure great misery
 And Paphos shall bewail a dreadful fate,
 So that even Salamis, great city, shall
 Be seen to undergo great misery;
 And now the dry land shall be fruitless sand
 610 Upon the shore. And locusts not a few
 Shall utterly destroy the Cyprian land.
 Looking at Tyre, doomed mortals, ye shall weep.
 Phœnicia, dreadful wrath remains for thee,
 Until thou to a worthless ruin fall,
 615 So that even Sirens truly may lament.

In the fifth generation, when the ruin
 Of Egypt has ceased, it shall come to pass
 That shameless kings shall be together joined,
 And races of Pamphylians shall encamp
 620 In Egypt, and in Macedonia
 And in Asia and among the Libyans
 Shall in the dust be a world-maddening war
 Exceeding bloody, which the king of Rome
 And rulers of the West shall make to cease.)
 625 When wintry storm shall drop down like the snow,
 While frozen are great river and vast lakes,
 Forthwith a barbarous race shall make their way

615. *Sirens . . . lament.*—Terrible indeed must be a destruction which moves the cruel Sirens to lamentation.

616-624. This passage seems to refer to the series of wars in Europe, Asia, and Egypt which put an end to the Greek domination of the Orient.

- Into the Asian land and shall destroy
 The race of dreadful Thracians, hard to quell.
- 630 And then shall mortals feeding lawlessly
 Devour their parents, being by hunger worn,
 And shall gulp down the entrails. And wild beasts
 Shall devour from all houses table-food,
 And they and birds all mortals shall devour.
- 635 The ocean with dead bodies shall be filled
 From the river and be red with flesh and blood
 Of the foolish ones. Then thus a feebleness
 Shall be on earth, so that of men the number
 May be seen and the measure of the women.
- 640 And the dire race shall wail for myriad things
 At last when the sun sets to rise no more,
 But to remain submerged in Ocean's waves;
 For it beheld the wickedness unclean
 Of many mortals. And a moonless night
- 645 Shall be a fame around the mighty heaven,
 And no small mist shall hide the world's ravines
 A second time; then afterwards God's light
 Shall guide the good men, who sang praise to God.
 Isis, thrice wretched goddess, thou alone
- 650 Shalt on the waters of the Nile remain,
 A Mænad out of order on the sands
 Of Acheron, and no longer shall remain
 Remembrance of thee over all the earth.
 And also thou, Sarapis, who art placed
- 655 On many glistening stones, a ruin vast
 Shalt thou in thrice unhappy Egypt lie.
 But those whom love of Egypt led to thee

649. *Isis*.—Comp. lines 75–84 above.

654. *Sarapis*.—Another Egyptian deity, like Isis, and having many attributes of Osiris.

- Shall all lament thee badly; but who put
 Imperishable reason in their breast,
 660 And who praised God, shall know thee to be naught.
 And sometime shall a linen-vested man,
 A priest, say: "Come, let us raise up of God
 A beautiful true temple; come, let us
 The fearful law of our forefathers change,
 665 Because of which they did not understand
 That they were unto gods of stone and clay
 Making processions and religious rites.
 Let us turn our souls, giving praise to God
 The imperishable, who himself is Father,
 670 The everlasting One, the Lord of all,
 The true One, the King, life-sustaining Father,
 The mighty God existing evermore."
 And then shall there a great pure temple be
 In Egypt, and the people made by God
 675 Shall into it their sacrifices bring.
 And to them God shall give life incorrupt.
 But when the Ethiopians, forsaking
 The shameless tribes of the Triballians,
 Shall cultivate their Egypt, they will then
 680 Begin their baseness, that the later things

673. *Temple*.—Commonly supposed to refer to the Jewish temple at Leontopolis in Egypt. See Josephus, *Wars*, vii, x, 2, 3; *Ant.*, xiii, 3. Alexandre, however, controverts this explanation, and maintains that this writer, being subsequent to the closing of the temple at Leontopolis and the abolishing of its worship by order of the Roman emperor (Josephus, *Wars*, vii, x, 4), could not have thus spoken of this temple, nor prophesied its overthrow by Ethiopians. Hence the plausible supposition that the entire passage about a temple in Egypt is a poetical amplification of the prophecy of Isa. xix, 18-22.

678. *Triballians*.—These were a powerful and savage tribe near the Danube in Europe (comp. book xii, 91), and are here strangely associated with the Ethiopians. But probably both names are here used symbolically, like Gog and Magog in book iii, 393.

- May all occur. For they shall overthrow
 The mighty temple of the Egyptian land;
 And God shall rain down on the earth dire wrath
 Among them, so that all the wicked ones
 685 And all without sense perish. And no more
 Shall there be any sparing in that land,
 Because they did not keep that which God gave.
 I saw the threatening of the shining Sun
 Among the stars, and in the lightning flash
 690 The dire wrath of the Moon; the stars travailed
 With battle; and God gave them up to fight.
 For long fire-flames rebelled against the Sun;
 Lucifer treading upon Leo's back
 Began the fight; and the Moon's double horn
 695 Changed its shape; Capricorn smote Taurus' neck;
 And Taurus took away from Capricorn
 Returning day. Orion would no more
 Abide his yoke; the lot of Gemini
 Did Virgo change in Aries; no more shone
 700 The Pleiads; Draco disavowed his zone;
 Down into Leo's girdle Pisces went.
 Cancer remained not, for he feared Orion;
 Scorpio down on dire Leo backwards moved;
 And from the Sun's flame Sirius slipped away;
 705 And the strength of the mighty Shining One
 Aquarius kindled. Uranus himself
 Was roused, until he shook the warring ones;
 And being incensed he hurled them down on earth.
 Then swiftly smitten down upon the baths
 710 Of Ocean they set all the earth on fire;
 And the high heaven remained without a star.

688-711. Comp. lines 282-291 and book viii, 251. Also Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 16 [L., 6, 792].

BOOK VI.

CONTENTS OF BOOK VI.

Preexistence, incarnation, and baptism of the Son of God, 1-9. His teaching and his miracles, 10-25. Miseries in store for the guilty land, 26-32. The blessed cross, 33-36.

BOOK VI.

- THE great Son of the Immortal famed in song
 I from the heart proclaim, to whom a throne
 To be held fast the most high Father gave
 Ere he was brought forth; then was he raised up
 5 According to flesh given, washed at the mouth
 Of the river Jordan, which goes rushing on
 Trailing its gleaming billows, from the fire
 Escaping he first shall see God's sweet Spirit
 Descending with the wings of a white dove.
 10 And a pure flower shall bloom, and springs be full.
 And he shall show the ways to men, and show
 The heavenly paths, and teach all with wise words.
 And he shall come for judgment and persuade
 A disobedient people while he boasts
 15 Descent praiseworthy from a heavenly Sire.
 Billows shall he tread, sickness of mankind
 Shall he destroy, he shall raise up the dead,
 And many sufferings shall he drive away;
 And from one scrip shall be men's fill of bread,

This book is scarcely entitled to a place among the Sibylline Oracles, or to be called a book. It is a brief hymn in honor of Christ and the cross, and probably of later date than any other portion of the present collection.

2-4. Comp. John xvii, 5.

9. Comp. Matt. iii, 16.

10. *Pure flower*.—Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 13 [L., 6, 486], and comp. Isa. xi, 1, 2, where the Septuagint reads *blossom*.

16. *Tread*.—See Matt. xiv, 25.

16-19. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 15 [L., 6, 494].

(1-15.)

- 20 When the house of David shall bring forth a child;
 And in his hand the whole world, earth, heaven, sea.
 And he shall flash upon the earth, as once
 The two begotten from each other's ribs
 Saw human form appearing. It shall be
 25 When earth shall be glad in the hope of child.
 But for thee only, Sodomitic land,
 Are evil woes laid up; for thou thyself
 Ill-disposed didst not apprehend thy God
 Who mocks at mortal schemes; but from a thorn
 30 Didst crown him with a crown, and fearful gall
 Didst mingle unto insolence and spirit.
 This shall bring evil woes about for thee.
 O the Wood, O so blessed, upon which
 God was outstretched; the earth shall not have thee,
 35 But thou shalt look upon a heavenly house,
 When thou, O God, shalt flash thine eye of fire.

20. *Child*.—Or a *plant*; a *shoot*. Comp. Isa. xi, 1.

23. Comp. Gen. ii, 21-23.

26. *Sodomitic land*.—Judea, so called on account of her wickedness.
 Comp. Isa. i, 10; Ezek. xvi, 48, 49.

27-31. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 18 [L., 6, 507].

33. Cited by Sozomen, *Hist. Eccl.*, ii, 1 [G., 67, 933].

BOOK VII.

CONTENTS OF BOOK VII.

Woes of Rhodes, Delos, Cyprus, and Sicily, 1-9. The deluge, 10-15. Ruin of Phrygia, Ethiopia, and Egypt, 16-28. Woe of Laodicea, 29-31. Signs and powers of Messiah, 32-49. The new shoot, 50-52. Persian wars, 53-67. Fall of Ilias, 68-72. Doom of Colophon, Thessaly, Corinth, and Tyre, 73-86. Cœle-Syria accursed, 87-102. Rules for sacrifice and almsgiving, 103-130. Doom of Sardinia, Mygdonia, the Celtic land, Rome, Syria, and Thebes, 131-161. The devouring fire, 162-190. Long night followed by a better time, 191-205. Confession and doom of the Sibyl, 206-221.

BOOK VII.

- O RHODES, thou art unhappy; for first thee,
 Thee will I mourn; and thou shalt be the first
 Of cities, and first shalt thou be destroyed,
 Bereft of men, but of the means of life
 5 Not wholly destitute. And thou shalt sail,
 Delos, and be unstable on the water;
 Cyprus, a billow of thy gleaming sea
 Shall sometime thee destroy; thee, Sicily,
 The fire that burns within thee shall consume.

 10 Nor heed God's terrible and foreign water.

 Noah sole fugitive from all men came.

 Earth shall float, hills float, and even sky shall float,
 Everything shall be water and all things
 Shall be destroyed by waters. And the winds
 15 Shall stand still and a second age shall be.
 O Phrygia, first shalt thou flame from the crest
 Of the water; and first in impiety
 Thou shalt deny God himself, courting favor
 With false gods, which shall utterly destroy
 20 Thee, wretched one, while many years roll round.

This book is brief and fragmentary, and mainly of Christian origin. Its composition may be properly assigned to the close of the second or the early part of the third century.

10-15. Here we have the fragment of a passage referring to Noah and the flood, in which the language is appropriated from book i, 226-240.

(1-15.)

The hapless Ethiopians under pain,
Suffering things lamentable, shall by swords
Be smitten whilst they crouch upon the ground.

- Rich Egypt ever caring for her corn,
25 Which Nilus by his seven swimming streams
Intoxicates, shall an intestine strife
Destroy; and thence men unexpectedly
Shall drive out Apis, not the god for men.

- Alas, alas, Laodicea! thou
30 Not ever seeing God shalt lie, bold one;
And over thee shall dash a wave of Lycus.

- He himself who is born the mighty God,
Who shall work many signs, shall through heaven hang
An axle in the midst, and place for men
35 A mighty terror to be seen on high,
Measuring a column with a mighty fire
Whose drops shall slay the races of mankind
That have dared evils. But a common Lord
There shall at some time be, and then shall men
40 Propitiate God, but shall not make an end
Of fruitless sorrows. And through David's house
Shall all things come to pass. For God himself
Gave him the power and put it in his hand;
Under his feet shall sleep his messengers,
45 And some shall kindle fires, and some shall make
Rivers appear, and some shall rescue towns,

28. *Apis*.—The sacred bull, worshiped by the Egyptians.

29. *Laodicea*.—Comp. book iii, 592–595.

34–36. *Axle . . . column*.—This idea of a column, axle, or pillar, to be reared on high in connection with the final judgment, is peculiar to the Sibyl. Comp. book ii, 297, 351, and 362.

38. *A common Lord*.—The Messiah, *common* in the same sense that Jude (epistle, verse 3) speaks of the "common salvation."

And some shall send forth winds. But furthermore
 A grievous life shall come on many men,
 Entering their souls and changing human hearts.

50 But when a new shoot shall out of a root
 Put forth eyes, the creation, which to all
 Once gave abundant food . . .

.
 And it shall with the times be full. But when
 Others shall rule, a tribe of warlike Persians,
 55 Bride-chambers straightway shall be terrible
 Because of lawless deeds. For her own son
 Will mother have as husband; son will be
 The ruin of his mother; and with sire
 Shall daughter lie down and shall put to sleep
 60 This foreign law. But to them afterwards
 Shall Roman Ares flash from many a spear;
 And they shall mix much land with human blood.
 But then a chief of Italy shall flee
 From the force of the spear. But they shall leave
 65 Upon the land a lance inscribed with gold,
 Which as the signal ensign of their rule
 The foremost fighters carry constantly.

And it shall be, when evil and ill-starred
 Ilias shall piteously complete for all
 70 A tomb, not marriage, then shall brides weep sore,

52. The Greek text is at this point so broken as to leave the entire passage obscure.

54. *Warlike Persians*.—Ewald understands this term as a symbolical name for the incestuous Romans; but it is more probably a designation of the Parthians who in their wars with Crassus and Antony captured many of the Roman standards.

69. *Ilias*.—Here apparently put for all the region round about ancient Ilium, or Troy, or perhaps for Perganum in the neighboring province.

Because they knew not God, but always gave
By kettle-drums and cymbals boisterous sound.

Consult the oracle, O Colophon;

For a great fearful fire hangs over thee.

75 Ill-wedded Thessaly, the earth no more
Shall see thee, nor thy ashes, and alone
Escaping from the mainland thou shalt swim;
Thus, O thou wretched one, shalt thou of war
Be melancholy refuse, having fallen

80 By swiftly flowing rivers and by swords.

And thou, O wretched Corinth, shalt receive
Around thyself stern Ares, hapless one,
And ye shall perish one upon another.

Tyre, thou, unhappy, shalt be left alone;

85 For, made a widow by the feebleness
Of pious men, thou shalt be brought to naught.

Ah, Cœle-Syria, of Phœnician men
The last hold, upon whom the briny sea
Of Berytus disgorging is poured forth,

90 O wretched one, thou didst not know thy God,
Who once in the mouth of Jordan washed himself,
—And the Spirit spread his wings in flight towards
him—

Who before both the earth and starry heaven
Was, actual Word, begotten by his Father,

95 And by the Holy Spirit donning flesh

73. *Colophon*.—Situating a little to the north of Ephesus, and the seat of an ancient oracle of Apollo (Strabo xiv, i, 27).

75. *Ill-wedded*.—Unfortunate in the marriages of the inhabitants. Comp. line 67.

87. *Cœle-Syria*.—That part of Syria which lies between the Libanus and Antilibanus mountain ranges.

89. *Berytus*.—On the Phœnician sea-coast north of Zidon, the modern Beyrout. The sea of Berytus is the Mediterranean along this coast.

- He quickly flew unto his Father's house.
 And for him three towers did the mighty heaven
 Establish, in which dwell God's noble guides,
 Hope, piety, and reverence much-desired,
 100 Not having in gold or in silver joy,
 But in the reverential acts of men—
 Both sacrifices and most righteous thoughts.
 And thou shalt sacrifice to the immortal
 And mighty God august, not melting grains
 105 Of frankincense in fire, nor with the sword
 Slaying the shaggy-haired lamb, but with all
 Who bear thy blood take wild fowls, offer prayer,
 And fixing eyes on heaven send them away;
 And thou shalt sprinkle water on pure fire
 110 Having cried: "As the Father did beget
 Thee, the Word, Father, I sent forth a bird,
 Swift messenger of words, with holy waters
 Besprinkling thy baptism, O Word, through which
 Thou didst make thyself manifest in fire."
 115 Thou shalt not shut thy door, when there shall come
 A stranger unto thee in need to curb
 His hunger which comes from his poverty,
 But taking hold of that man sprinkle him
 With water and pray thrice; and to thy God
 120 Do thou thus cry: "I do not long for wealth;

97. *Three towers*.—Corresponding with the three virtues named in line 99. Comp. Herma's vision of the one tower which was explained to him as a revelation of the Church. *Hermæ Pastor*, book i, vision iii [G., 2, 899-909].

103-130. This passage contains a series of precepts which are strictly neither Jewish nor Christian. Some of the precepts suggest certain doctrines of the Essenes (comp. Josephus, *Ant.*, xviii, i, 5); others bear a manifest Christian character, and lines 110-114 contain allusions to the baptism of Jesus, as lines 91 and 92 above.

A suppliant I once publicly received
 A suppliant; Father, thou provider, hear."
 When thou hast prayed thou shalt give unto him;
 And the man went away thereafter. . . .

- 125 Do not afflict me, holy fear of God
 And righteous, as to birth pure, unenslaved,
 Attested. . . .
 Do thou, O Father, make my wretched heart
 Stand still; to thee have I looked, unto thee,
- 130 The undefiled, whom hands did not produce.
 Sardinia, weighty now, thou shalt be changed
 To ashes. Thou shalt be no more an isle,
 When the tenth time shall come. Amid the waves
 Shall sailors seek thee when thou art no more,
- 135 And o'er thee shall kingfishers wail sad dirge.
 Rugged Mygdonia, beacon of the sea
 Hard to get out of, ages shalt thou boast
 And unto ages shalt be all destroyed
 With a hot wind, and rave with many woes.
- 140 O Celtic land, on mountain range so great,
 Beyond impassable Alp, thee deep sand
 Shall altogether bury; thou shalt give
 Tribute no more, nor corn, nor pasturage;
 And thou from peoples ever far away
- 145 Shalt be all-desolate, and becoming thick
 With chill ice thou shalt for an outrage pay,
 Which thou didst not perceive, unholy one.
 Stout-hearted Rome, thou to Olympus shalt
 Flash lightning after Macedonian spears;

124-130: These lines are too fragmentary to yield sense.

136. *Rugged Mygdonia*.—Region of Macedonia north of the Thermaic gulf and connecting with the peninsula of Chalcidice.

- 150 But God shall make thee utterly unknown,
 When thou wouldst to the eye seem to remain
 Much more firm. Then to thee such things I'll cry.
 Perishing thou shalt then cry out and boil
 In pain; a second time to thee, O Rome,
- 155 Again a second time I am to speak.
 And now for thee, O wretched Syria,
 Do I wail bitterly in pitying grief.
 O Thebans ill-advised, an evil sound
 Is over you while flutes speak out their tones;
- 160 For you shall trumpet sound an evil sound
 And ye shall see the entire land destroyed.
 Alas, alas for thee, thou wretched one;
 Alas, alas thou evil-minded sea!
 Thou shalt be wholly eaten up of fire
- 165 And people with thy brine shalt thou destroy.
 For there shall be such raging fire on earth
 As flows like water, and it shall destroy
 The whole land. It shall set the hills on fire,
 Shall burn the rivers, and exhaust the springs.
- 170 The world shall be disordered whilst mankind
 Are perishing. And then the wretched ones,
 Burned badly, shall look unto heaven inwrought
 Not with stars, but with fire. Not speedily
 Shall they be made to perish, but dissolved
- 175 From under flesh, and burning in the spirit
 For age-long years, they shall know that God's law
 Is always hard to put to test and not
 To be deceived; and then earth, seized by force,
 Daring whatever god she did admit
- 180 Unto her altars, cheated, turned to smoke
 Through the changed air; and they shall undergo

170. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 16 [L., 6, 792].
 (109-181.)

- Much suffering who for gain shall prophesy
 Shameful things, nourishing the evil time.
 And the Hebrews who put on the shaggy skins
 185 Of sheep shall prove false, in which race themselves
 Obtained no portion by inheritance,
 But talking mere words over sorrows they
 Are misers, who shall change their course of life
 And not mislead the just, who through the heart
 190 All-faithfully propitiate their God.
 But in the third lot of revolving years,
 Eighth the first, shall another world appear.
 Night shall be all . . . long and without light.
 And then shall pass around the dreadful stench
 195 Of brimstone, messenger of homicides,
 When they shall be by night and hunger slain.
 Then a pure mind shall God beget in men,
 And shall the race establish, as it was
 Aforetime; longer shall not any one
 200 Deep furrow cut with round plow, nor two oxen
 Straight guiding dip the iron down; nor vines
 Shall be nor ears of corn; but all shall eat
 Together dewy manna with white teeth.
 And then among them God shall also be,
 205 And he shall teach them as he has taught me,
 The sad one. For how many evil things
 I did with knowledge once, and many things
 Heedless I also wickedly performed.
 Countless my couches, but no marriage-bond

192. *Eighth the first.*—That is, the eighth being the first of “the third lot.” The Sibyl reckons all the years as divided into ten periods or times (line 133 above); of these ten times the eighth is supposed to be the first of the third portien; namely, the eighth, ninth, and tenth, during which shall take place what is written in lines 193–205, immediately following.

- 210 Was cared for; and I, all-unfaithful, brought
 To all a savage oath. I turned away
 Those in need and among the foremost went
 Into like glen and minded not God's word.
 Therefore did fire consume me and shall gnaw;
- 215 For I shall not live always, but a time
 Of evil shall destroy me, when for me
 Men shall beside the margin of the sea
 Construct a tomb, and shall slay me with stones;
 For lying with my father a dear son
- 220 Did I present him. Smite me, smite me all;
 For thus shall I live and fix eyes on heaven.

216. *Destroy me.*—Had Arnobius this passage in mind when he wrote:
 “If the Sibyl, when she was uttering her prophecies and oracular responses,
 and was filled with Apollo's power, had been cut down and slain by impious
 robbers, would Apollo have been slain in her?” *Adv. Gentes*, book i, 62
 [L., 5, 802]. Comp. the conclusion of book ii.

(154–162.)

BOOK VIII.

CONTENTS OF BOOK VIII.

Introduction, 1-4. The five monarchies, 5-21. Lust of gain, 21-46. Doom of Rome, 47-63. The gray-haired prince, 64-83. The three rulers, 84-94. Misery of Rome, 95-115. Final judgment of Rome, 116-140. Dirge over Rome, 141-173. The sixth race of Latin kings, 174-182. Appearance of the Phenix, 183-186. Fall of Rome, 187-210. Woes of Rhodes, Thebes, Egypt, Rome, Delos, Samos, and the Persians, 211-222. The Messianic king, 223-225. The day of evil and of doom, 226-254. The Sibyl's wish, 255-260. The end of all things, 261-283. Christian acrostic concerning the last day, 284-330. Moses a type of the Messiah, 331-337. The Messianic Saviour portrayed, 338-379. The crucifixion, 380-410. Entrance into Hades and resurrection, 411-429. Exhortation to honor the Messianic king, 430-447. Another picture of the day of doom, 448-475. Self-declaration of the Creator through the Sibyl, 476-568. The heavenly Ruler addressed, 569-607. The incarnation of the Word, 608-641. Additional Christian precepts, 642-669.

BOOK VIII.

- God's declarations of great wrath to come
 In the last age upon the faithless world
 I make known, prophesying to all men
 According to their cities. From the time
 5 When the great tower fell and the tongues of
 men
 Were parted into many languages
 Of mortals, first was Egypt's royal power
 Established, that of Persians and of Medes
 And also of the Ethiopians
 10 And of Assyria and Babylon,
 Then the great pride of boasting Macedon,
 Then, fifth, the famous lawless kingdom last
 Of the Italians shall show many evils
 Unto all mortals and shall spend the toils
 15 Of men of every land. And it shall lead
 The untamed kings of nations to the West,
 Make laws for peoples and subject all things.
 Late do the mills of God grind the fine flour.
 Fire then shall destroy all things and give back
 20 To fine dust the heads of the high-leaved hills

This eighth book is remarkably fragmentary, and touches on a wide range of topics. It is obviously of Christian authorship, and contains (lines 284-330) the famous Sibylline acrostic of the name of Jesus Christ.

1-4. Cited by Lactantius, *de Ira Dei*, xxiii [L., 7, 143].

5. *Tower*.—Comp. book iii, 119.

7-13. Comp. book iii, 190-195.

18. A proverb found also in Plutarch, *de Sera Num. Vind.*, and Sextus Empiricus, *Contra Mathem.*, i, 13.

- And of all flesh. First cause of ills to all
 Are covetousness and a lack of sense.
 For there shall be love of deceitful gold
 And silver; for than these did mortals choose
 25 Naught greater, neither light of sun, nor heaven,
 Nor sea, nor broad-backed earth whence all things grow,
 Nor God who giveth all things, of all things
 The Father, nor yet faith and piety
 Chose they before them. Of impiety
 30 A fount, and of disorder forward guide,
 An instrument of wars and foe of peace
 Is lack of sense, that sets at enmity
 Parents and children. And along with gold
 Shall marriage not be honorable at all.
 35 And the land shall have its borders and each sea
 Its watchers craftily distributed
 To all those that have gold; for ages thus
 Shall those who purpose to possess the land
 That feedeth many plunder laboring men,
 40 In order that, procuring larger space,
 They may enslave them by a false pretense.
 And if the huge earth from the starry heaven
 Held not her throne far off there had not been
 For men an equal light, but, bought with gold,
 45 It had belonged to rich men and God must
 For poor men have prepared another world.
 There shall come to thee sometime from above
 A heavenly stroke deserved, O haughty Rome.
 And thou shalt be the first to bend thy neck
 50 And be rased to the ground, and thee shall fire
 Destructive utterly consume, cast down
 Upon thy pavements, and thy wealth shall perish,

- And wolves and foxes dwell in thy foundations.
 And then shalt thou be wholly desolate,
 55 As if not born. Where thy Palladium then?
 What god shall save thee, whether wrought of gold
 Or stone or brass? Or then where thy decrees
 Of senate? Where shall be the race of Rhea,
 Of Cronus, or of Zeus, and of all those
 60 Whom thou didst worship, demons without life,
 Images of the worn-out dead, whose tombs
 Crete the ill-starred shall hold a cause of pride,
 And honor the unconscious dead with thrones?
 But when thou shalt have had voluptuous kings
 65 Thrice five, enslaving the world from the east
 Unto the west, there shall be then a lord
 Gray-headed, having name of the near sea,
 The world inspecting with a nimble foot,
 Bringing gifts, having large amount of gold
 70 And plundering hateful silver even more,
 And stripping it off he shall pick it up.
 And he shall have part in all mysteries
 Of Magian shrines, display his child as god,
 Abolish all things sacred, and disclose
 75 The ancient mysteries of deceit to all.
 Sad then the time when he himself, sad one,
 Shall perish. And yet shall the people say:
 "Thy mighty strength, O city, shall fall down,"
 At once perceiving that the evil day

60-62. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, book i, xi [L., 6, 179].

65. *Thrice five*.—Emperors from Julius to Hadrian; a round number, but inexact. Comp. the first part of book v.

67. *Gray-headed*.—Hadrian. Comp. book v, 65.

73. *Child as god*.—Reference to the beautiful youth Antinous, whom Hadrian sought to deify.

- 80 Is coming on. And, thy most piteous fate
 Foreseeing, fathers and young children then
 Shall mourn together; they alas, alas! shall wail
 Beside the Tiber's lamentable banks.
 After him at the latest day of all
- 85 Shall three rule, filling out a name of God
 The heavenly, of whom is the power both now
 And to all ages. One of them being old
 The scepter long shall wield, most piteous king,
 Who in his houses shall shut up and guard
- 90 All the goods of the world, in order that,
 When from the utmost limits of the earth
 That man, the matricidal fugitive,
 Shall come again, he may bestow these things
 On all and furnish Asia with great wealth.
- 95 And then shalt thou mourn and shalt put aside
 The luster of the broad-striped purple robe
 Of thy commanders and wear mourning dress,
 O haughty queen, offspring of Latin Rome;
 The glory of that arrogance of thine
- 100 Shall be for thee no longer, nor shalt thou,
 Ill-fated, ever be raised up again,
 But shalt lie prostrate. For the glory also
 Of eagle-bearing legions shall fall low.
 Where then thy power? What allied land shall be
- 105 Subjected by thy follies lawlessly?
 For then in all earth shall confusion be
 Of mortals, when the Almighty shall himself

85. *Three*.—The Antonines. See book v, 72. *Name*.—Allusion probably to the Hebrew name *Adonai*, which it was thought to resemble.

87. *One of them . . . old*.—Antoninus Pius.

92. *Matricidal fugitive*.—Nero. Comp. book v, 490.

106–109. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 24 [L., 6, 808].

(61–82.)

- To the tribunal come to judge the souls
 Of the living and the dead and all the world.
- 110 And parents shall not be to children dear
 Nor children to their parents, on account
 Of their impiety and their distress
 Unlooked-for. Thine thenceforth shall gnashing be
 And scattering and conquest, when the fall
- 115 Of cities comes and yawnings of the earth.
 When a dragon charged with fire in both his eyes
 And with full belly shall come on the waves
 And shall afflict thy children, and there be
 Famine and war of kinsmen, near at hand
- 120 Is the end of the world and the last day
 And judgment of the immortal God for them
 That are approved and chosen. And there shall
 Against the Romans first of all be wrath
 Implacable, and there shall come a time
- 125 Of drinking blood and wretched course of life.
 Alas, alas for thee, thou reckless land,
 Great barbarous nation; thou didst not perceive
 Whence naked and unworthy thou didst come
 To the sun's light, that to that place again
- 130 Naked thou mightest withdraw and afterwards
 Come unto judgment, as unjustly judging. . . .
 With hands gigantic coming from on high
 Alone through all the world thou shalt abide
 Under the earth. By naphtha and asphalt
- 135 And brimstone and much fire thou utterly
 Shalt disappear and shalt be burning dust
 For ages; and each one who sees shall hear
 From Hades a great mournful bellowing

116. Perhaps an allusion to the imagery of Rev. xii, 17; xiii, 1, as associated in the thought of the writer with the end of the world.

- And gnashing of teeth, and thee noisily
 140 Beating with thine own hands thy godless breast.
 For all together there is equal night;
 For rich and poor; and naked from the earth
 Naked again to earth they haste away
 And cease from life when they complete their time.
- 145 No slave is there, nor any lord, nor tyrant,
 Nor king, nor leader having much conceit,
 Nor speaker learned in law, nor magistrate
 Judging for money; nor do they pour out
 The blood of sacrifices in libations
- 150 Upon the altars; there sounds not a drum
 Nor cymbal. . . .
 Nor perforated flute that has a power
 To madden mind itself, nor sound of pipe
 That bears the likeness of a crooked snake,
- 155 Nor trumpet, harsh-toned messenger of wars;
 Nor those made drunken in the lawless feasts
 Of revelry, nor in the choral dance;
 Nor sound of harp, nor harmful instrument;
 Nor strife, nor anger manifold, nor sword
- 160 Is with the dead; but an eternity
 Common to all is keeper of the key
 Of the great prison before God's judgment-seat.
-
- With images of gold and silver and stone
 Ye are ready, that unto the bitter day
- 165 Ye may come to see your first punishment,
 O Rome, and gnashing of teeth. And no more
 Shall Syrian or Greek lay down his neck
 Beneath thy servile yoke, nor foreigner,

142. Comp. Job. i, 21.

163-165. Comp. book iii, 68-72.

(105-127.)

Nor other nation. Plundered thou shalt be
 170 And made to suffer what thou didst exact,
 And in fear wailing thou shalt give, until
 Thou pay back all things; and thou for the world
 Shalt be a triumph and reproach of all.

Then shall the sixth race of the Latin kings
 175 End life at last and scepters leave behind.
 From the same race another king shall reign,
 Who shall rule every land and scepters wield;
 And having full power, and by the decrees
 Of God most mighty, shall his children rule,
 180 And of unshaken children is his race;
 For thus it is decreed while time moves round,
 When there shall be of Egypt thrice five kings.

Thereafter when the limit of the time
 Of the Phenix shall come round, there shall a
 race
 185 Of peoples come to plunder, tribes confused,
 Enemy of the Hebrews. Then shall Ares
 Go plundering Ares; and he shall himself
 Destroy the haughty threatening of the Romans.
 For Rome's power perished then while in its bloom;
 190 An ancient queen with cities dwelling round.
 No longer shall the land of fertile Rome
 Prevail, when out of Asia one shall come

174. *Sixth race*.—Referring to the Antonines, and reckoning the preceding generations as (1) the Cæsars; (2) the Flavii; (3) Nerva; (4) Trajan; and (5) Hadrian.

176. *Another king*.—Referring perhaps to Septemius Severus.

182. *Thrice five*.—The same as those referred to in line 65.

184. *Phenix*.—Fabulous Egyptian bird, said to appear once in five hundred years. See Herod., ii, 73; Pliny, *Nat. Hist.*, x, 2; Clem. Rom., 1 *Cor.*, xxv [G., i, 261-275]. According to Tacitus (*Annal.*, vi, 28), the fourth appearance of the Phenix occurred in the reign of Tiberius.

- To rule with Ares. And when he has wrought
 All these things, to the city afterwards
 195 Shall he come. And three times three hundred years
 And eight and forty shalt thou make complete,
 When, taking thee by force, an ill-starred fate
 Shall come upon thee and complete thy name.
 Ah me, I the thrice wretched, shall I see
 200 Sometime that day to thee destructive, Rome,
 But to all Latins most? It honors him
 With counsels who goes up on Trojan car
 With hidden children from the Asian land,
 Having a fiery soul. But when he shall
 205 Cut through the isthmus looking wistfully,
 Moving against all, passing o'er the sea,
 Then shall dark blood pursue the mighty beast.
 And a dog chased the lion which destroys
 The shepherds. And then shall they take away
 210 His scepter and to Hades he shall pass.
 And unto Rhodes shall come an evil last,
 But greatest. There shall also be for Thebes
 An evil conquest afterwards. And Egypt

193. *To rule with Ares.*—The matricidal fugitive of line 92, returning as antichrist. This whole passage is apocalyptic, and no exact conformity to history need be sought.

195. The number 948 is the numerical value of the Greek letters in the name Rome ($\rho=100$, $\omega=800$, $\mu=40$, $\eta=8$, = $\text{P}\acute{\omega}\mu\eta$). Nine hundred and forty-eight years after the founding of Rome extends to about 196 of our era, and the reign of Septimius Severus.

199. *Wretched.*—Comp. book v, 74, and the close of book vii.

203. *From the Asian land.*—Another allusion to Nero. His ascending the Trojan car is metaphorical of his supposed coming with war chariots from the east, and all the forec and fury of Ares.

208–209. Comp. book xiv, 21, 22.

211, 222. Fragments of sentiments found in other books. Comp. iii, 453–455.

- Shall perish by the wickedness of rulers.
- 215 And he who, being mortal, even so
 Escaped headlong destruction afterwards,
 Thrice blessed was, even four times happy man.
 And Rome shall be a room, and Delos dull,
 And Samos sand. . . .
- 220 Later again thereafter there shall come
 An evil to the Persians for their pride,
 And all their insolence shall come to naught.
 And then a holy Lord of all the earth
 Having raised up the dead shall wield the scepter
- 225 Unto all ages. Thrice then unto Rome
 Will the Most High bring pitiable fate
 And unto all men, and by their own works
 They'll perish; but they would not be persuaded,
 Which would have been much more to be desired.
- 230 But when forthwith there shall increase for all
 An evil day of famine and of plague
 And of intolerable battle-din,
 Even then again the former daring lord
 Shall, having called the senate, counsel take
- 235 How he shall utterly destroy. . . .

- Dry land shall bloom together with the leaves
 Appearing; and the heavenly firmament
 Shall bring to light upon the solid rock
 Rainstorm and flame, and much wind on the land,
- 240 And over all the earth a multitude
 Of poisonous sowings. But with shameless soul
 Shall they again act, fearing not the wrath
 Of God or men, forsaking modesty,

223. *A holy Lord*.—The Messiah. Comp. book iii, 58.

243-247. Comp. book i, 217-221.

- Longing for shamelessness, and greedy tyrants
 245 And violent sinners, false, insatiate,
 Workers of evil and in nothing true,
 Destroyers of faith, pouring out foul speech
 In false words; they shall have no fill of wealth;
 But shamelessly will they strip off still more;
 250 Under the rule of tyrants they shall perish.
 The stars shall all fall forwards in the sea,
 All one by one, yet shall men see in heaven
 A brilliant comet, sign of much distress
 About to come, of war and battle-strife.
 255 ¶ Let me not live when the gay woman reigns,
 But then when heavenly grace shall reign within,
 And when the holy child shall crush with bonds
 The mischievous destroyer of all men,
 Opening the depth to view, and suddenly
 260 The wooden house shall cover mortals round.
 But when the generation tenth shall be
 Within the house of Hades, afterwards
 The mighty sway of one of female sex;
 And God himself shall increase many evils
 265 When she with royal honor has been crowned;
 And altogether then an impious age.
 The sun obscurely looking shines by night;
 The stars shall leave the sky; and with much storm
 A hurricane shall desolate the earth;

251. Comp. book ii, 251, and Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 16 [L., 6, 791, 792].

257. Apparent allusion to Rev. xx, 1-3.

260. *Wooden house*.—A coffin.

261. *Generation tenth*.—Supposed by the Sybil to be the last. Comp. book vii, 133.

263. *Female*.—The woman symbolically portrayed in Rev. xvii, 1-6. Comp. book iii, 92, note.

- 270 And there shall be a rising of the dead;
 The running of the lame shall be most swift,
 The deaf shall hear, the blind shall see, and those
 That talk not shall talk, and to all
 Shall life and wealth be common. And the land
 275 Alike for all, divided not by walls
 Or fenees, shall bear more abundant fruits.
 And fountains of sweet wine and of white milk
 And honey it shall give. . . .

 And judgment of the immortal God (great king).
 280 But when God shall change times . . .
 Winter producing summer, then shall be
 Oracles (all fulfilled) . . .
 But when the world has perished . . .

JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SAVIOUR, CROSS.

- And the earth shall perspire, when there shall be
 285 The sign of judgment. And from heaven shall come
 The King who for the ages is to be,
 Present to judge all flesh and the whole world.

217

270-274. Comp. book i, 427-432.

275-278. Comp. book iii, 781-783, and Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 24 [L., 6, 811]. What follows between these lines and the acrostic is fragmentary. The remaining words, translated in our text, show that the general subject was that of judgment of God and the end of the world.

281. *Winter . . . summer.*—Cited in Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 16 [L., 6, 792]. 282 appears in full, book xiv, 381.

284-330. This passage is celebrated as being an acrostic of thirty-four lines in the Greek text, the first letters of which lines form the title given above, namely, JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SAVIOUR, CROSS. It is quoted in full by Eusebius in his report of Constantine's Oration to the Assembly of the Saints, xviii [G., 20, 1288, 1289], and, excepting the seven lines representing the word CROSS, by Augustine, *de Civitate Dei*, xviii, 23 [L., 41, 579]. We give in our text a faithful translation of the Greek without any

(205-219.)

- Faithful and faithless mortals shall see God
 The Most High with the saints at the end of time.
 290 And of men bearing flesh he judges souls
 Upon his throne, when sometime the whole world
 Shall be a desert and a place of thorns.
 And mortals shall their idols cast away
 And all wealth. And the searching fire shall burn
 295 Earth, heaven, and sea; and it shall burn the gates
 Of Hades' prison. Then shall come all flesh
 Of the dead to the free light of the saints;
 But the lawless shall that fire whirl round and round
 For ages. Howsoever much one did
 300 In secret, then shall he all things declare;
 For God shall open dark breasts to the light.
 And lamentation shall there be from all
 And gnashing of teeth. Brightness of the sun
 Shall be eclipsed and dances of the stars.
 305 He shall roll up the heaven; and of the moon
 The light shall perish. And he shall exalt
 The valleys and destroy the heights of hills,
 And height no longer shall appear remaining
 Among men. And the hills shall with the plains
 310 Be level and no more on any sea
 Shall there be sailing. For the earth shall then
 With heat be shriveled and the dashing streams

attempt to transfer it into a corresponding English acrostic, but in the Appendix of this volume (pp. 274-277) the reader may find several English translations which aim to reproduce the acrostic form of the original. To the picture of the day of judgment as given in this acrostic there is obvious allusion at the beginning of the famous mediæval hymn:

Dies iræ, dies illa,
 Solvet sæclum in favilla,
 Teste David cum Sibylla.

293, 294. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 19 [L., 6, 798].

(220-238.)

- Shall with the fountains fail. The trump shall send
 From heaven a very lamentable sound,
 315 Howling the loathsomeness of wretched men
 And the world's woes. And then the yawning earth
 Shall show Tartarean chaos. And all kings
 Shall come unto the judgment seat of God.
 And there shall out of heaven a stream of fire — 243
 320 And brimstone flow. But for all mortals then
 Shall there a sign be, a distinguished seal,
 The Wood among believers, and the horn
 Fondly desired, the life of pious men,
 But it shall be a stumbling-block of the world,
 325 Giving illumination to the elect
 By water in twelve springs; and there shall rule
 A shepherding iron rod. This one who now
 Is in acrostics which give signs of God
 Thus written openly, the Saviour is,
 330 Immortal King, who suffered for our sake;
 Him Moses typified when he stretched out - 251
 Holy arms, conquering Amalek by faith,
 That the people might know him to be elect
 And honorable before his Father God,
 335 The rod of David and the very stone
 Which he indeed did promise, and in which
 He that believes shall have eternal life.
 For not in glory, but as mortal man
 Shall he come to creation, pitiable,

313, 314. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 16 [L., 6, 792].

316-318. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 20 [L., 6, 798].

322. *The Wood*.—The Cross. Comp. book vi, 33-36.

325. *Illumination*.—The grace of baptism. Comp. line 360 below, and note on book i, 411.

339-341. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 16 [L., 6, 498].

(239-256.)

- 340 Unhonored, without seemly form, to give
Hope to the pitiable; and he will give
Fair form to mortal flesh, and heavenly faith
To those without faith, and he'll give fair form
To the man who was fashioned from the first
345 By the holy hands of God, and whom by guile
The serpent led astray unto the fate
Of death to go and knowledge to receive
Of good and evil, so that leaving God
He serves the ways of mortals. For at first
350 Receiving him as fellow-counsellor
From the beginning the Almighty said:
"Let both of us, O Son, make mortal tribes—
Stamping them with the impress of our image;
I now by my hands, and thou by the Word
355 In after time shalt for our form provide
That we may jointly cause it to arise."
Keeping in mind this purpose he shall come
To the creation, to a holy virgin
Bringing the likeness antitypical,
360 Baptizing with water by the elders' hands,
And by the Word accomplishing all things,
And healing every sickness. By his word
The winds shall he make cease, and with his foot
Shall calm the raging sea, walking thereon
365 In peaceful faith. And from five loaves of bread
And a fish of the sea five thousand men
Shall he fill in the desert, and then taking
All the remaining fragments for the hope
Of peoples shall he fill twelve baskets full.
370 And the souls of the blessed he shall call,

- And love the pitiable, who, being mocked,
 Beaten, and whipped, shall evil do for good
 Desiring poverty. He who perceives
 All things and sees all things and hears all things
 375 Shall search the heart and bare it to conviction;
 For of all things is he himself the ear
 And mind and sight, and Word that maketh forms,
 To whom all things submit, and he preserves
 Them that are dead and every sickness heals.
 - 380 Into the hands of lawless men, at last, 237
 And faithless he shall come, and they will give
 To God rude buffetings with impure hands
 And poisonous spittle with polluted mouths.
 And he to whips will openly give then
 385 His holy back; [for he unto the world
 A holy virgin shall himself commit.]
 And silent he will be when buffeted,
 Lest anyone should know whose son he is
 Or whence he came, that he may talk to the dead.
 390 And he shall also wear a crown of thorns;
 For of thorns is the crown an ornament
 Elect, eternal. They shall pierce his side
 With a reed that they may fulfill their law;
 For of reeds shaken by another spirit
 395 Were nourished inclinations of the soul,
 Of anger and revenge. But when these things
 Shall be accomplished, of the which I spoke,
 Then unto him shall every law be loosed
 Which from the first by the decrees of men

372. *Evil for good.*—Several MSS. here read *good for evil*. The sense is doubtful.

380-385, also 387-390, are cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 18 [L., 6, 506].

- 400 Was given because of disobedient people.
 He'll spread his hands and measure all the world.
 But gall for food and vinegar to drink 303
 They gave him; this inhospitable board
 They'll show him. But the curtain of the temple
 405 Shall be asunder rent and in midday
 There shall be for three hours dark, monstrous night. 306
 For it was no more pointed out again
 How to serve secret temple and the law,
 Which had been covered with the world's displays,
 410 When the Eternal came himself on earth.
 And into Hades shall he come announcing
 Hope unto all the saints, the end of ages
 And the last day, and having fallen asleep 312
 The third day he shall end the lot of death;
 415 Then from the dead departing he shall come
 To light, the first to show forth to the elect
 Beginning of resurrection, and wash off 314
 By means of waters of immortal spring

401. *Measure*.—"In his suffering," says Lactantius, "he stretched forth his hands and measured out the world, that even then he might show that a great multitude, collected out of all languages and tribes, from the rising of the sun even to the setting, was about to come under his wings and to receive on their foreheads that great and lofty sign." *Div. Inst.*, iv, 26 [L., 6, 530].

404-406. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 19 [L., 6, 511].

411. *Into Hades*.—This doctrine of Christ's descent into Hades is found in the well-known clause of the Apostles' Creed, and claims for its biblical support the language of *Psa. xvi, 9* (comp. *Acts ii, 25-27*); *Rom. x, 7*; *Eph. iv, 8-10*; *1 Pet. iii, 18-20*. It is found also in Justin Martyr, *Trypho*, 72 [G., 6, 645]; Irenæus, *Adv. Hær.*, iii, xx, 4 [G., 7, 945], and iv, xxvii, 2 [G., 7, 1058]; Clem. Alex., *Strom.*, vi, chap. vi [G., 9, 265-275]; Tertullian, *de Anima*, chaps. vii [L., 2, 657] and lv [L., 2, 742-745]; Origen, *adv. Celsus*, ii, 43 [G., 11, 864].

414-417. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, iv, 19 [L., 6, 513].

(301-315.)

- Their former wickedness, that, being born
 420 From above, they might be no more enslaved
 To the unlawful customs of the world.
 And first then openly unto his own
 Shall he as Lord in flesh be visible,
 As he before was, and in hands and feet
 425 Exhibit four marks fixed in his own limbs,
 Denoting east and west and south and north;
 For of the world so many royal powers
 Shall against our Exemplar consummate
 The deed so lawless and condemnable.
 430 Daughter of Zion, holy one, rejoice,
 Who hast suffered many things; thy king himself
 Mounted upon a foal is hastening on;
 Behold, meek he shall come, that he may lift
 Our slavish yoke, so grievous to be borne
 435 Lying upon our neck, and may annul
 Our godless laws and bonds compulsory.
 Know thou thy God himself, who is God's Son;
 Him glorify and hold within thy heart,
 From thy soul love him and extol his name.
 440 Put off thy former friends and wash thyself
 From their blood; for he is not by thy songs
 Nor by thy prayers appeased, nor does he give
 To perishable sacrifices heed,
 Being imperishable; but present
 445 The holy hymn of understanding mouths
 And know who this one is, and thou shalt then
 Behold the Father. . . .

426. Comp. book iii, 30, note.

430. *Rejoice*.—Comp. Zech. ix, 9; Matt. xxi, 5; John xii, 15.

433–436. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 18 [L., 6, 796].

(316–336.)

- And then shall all the elements of the world
 Abide in solitude, air, earth, sea, light
 450 Of gleaming fire; and heavenly sky and night
 And all days into one shall run together
 And into outward form all-desolate.
 For from heaven shall the stars of light all fall.
 And there shall fly no longer in the air
 455 The well-winged birds, nor stepping be on earth;
 For wild beasts shall all perish. Nor shall be
 Voices of men, nor of beasts, nor of birds.
 The world shall hear no serviceable sound,
 Being disordered; but a mighty sound
 460 Of threatening shall the deep sea sound aloud,
 And swimming trembling creatures of the sea
 Shall all die; and no longer on the waves
 Shall sail the freighted ship. And earth shall groan
 Blood-stained by wars; and all the souls of men
 465 Shall gnash with their teeth, [of the lawless souls
 Both by loud crying and by fear,] dissolved
 By thirst, by famine, and by plague and murders,
 And they shall call death beautiful and death
 Shall flee away from them; for death no more
 470 Nor night shall give them rest. And many things
 Will they in vain ask God who rules on high,
 And then will he his face turn openly
 Away from them. For he to erring men
 Gave in seven ages for repentance signs
 475 By the hands of a virgin undefiled.
 All these things in my mind God himself showed
 And all that have been spoken by my mouth

448-475. Comp. similar passage in book ii, 243-263, and book iii, 97-111; and also Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 16 [L., 6, 791, 792]. All these prophecies are obviously derived from corresponding Scripture passages.

Will he accomplish; and I know the number
 Of the sands and the measures of the sea,
 480 I know the inmost places of the earth
 And gloomy Tartarus, I know the numbers
 Of the stars, and the trees, and all the tribes
 Of quadrupeds, and of the swimming things
 And flying birds, and of men who are now
 485 And of those yet to be, and of the dead;
 For I myself the forms and mind of men
 Did fashion, and right reason did I give
 And knowledge taught; I who formed eyes and ears,
 Who see and hear and every thought discern,
 490 And who within am conscious of all things,
 I am still; and hereafter will convict
 [And punishing what any mortal did
 In secret, and upon God's judgment seat
 Coming and speaking unto mortal men].
 495 I understand the dumb man and I hear
 Him that speaks not, and how great the whole height
 From earth to heaven is, and the beginning
 And end I know, who made the heaven and earth.
 [For all things have proceeded from him, things
 500 From the beginning to the end he knows.]
 For I alone am God and other God
 There is not. They my image formed of wood
 Treat as divine, and shaping it by hand
 They sing their praises over idols dumb

478. At this point the Sibyl assumes to represent God himself as speaking, and continues this strain to line 567, throwing in occasional observations of her own, as if forgetful of the part she holds. Lines 478, 479, and 495, 496, are identical with two lines attributed to the oracle of Delphi by Herodotus, i, 47.

501. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, i, 6 [L., 6, 148].
 (361-379.)

- 505 With supplications and unholy rites.
Forsaking the Creator they were slaves
To lewdness. Men possessing everything
Bestow their gifts on things which cannot aid,
As if they for my honors deemed these things
- 510 All useful, with the smell of sacrifice
Filling the feast, as if for their own dead.
For they flesh and bones full of marrow burn
Offering on altars, and they pour out blood
To demons, and they kindle lights to me
- 515 The giver of light, and as to a god
That thirsts do mortals drunken pour out wine
For nought to idols that can give no aid.
I have no need of your burnt offerings,
Nor your libations, nor polluted smoke,
- 520 Nor blood most hateful. For in memory
Of kings and tyrants they will do these things
Unto dead demons, as to heavenly beings,
Performing service godless and destructive.
And godless they their images call gods,
- 525 Forsaking the Creator, having faith
That from them they derive all hope and life,
Deaf and dumb, in the evil putting trust,
But they are wholly ignorant of good.
Two ways did I myself before them set,
- 530 Of life and of death, and before them set
Judgment to choose good life; but they themselves
Hastened to death and to eternal fire.
Man is my image, having upright reason.
For him a table pure and without blood
- 535 Make ready and with good things fill it up,

530. *Life and of death.*—Comp. Deut. xxx, 15, 19, and also the opening words of the "Teaching of the Twelve Apostles."

- And give the hungry bread, the thirsty drink,
 And to the body that is naked clothes
 From thine own labors with unsullied hands
 Providing. Recreate the afflicted man,
 540 And help the weary, and provide for me
 The living One a living sacrifice
 Sowing piety, that also I to thee
 Sometime may give immortal fruits, and light
 Eternal thou shalt have and fadeless life
 545 When I shall prove all by fire. For all things
 I shall fuse and shall pick out what is pure,
 Heaven will I roll up and the depths of earth
 Lay open, and then will I raise the dead
 Making an end of fate and sting of death,
 550 And afterward for judgment will I come
 Judging the manner both of pious men
 And impious; I will set ram close to ram,
 Shepherd to shepherd, calf to calf, for test,
 Close to each other; whosoever were
 555 Exalted, proven by trial, and who stopped
 The mouth of every one, that they themselves
 Vieing with them that lead a holy life
 May likewise bring them into slavery,
 Enjoining silence, urged by love of gain,
 560 Not proved before me, then shall all withdraw.
 No longer henceforth shalt thou grieving say
 "Morrow shall be," nor "yesterday has been;"
 Not many days of care, nor spring, nor winter,
 Nor summer then, nor autumn, nor sunset

546. Comp. book ii, 363; iii, 105.

547-551. Cited by Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 20 [L., 6, 799].

554-560. The import of these lines is very obscure and uncertain.

561-565. Comp. book ii, 397-403.

- And an eternal creature was arranged
In mortal figure, also heaven, air, fire,
And earth and water of the sea, sun, moon,
Chorus of stars, hills . . .
- 600 Both night and day, sleeping and waking up,
Spirit and passion, soul and understanding,
Art, might and strength, and the wild tribes
Of living things both swimming things and fowls,
And of those walking, and amphibia,
- 605 And those that creep and those of double nature;
For acting in accord with his own will
Under thy leading he arranged all things.
- But in the latest times the earth he passed,
And coming late from the virgin Mary's womb
- 610 A new light rose, and going forth from heaven
Put on a mortal form. First then did Gabriel show
His strong pure form; and bearing his own news
He next addressed the maiden with his voice:
"O virgin, in thy bosom undefiled
- 615 Receive thou God." Thus speaking he inbreathed
God's grace on the sweet maiden; and straightway
Alarm and wonder seized her as she heard,
And she stood trembling; and her mind was wild
With flutter of excitement while at heart
- 620 She quivered at the unlooked-for things she heard.
But she again was gladdened and her heart
Was cheered by the voice, and the maiden laughed
And her cheek reddened with a sense of joy,
And spell-bound was her heart with sense of shame.
- 625 And confidence came to her. And the Word
Flew into the womb, and in course of time
Having become flesh and endued with life
Was made a human form and came to be

- A boy distinguished by his virgin birth;
 630 For this was a great wonder to mankind,
 But it was no great wonder unto God
 The Father, nor was it to God the Son.
 And the glad earth received the new born babe,
 The heavenly throne laughed and the world rejoiced.
 635 And the prophetic new-appearing star
 Was honored by the wise men, and the babe
 Born was shown in a manger unto them
 That obeyed God, and keepers of the herds,
 And goatherds and to shepherds of the lambs;
 640 And Bethlehem called by God the fatherland
 Of the Word was chosen. . . .

.

- And in heart practice lowliness of mind
 And cruel deeds hate, and thy neighbor love
 Wholly, even as thyself; and from thy soul
 645 Love God and do him service. Therefore we
 Sprung from the holy race of the heavenly Christ
 Are called of common blood, and we restrain
 In worship recollection of good cheer,
 And walk the paths of piety and truth.
 650 Not ever are we suffered to approach
 The inmost sanctuary of the temples,
 Nor pour libations to carved images,
 Nor honor them with prayers, nor with the smells
 Much-pleasing of flowers, nor with light of lamps,

642-669. These lines, which conclude the book, are a fragment, which may have once been naturally connected with what now precedes by intervening lines no longer extant. As they now stand they have no natural connection with the preceding passage, and appear mutilated both at beginning and end.

- 655 Nor yet with shining votive offerings
Adorn them, nor with smoke of frankincense
That sends forth flame of altars; nor do thou,
Adding unto the sacrifice of bulls
And taking pleasure in defilement send
660 Blood of sheep-slaughtering outrage, thus to give
Ransom for penalty beneath the earth;
Nor by the smoke of flesh-consuming pyre
And odors foul pollute the light of heaven;
But joyful with pure minds and cheerful soul,
665 With love abounding and with generous hands,
With soothing psalms and songs that honor God,
We are commanded to sing praise to thee,
The imperishable and without deceit,
All-father God, of understanding mind,

.
(491-501.)

BOOK XI.

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BOOK XI.

- O WORLD of men wide-scattered, and long walls,
 The cities huge and nations numberless,
 Throughout the east and west and south and north,
 Divided off by various languages
 5 And kingdoms; other things, the very worst,
 Against you I am now about to speak.
- For from the time when on the earlier men
 The flood came and the Almighty One himself
 Destroyed that race by many waters, then
 10 Brought he in yet another race of men
 Untiring; and they, setting themselves up
 Against heaven, built to height unspeakable
 A tower; and tongues of all were loosed again;
 And on them hurled came wrath of God most high,
 15 By which the tower unutterably great
 Fell; and against each other they stirred up
 An evil strife. And then of mortal men
 Was the tenth race since these things came to pass;

The four following books were first published by Angelo Mai, in 1828, and in the manuscripts and in the editions of Alexandre and Rzach are numbered xi-xiv. There would seem, therefore, to have existed two other books, ix and x, which may yet come to light, as did books xi-xiv after various printed editions of the first eight books had appeared. We deem it better, therefore, to adhere to the numbering of the manuscripts and the two principal editions of the Greek text than with Friedlieb to number these later books as ix-xii. This eleventh book deals largely with matters of Egyptian history, but contains also various oracles against other nations. Its date and authorship are uncertain.

7-20. Comp. book, iii, 117-132.

(1-15.)

And the whole earth was among foreign men
 20 And various languages distributed,
 Whose numbers I will tell and in acrostics
 Of the initial letter show the name.

And first shall Egypt royal power receive
 Preeminent and just; and then in her
 25 Shall many-counseling men be governors;
 Moreover then a fearful man shall rule,
 Close-fighter very strong; and he shall have
 This letter of the acrostic of his name:
 Sword shall he stretch out against pious men.
 30 And while this one is ruler there shall be
 A fearful sign in the Egyptian land,
 Which, gladdening very greatly, shall with corn
 Souls perishing with famine then supply;
 The law-giver, himself a prisoner,
 35 The East and offspring of Assyrian men
 Shall nourish; and his name know thou . . .
 . . . of the measure of the number ten.
 But when there shall come from the radiant heaven
 Ten strokes of judgment upon Egypt, then
 40 Will I again proclaim these things to thee.
 Memphis, alas, alas for thee! alas,
 Great royal one! the Erythræan sea
 Shall thy much people utterly destroy.

23. *First . . . Egypt.*—Comp. book iii, 191–195, and the names and order of kingdoms then given with lines 57, 80, 86, 106, 138, and 144.

28. *This letter.*—Referring to the letter *Phi*, which begins the next line in the Greek text (in the word *φάσγανον*, *sword*), the initial of the name *Pharaoh*.

35. *Assyrian.*—The Sibyl thinks of the Hebrews as emigrants from Assyria, or the far East. So again in line 106 below.

37. *Ten.*—The Greek letter for ten is *I*, the initial of the Greek form of the name *Joseph*.

- Then when the people of twelve tribes shall leave
 45 The fruitful land of ruin by command
 Of the Immortal, the Lord God himself
 Will also give a law unto mankind.
 And o'er the Hebrews then a mighty king
 Magnanimous shall rule, and have a name
 50 Derived from sandy Egypt, Theban man
 Of doubtful native land; and Memphis he,
 Dread serpent, will show outward signs of love,
 And he will watch o'er many things in wars.
 Now the tenth kingdom being twelve times complete
 55 Seven besides and even unto the tenth hundred,
 Others being altogether left behind,
 Then shall arise the Persian sovereignty.
 And then an evil shall befall the Jews,
 Famine and pestilence intolerable
 60 They do not make escape from in that day.
 But when a Persian shall rule, and a son
 Of his son's son shall lay the scepter down,
 While years roll round to five fours, and to these
 A hundred more, and thou a hundred nines
 65 Shalt finish and all things shalt thou repay;
 And then unto the Persians and the Medes
 Shalt thou be given over as a slave,
 Destroyed with blows by reason of hard fights.
 Straightway to Persians and Assyrians
 70 And to all Egypt shall an evil come,
 And to Libya and the Ethiopians,
 And to the Carians and Pamphylians
 And to all other mortals. And he then

48-105. The historical references in these lines are so uncertain that we essay no comments.

- Shall to the grandsons give the royal power,
75 Who again snatching the whole earth away
Shall plunder races for their many spoils,
Not having fellow-feeling. Mournful dirges
Shall the sad Persians by the Tigris wail,
And Egypt water many a land with tears.
- 80 And then to thee, O Median land, a man
Of wealth abundant and of Indian birth
Shall many evils do, till thou repay
All things which thou, possessed of shameless
soul,
Hast done before. Alas, alas for thee,
- 85 Thou Median nation; thou shalt afterwards
Be servant unto Ethiopian men
Beyond the land of Meroe; wretched thou
Shalt from the first seven and a hundred years
Complete, and put thy neck beneath the yoke.
- 90 And then an Indian of dark countenance
And gray hair and great soul shall afterwards
Become lord, who shall many evils bring
Upon the East by reason of hard fights;
And he shall treat thee more despitefully
- 95 And shall destroy all thy men. But when he
The twentieth and the tenth year shall be king,
Among them, also seven and the tenth,
Then every nation of a royal power
Shall be mad and declare their liberty,
- 100 And during three years leave their servile blood.
But he shall come again and every nation
Of valiant men shall put their neck again
Under the yoke, serve the king as before,
And of its own free will again obey.
- 105 There shall be great peace throughout all the world.

- And then o'er the Assyrians there shall rule
 A mighty king, a man preeminent,
 And shall persuade all to speak pleasing things,
 Which God ordained according to the law;
- 110 Then all kings arrogant with pointed spears
 Timid and speechless shall before him quail,
 And him shall very powerful rulers serve
 Because of counsels of the mighty God;
 For he will carry all things in detail
- 115 By reason, and all things will he subject,
 And he the temple of the mighty God
 And lovely altar will himself erect
 In his might, and will hurl the idols down;
 And gathering tribes together, both the race
- 120 Of fathers and the helpless little ones,
 He shall encompass the inhabitants;
 His name shall have two hundred for its number,
 And of the eighteenth letter show the sign.
 But when for rolling decades two and five
- 125 He shall rule, going forwards towards the end
 Of his time, there shall be as many kings
 As there are tribes of men, as there are clans,
 As there are cities, and as isles and coasts,
 And fields and lands that bring forth goodly fruit.
- 130 But one of these shall be a mighty king,
 A leader among men; and many kings
 Of lofty spirit shall submit to him,
 And to his sons and grandsons opulent
 Give portions on account of royal power.

107. *Mighty king*.—Reference to Solomon.

122. *Two hundred*.—Represented by *Sigma*, the eighteenth letter of the Greek alphabet, and initial of Solomon.

130. *Mighty king*.—Probable reference to Cyrus.

- 135 Decades of decades, eight ones upon these
Of years shall they rule, and at last shall end.
But when with cruel Ares there shall come
A powerful wild beast, even then for thee,
O queenly land, shall wrath spring forth again.
- 140 Alas, alas for thee, thou Persian land;
What an outpouring of the blood of men
Shalt thou receive when that strong-minded man
Comes to thee; then I'll shout these things again.
But when Italian soil shall generate,
- 145 Great wonder unto mortals, there shall be
Moans of young children by a fountain pure,
In shady cavern offspring of wild beast
That feeds on sheep, who unto manhood grown
Shall upon seven strong hills with reckless soul
- 150 Hurl many headlong down, in numbers both
Having a hundred, and their names shall show
A great sign to them that are yet to be;
And they shall build upon the seven hills
Strong walls and wage around them grievous
war.
- 155 And then again shall there be growing up
Revolt of men around thee, thou great land
Of fine ears, high-souled Egypt; but again

135. *Decades of decades.*—If we take this to mean twice ten decades, and add eight more, we have two hundred and eight, a near approximation of the duration of the Persian monarchy.

138. *Wild beast.*—Reference to Alexander the Great.

146–148. Comp. book v, 14, 15.

151. *A hundred.*—Represented by the Greek letter P, initial of Romulus and Remus.

152. *Great sign.*—Probably in the thought that the first letter of these names is also the initial of Rome, the eternal city, the symbol of power.

- I'll cry these things. And yet thou shalt receive
 A great stroke in thy houses; and again
 160 Shall there be a revolt of thine own men.
 Now over thee, O wretched Phrygia,
 I weep in pity; for to thee from Greece,
 Tamer of horses, there shall conquest come
 And war and plague by reason of hard fights.
 165 Ilium, I pity thee; for there shall come
 From Sparta an Erinys to thy halls
 Mixed with a deadly sting; and most of all
 Shall she bring thee toils, troubles, groans, and wails,
 When well-skilled men the battle shall begin,
 170 By far the noblest heroes of the Greeks
 Who are to Ares dear. And one of these
 Shall be a strong brave king; of foulest deeds
 He for his brother's sake will go in quest.
 And they shall overthrow the famous walls
 175 Of Phrygian Troy; when of the rolling years
 Twice five shall be filled with the bloody deeds
 Of savage war, a wooden artifice
 Shall sudden cover men, and on thy knees
 Thou shalt receive this, not perceiving it
 180 To be an ambush pregnant with the Greeks,
 O cause of grievous woe. Alas, alas,
 How much in one night Hades shall receive,
 And what spoils of the old man weeping much
 Shall he bear off! But with those yet to come
 185 Shall be undying fame. And the great king,
 A hero sprung from Zeus, shall have his name
 Of the first letter of the alphabet;

165. Comp. book iii, 516. The lines following rehearse the story of Troy.

185. *Great king*.—Agamemnon, who on his return was slain by his wife, Clytemnestra.

- Homewards shall he in order go. And then
 Shall he fall by a treacherous woman's hand.
- 190 And there shall rule a child sprung from the race
 And the blood of Assaracus, renowned
 Of heroes, both a strong and valiant man.
 And he shall come out of the mighty fire
 Of ravaged Troy, fleeing from fatherland
- 195 By reason of the fearful toil of war;
 Bearing his aged father on his shoulders
 And also holding his son by the hand
 He shall perform a pious work of law,
 Who, looking cautiously about him, cleft
- 200 The onset of the fire of burning Troy,
 And hurrying through the multitude in dread
 He shall pass over land and fearful sea.
 And he shall have a trisyllabic name,
 For the beginning of the alphabet
- 205 Points out this highest man as not unknown.
 And then a city for the powerful Latins
 He will raise up. And in his fifteenth year,
 Destroyed by waters in the depths of sea,
 Shall he lay hold on the event of death.
- 210 But him though dead the nations of mankind
 Shall not forget; for his race over all
 Shall rule hereafter even to Euphrates
 And river Tigris, throughout the mid land
 Of the Assyrians, where the Parthians
- 215 Extended. For those who are yet to come
 It shall be, when all these things come to pass.

190. *Child.*—Æneas. Comp. book v, 10-12.

208. *Destroyed by waters.*—According to one tradition, Æneas was drowned in the river Numicus.

And there shall be an old man, minstrel wise,
 Whom all shall among mortals call most wise,
 By whose good understanding the whole world
 220 Shall be instructed; for his chapters he
 According to their power of thoughts will write.
 And wisely will he write most marvelous things,
 At times appropriating words of mine
 Measures and verses; for he shall the first
 225 My books unfold and after these things hide them
 And unto men bring them to light no more
 Until the end of baneful death and life.

But when forthwith these things have been fulfilled
 Which I spoke, yet again the Greeks shall fight
 230 With one another; and Assyrians,
 Arabians and the quiver-bearing Medes,
 And Persians and Sicilians shall rise up,
 And Lydians, Thracians and Bithynians,
 And they who dwell in the land of fair corn
 235 Beside the streams of Nile; and among all
 Will God the imperishable put at once
 Confusion. But exceeding terribly
 Shall an Assyrian base-born fiery man
 Come suddenly, possessed of beastly soul,
 240 And looking cautiously about him cut
 Through every isthmus, going against all,
 And sailing o'er the sea. Then, faithless Greece,
 To thee shall happen very many things.
 Alas, alas for thee, O wretched Greece,
 245 How many things thou art obliged to wail!

217. *Old man*.—Homer. Comp. book iii, 523-541.

238. *Assyrian*.—Probably referring to Xerxes. The epithet *Assyrian* seems to have a broad and loose significance with this writer, who in line 106 above calls Solomon an Assyrian. Comp. also line 35.

(164-184.)

And during seven and eighty rolling years
 Thou shalt the miserable refuse be
 Of fearful battle among all the tribes.

Then shall a Macedonian man again
 250 Bring forth for Hellas woe and shall destroy
 All Thrace, and toil of Ares on the isles
 And coasts and the war-loving Triballi.

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He shall among the foremost fighters be,
 And he shall share that name which shows the sign
 255 Of numbers ten times fifty. And short-lived
 Shall he be; but behind him he shall leave
 The greatest kingdom on the boundless earth.
 But by base spearman he himself shall fall
 While thought to live in quiet as none else.

260 And afterwards shall a great-hearted child
 Of this one rule, beginning with his name
 The alphabet; but his race shall pass out.
 Not of Zeus, not of Ammon shall they call
 This one true son, yet still a bastard son
 265 Of Cronos as they all imagine him.
 And cities he of many mortal men
 Shall plunder; and for Europe shall shoot up
 The greatest sore. And also terribly
 Will he abuse the city Babylon,

249. *Macedonian*.—Philip of Macedon, whose initial, *Phi* (ϕ), stands in the Greek numerals for 500.

258. *Base spearman*.—Pausanias, one of the royal guards, who assassinated Philip on his way to the theater.

259. *To live in quiet*.—Conjectural reading.

263. Comp. book v, 8, 9. This entire picture of Alexander (lines 260–298) is peculiar to the writer of this book.

- 270 And every land the sun looks down upon,
 And he alone shall sail both east and west.
 Alas, alas for thee, O Babylon,
 Thou shalt serve triumphs, who wast called a queen;
 Down upon Asia Ares comes, he comes
- 275 Surely and shall thy many children slay.
 And then shalt thou send forth thy royal man
 Named by the number four, expert with spear
 Among the mighty warriors, terrible,
 Shooting with bow and arrow. And then famine
- 280 And war shall hold possession of the midst
 Of the Cilicians and Assyrians;
 But kings of lofty spirit shall embrace
 The dreadful state of heart-consuming strife.
 But do thou, fleeing, leave the former king,
- 285 Be neither willing to remain nor fear
 To be unhappy; for on thee shall come
 A dreadful lion, a flesh-eating beast,
 Wild, strange to justice, wearing on his shoulders
 A mantle. Flee the thunder-smiting man.
- 290 And Asia all shall bear an evil yoke,
 And many a murder shall the wet earth drink.
 But when a mighty city prosperous
 Ares of Pella shall in Egypt found,
 And it shall be named from him, fate and death,
- 295 By his companions treacherously betrayed

 For barbarous murder shall destroy this man
 Around the tables when he shall have left
 The Indians and shall come to Babylon.

277. *Four*.—Represented by *Delta* (Δ), the initial of Darius (Codomanus), who was defeated by Alexander.

- Thereafter other kings, in a few years,
 300 Devourers of the people, arrogant
 And faithless, shall rule each by his own tribe;
 But a great-hearted hero, who shall glean
 All fenced Europe, from the time each land
 Shall drink the blood of all tribes, shall forthwith
 305 Abandon life, unloosing his own fate.
 And other kings there shall be, twice four men
 Of his race, and the same name to them all.
 And there shall be a bride of Egypt then
 Commanding and a noble city great
 310 Of Macedonian lord, queen Alexandria,
 Famed nourisher of cities, shining fair
 She alone shall be the metropolis.
 Let Memphis then upbraid them that command.
 And peace shall be deep throughout all the world;
 315 Then shall the land of black soil have more fruits.
 And then there shall come evil to the Jews,
 Nor shall they in that day make their escape
 From famine and intolerable plague;
 But the new world of black soil and fair corn,
 320 Divine land, shall receive much-wandering men.

302. *Hero*.—Referring most probably to Antigonus, the most famous of Alexander's immediate successors, who certainly gleaned all western Asia, if not Europe.

306. *Twice four men*.—The eight famous Ptolemies of Egypt, who were of Macedonian origin.

312. *Let Memphis then upbraid*.—Because overshadowed and superseded by the Ptolemies, who made Alexandria the sole metropolis. There is in the Greek text here a play on the word Memphis—*mephestho Memphis*.

316. *Evil to the Jews*.—Reference to the capture of Jerusalem by Ptolemy I, and the transportation of a great number of Jews to Egypt. See Josephus, *Ant.*, xii, 1.

320. *Wandering men*.—Scattered by famine and seeking a new and better country. Alexandre reads *ruined men*.

- But marshy Egypt's eight kings shall fill up
 The numbers of two hundred years and three
 And thirty. Yet shall offspring perish not
 Of all of them, but there shall issue forth
- 325 A female root, a bane of mortal men,
 Betrayer of her kingdom. But they shall
 According to their evil deeds perform
 Their wickedness thereafter, and one here
 Another there shall perish; son that wears
- 330 The purple shall cut off his warlike sire,
 And he himself in turn by his own son,
 And ere he shall put forth another shoot
 He shall cease; but a root shall sprout again
 Thereafter of itself; and there shall be
- 335 A race beside him growing. For a queen
 There shall be of the land by Nilus' streams
 Which comes down through seven mouths into the
 sea,
 And her name very lovely shall be that
 Of the number twenty; and she will demand
- 340 Numberless things and gather up all goods
 Of gold and silver; but from her own men

322. The period of the eight Ptolemies is commonly reckoned from Ptolemy I (Soter), B. C. 323, to Ptolemy VIII (Soter II), B. C. 81, or about 242 years.

325. *Female root.*—The famous Cleopatra would seem most obviously intended, but the associated events (lines 346–354) appear to be those of the disorders and crimes of the times following the reign of the eighth Ptolemy. Hence, perhaps, this “betrayer of her kingdom” may best refer to the mother of the eighth Ptolemy (Soter II), who expelled him from Egypt and placed the crown on the head of her favorite son, Alexander.

339. *Twenty.*—The letter K, initial of the Greek form of the name Cleopatra. Here, without doubt, the last queen of Egypt, the famous daughter of Ptolemy Auletes, is intended.

(243–258.)

- Shall treachery befall her. Then again
 For thee, O dusky land, shall there be wars
 And battles and great slaughter of mankind.
- 345 When many over fertile Rome shall rule,
 Examples not at all of happy men,
 But tyrants, and there be of thousands chiefs
 And of ten thousands, and the overseers
 Of popular assemblies under law,
- 350 Then shall the mightiest Cæsars bear the rule
 Ill-fated all their days; and of these last
 Shall for initial have the number ten,
 Last Cæsar stretching on the earth his limbs,
 Struck by dire Ares by a hostile man,
- 355 Whom carrying in their hands the youth of Rome
 Shall bury piously, and over him
 Pour out their token for his friendship's sake
 Rendering a tribute to his memory.
- But when thou shalt come to an end of time
- 360 And hast completed twice three hundred years
 And twice ten, from the time when he shall rule
 Who is thy founder, child of the wild beast,
 There shall no longer a dictator be
 Ruling a measured period; but a lord
- 365 Shall become king, man equal to the gods.
- Then, Egypt, know the king that comes to thee;
 And dreadful Ares of the glittering helm
 Shall surely come. For there shall be for thee,

351. *Last.*—In the sense of loftiest, noblest. The Greek initial of Julius is the letter which stands for ten. Comp. book v, 16–19.

360. The date of the foundation of Rome is usually set B. C. 753. Both here and in book xii, 16, the time intervening between this and the first Cæsar is said to be 620 years.

366. Egypt and the queen, Cleopatra, are poetically addressed as one.

(258–278.)

- O widowed one, a capture afterwards;
 370 For round the walls of thy land there shall be
 Terrible raging mischief-working wars.
 But having suffered misery in wars
 Thou, wretched, shalt thyself flee from above
 Those lately wounded; and then to the couch
 375 Shalt thou come to the dreadful man himself;
 The wedlock, sharing one bed, is the end.
 Alas, alas for thee, ill-wedded bride,
 Thy royal power unto the Roman king
 Shalt thou give, and thou shalt repay all things,
 380 Which thou aforetime didst with masculine hands;
 Thou shalt give the whole land by way of dower
 As far as Libya and the dark-skinned men
 To the resistless man. And thou shalt be
 No more a widow, but thou shalt cohabit
 385 With a man-eating lion terrible,
 A furious warrior. And then shalt thou be
 Unhappy and among all men unknown;
 For thou shalt leave possessed of shameless soul;
 And thee, the stately, shall the encircling tomb
 390 Receive . . . is gone . . . living within . . .
 Adapted at the summits, beautiful,
 Wrought curiously, and a great multitude
 Shall mourn thee and the dreadful king shall make
 A piteous lamentation over thee.
 395 And then shall Egypt be the toiling slave

373. Here Cleopatra's flight to Julius Cæsar seems to have been in the mind of the writer; and throughout this passage the Sibylline poet appears to confound events of different periods, part of which occurred with Antony, part with Julius Cæsar, to whom Cleopatra bore a son.

390, 391. The text is so mutilated at this point as to leave the exact sentiment of the writer quite unintelligible.

(279-297.)

- Who many years against the Indians bears
 Her trophies; and she shall serve shamefully,
 And with the river, the fruit-bearing Nile,
 Mingle her tears, for having gathered wealth
 400 And store of all good things, a nourisher
 Of cities, she shall feed sheep-eating race
 Of fearful men. Ah, to how many beasts,
 O very wealthy Egypt, thou shalt be
 Booty and spoil, but giving peoples laws;
 405 And formerly delighting in great kings
 Thou shalt to peoples be a wretched slave
 On account of that people, whom of old
 Piously living thou led'st to much woe
 Of toils and wailings, and didst put a plow
 410 Upon their neck and irrigate the fields
 With mortal tears. Therefore the Lord himself,
 The imperishable God who dwells in heaven,
 Shall utterly destroy and send thee on
 To wailing; and thou shalt make recompense
 415 For what thou didst unlawfully of old,
 And know at last that God's wrath came to thee.
 But I to Python and to Panopeus
 Of goodly towers shall go; and then shall all
 Declare that I am a true prophetess
 420 Oracle-singing, yet a messenger
 With maddened soul. . . .
 And when thou shalt come forward to the hooks
 Thou shalt not tremble, and all things to come

407. *That people*.—Referring to the Hebrews and their ancient Egyptian bondage.

417. *Python . . . Panopeus*.—Shrines of Apollo in Phocis, Greece; Python is put for Delphi, and Panopeus was not far distant.

419-429. Comp. book iii, 1008-1016, and the close of books xii and xiii.
 (298-318.)

And things that were ye shall know from our words;
425 Then none shall call the God-seized prophetess
An oracle-singer of necessity.
But now, Lord, end my very lovely strain,
Driving off frenzy and real voice inspired
And fearful madness, and give charming song.
(319-324.)

BOOK XII.

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BOOK XII.

- BUT come now, hear of me the mournful time
 Of sons of Latium; and first of all
 After the kings of Egypt were destroyed,
 And the like earth had downwards borne them all,
 5 And after Pella's townsman, under whom
 The whole East and the rich West were cast down,
 Whom Babylon dishonored, and stretched out
 For Philip a dead body (not of Zeus,
 Of Ammon not true things were prophesied),
 10 And after that one of the race and blood
 Of king Assaracus, who came from Troy,
 Even he who cleft the violence of fire,
 And after many lords, and after men
 To Ares dear, and after the young babes,
 15 The children of the beast that feeds on sheep,
 And after the passing of six hundred years
 And decades two of Rome's dictatorship,
 The very first lord, from the western sea,
 Shall be of Rome the ruler, very strong
 20 And warlike, the initial of whose name
 Begins the letters, and fast binding thee,
 O thou of goodly fruit, he shall be full
 Of man-destroying Ares; thou shalt pay

This book is in great part a reproduction of the material of the fifth book, and in portions, as, for example, the first fifteen lines, a direct appropriation of the language found at the beginning of that book.

16. *Six hundred.*—Comp. book xi, 360.

18. *The very first.*—This differs from book v, 16–18, in making Augustus rather than Julius Cæsar the first imperial ruler.

(1–17.)

The outrage which thou willing didst force on;
 For he, great soul, shall be the best in wars;
 25 Before him Thrace and Sicily shall crouch,
 With Memphis, Memphis cast headlong to earth
 By reason of the wickedness of rulers
 And of a woman unenslaved who falls
 Under the spear. And laws will he ordain
 30 For peoples and put all things under him;
 Having great fame he shall wield scepter long;
 For no short time shall he last nor shall ever
 Be other greater scepter-bearing king
 35 Than this one, o'er the Romans, not one hour,
 For God did lavish all things upon him,
 And also in the noble earth he showed
 Great marvelous seasons, and with them showed signs.

But when a radiant star all like the sun
 40 Shall shine forth out of heaven in the mid days,
 Then shall the secret Word of the Most High
 Come clothed in flesh like mortals; but with him
 The might of Rome and of the illustrious Latins
 Shall increase. But the mighty king himself
 45 Shall under his appointed lot expire,
 Transmitting to another royal power.

But after him a man, a warrior strong,
 Wearing the purple mantle on his shoulders,
 Shall bear rule, and with his initial he
 50 Numbers three hundred, and he shall destroy
 The Medes and arrow-hurling Parthians;
 And he himself by his power shall subvert

25-30. Identical with book v, 22-27, excepting the word *spear* in line 29.

39. *Star*.—The star of Bethlehem. Matt. ii, 2, 9.

41. *Word*.—The Logos, as in John i, 1.

50. *Three hundred*.—Designating Tiberius, as in book v, 30.

- The high-gate city; and again shall come
 Evil to Egypt and the Assyrians,
 55 And to the Colchian Heniochi,
 And to those by the waters of the Rhine,
 The Germans dwelling o'er the sandy shores.
 And he himself shall ravage afterwards
 The high-gate city near Eridanus
 60 Which is devising evils. And then he
 Shall forthwith fall down, struck by gleaming iron.
 And afterwards shall rule another man
 Weaving guile, and the initial of his name
 Will show the number three; and he much gold
 65 Shall gather; and with him there shall not be
 Satiety of wealth, but plundering more
 Recklessly he'll put all things in the earth.
 But peace shall come, and Ares shall desist
 From wars; and he shall make known many things
 70 In divination of the greatest things,
 Inquiring for the sake of means of life;
 Yet there shall be on him the greatest sign:
 From heaven down on the king while perishing
 There shall flow many little drops of blood.
 75 And many lawless things will he perform,
 And put around the neck of Romans pain
 Trusting in divination; and the heads
 Of the assembly he will also slay.
 And famine shall seize Cappadocians,
 80 And Thracians, Macedonians, and Italians.

55. *Heniochi*.—A Sarmatian tribe, near Colchis.

59. *City*.—Cremona seems intended, but the writer has here apparently confused Tiberius with Vespasian, who destroyed this city by fire.

64. *Three*.—The letter Γ, denoting Gaius, or Caius Cæsar, commonly called Caligula, a monster of wickedness.

And Egypt shall alone feed numerous tribes;
 And the king himself beguiling secretly
 Shall craftily destroy the virgin maid;
 But her the citizens in tearful grief
 85 Shall bury ; and against the king they all
 Holding wrath shall abuse him craftily.
 While strong Rome blossoms the strong man shall
 perish.

And again there shall rule another lord
 Of the number of twice ten; and then shall come
 90 Unto the Sauromatians and to Thrace
 And the Triballi, famed for hurling darts,
 Wars and sad cares; and Roman Ares shall
 Tear all in pieces. And a fearful sign
 Shall there be when this man shall rule the land
 95 Of the Italians and Pannonians ;
 And there shall be at the mid hour of day
 Dark night around them and then from the heaven
 A shower of stones; and thereupon the lord
 And vigorous judge of the Italians
 100 Shall go in Hades' halls by his own fate.

Again another fearful man shall come
 And dreadful, numbering fifty; and from all
 The cities many noblest citizens
 Born to wealth he shall utterly destroy,
 105 A dreadful serpent breathing grievous war,
 Who sometime stretching forth his hands shall make
 An end of his own race and stir all things,
 Acting the athlete, driving chariots,

89. *Twice ten*.—Represented by *Kappa*, initial of Claudius (Klaudios)
 Comp. book v, 86.

101-114. This description of Nero is nearly identical with that of book v,
 39-49.

- Putting to death and daring countless things ;
 110 And he shall cleave the mountain of two seas,
 And sprinkle it with gore. And out of sight
 Shall also vanish the destructive man ;
 Then making himself equal unto God
 Shall he return, but God will prove him naught.
- 115 And while he rules there shall be peace profound
 And not the fears of men ; and from the ocean
 Flowing, and cleaving by Ausonia,
 Shall come untrodden water ; and around
 Looking with anxious care he will appoint
- 120 His very many contests for the people,
 And he himself an actor will contend
 With voice and cithara, and sing a song
 Along with harp-string ; later he will flee
 And leave the royal power, and perishing
- 125 Illy will he repay the harm he wrought.
 After him three shall rule and two of them
 Shall have the number seventy by their names,
 And in addition to these shall be one
 Of the third letter ; and one here, one there,
- 130 Shall perish by strong Ares' sturdy hands.
 Then shall a mighty ruler of men come,
 Destroyer of the pious, strong-minded man,
 Spear-wielding Ares, whom seven times the tenth
 Shall point out clearly ; he shall overthrow
- 135 Phœnicia and destroy Assyria.
 A sword shall come upon the sacred land
 Of Solyma even to the utmost bend
 Of the Tiberian sea. Alas, alas,
 Phœnicia, O how much shalt thou endure,
- 140 Grief-laden with thy trophies tightly bound,

- And every nation shall upon thee tread.
 Alas, alas, to the Assyrians
 Shalt thou come and shalt see young children serve
 Among unfriendly men and with the wives,
 145 And every means of life and wealth shall perish;
 For on thee God's wrath causing grievous woe
 Shall come, because they did not keep his law,
 But served all idols with unseemly arts.
 And many wars and fights and homicides,
 150 Famines, and pestilences, and confusion
 Of cities shall be. But the reverend king
 Of mighty soul shall at the end of life
 Himself fall by a strong necessity.
- Then shall two other chief men, cherishing
 155 The memory of their father, great king, rule,
 And in contending warriors glory much.
- And (one) of these shall be a noble man
 And lordly, whose name shall three hundred hold;
 Yet he shall also fall by treachery,
 160 Not in the warring companies stretched out,
 But struck in Rome's plain by the two-edged brass.
- And after him a powerful warlike man
 Of the letter four shall rule the mighty realm,
 Whom all men on the boundless earth shall love,
 165 And then shall there be over all the world
 A rest from war. Yet all, from west to east,
 Shall serve him willingly, not by constraint,
 And cities shall be under his control
 And of themselves be subject. For to him
 170 Shall heavenly Sabaoth much glory bring,
 The imperishable God who dwells on high.

154. *Two other.*—Titus and Domitian, who seem to be also the ones designated by *three hundred* and *four* in the lines immediately following.

- And then shall famine waste Pannonia
 And all the Celtic land, and shall destroy
 One here, another there. And there shall be
 175 For the Assyrians, whom Orontes laves,
 Structures and ornament and what may seem
 Yet greater anywhere. And the great king
 Shall have a fondness for these and love them
 Above the others far (and there are many);
 180 But he himself shall in mid breast receive
 A great wound, and seized at the end of life
 Craftily, by a friend, in hallowed house
 Of the great royal hall shall he fall down
 Wounded; and after him shall be a ruler
 185 Numbering fifty, venerable man,
 Who above measure shall destroy from Rome
 Many inhabitants and citizens;
 But he shall rule few; for in Hades' halls
 For a former king's sake he shall wounded go.
 190 But then another king, a warrior strong,
 Who has three hundred for initial sign,
 Shall bear rule and lay waste the Thracians' land
 Which is much varied, and he shall destroy
 The powerful Germans dwelling by the Rhine
 195 And the Iberians that shoot the arrow.
 Moreover, there shall be unto the Jews
 Another greatest evil, and with them
 Bedewed with murder shall Phœnicia drink;
 And the walls of the Assyrians shall fall
 200 By many warriors. And again a man
 Destroying life shall waste them utterly.

179. The reading of the Greek text of this line is corrupt and doubtful.

185. *Fifty*.—Designating Nerva.

190. *Another*.—Trajan. Comp. lines 190–210 with book v, 58–65.

(133–155.)

- And then shall threatenings of the mighty God,
 Earthquakes, and great plagues be on every land,
 Untimely snow-storms, and strong thunderbolts.
- 205 And then the great king, mountain-roaming Celt,
 Shall for the toil of Ares not escape
 A fate unseemly, hastening eagerly
 After the strife of battle, but worn out
 Shall he be; foreign dust shall hide his corpse,
- 210 But dust that of Nemea's flower has name.
 And after him another shall arise,
 A silver-headed man, and of the sea
 Shall be his name, and of four syllables,
 Ares himself first of the alphabet
- 215 Presenting. Temples he shall dedicate
 In all the cities, watching o'er the world
 By his own foot, and bringing gifts away,
 Both gold and amber much will he supply
 For many; and magicians' mysteries
- 220 All will he from the sanctuaries keep;
 And what is much more excellent for men
 Will he place . . . ruling . . . thunderbolt;
 And great peace shall be when he shall be lord;
 And he shall be a minstrel of rich voice
- 225 And a participant in lawful things,
 And a just minister of what is right;
 But he shall fall, unloosing his own fate.
 After him three shall rule, and the third late
 Shall rule, three decades keeping; yet again

211. *Another*.—Hadrian, Greek Ἀδριανός, a word of four syllables. Comp. book v, 65-71, and viii, 66-83.

222. *Will he place*.—Lacuna in the original text here leaves it impossible to complete the sentence, or even indicate the thought with any certainty.

228. *Three*.—The Antonines. See book v, 72, and viii, 85.

- 230 Of the first unit shall another king
 Bear the rule; and another after him
 Shall be commander, of tens numbering seven;
 And their names shall be honored; and they shall
 Themselves destroy men marked by many a spot,
- 235 Britons and mighty Moors and Dacians
 And the Arabians. But when the last
 Of these shall perish, fearful Ares then,
 He that before was wounded, shall again
 Against the Parthians come, and utterly
- 240 Shall he destroy them. And then shall the king
 Himself fall by a treacherous wild beast
 Training his hands—excuse itself of death.
 And after him another man shall rule,
 In many wise things skilled, and he shall have
- 245 Himself the name of the first mighty king
 Of the first unit; and he shall be good
 And mighty; and for the illustrious Latins
 Shall this strong one accomplish many things
 In memory of his father; and forthwith
- 250 Shall he adorn the walls of Rome with gold
 And silver and ivory; and he shall go
 Within the market places and the temples
 With a strong man. And sometime direst wound
 Shall shoot up like ears in the Roman wars;

230. *First unit.*—A, here denoting Antoninus Pius.

232. *Tens numbering seven.*—O, Greek initial of Verus (*Ὀῦρος*).

235. *Moors.*—The Mauri, or Mauritians, on the northwestern coast of Africa.

236–242. The statements of these lines are inexplicably obscure. Dire war was carried on with the Parthians under command of L. Verus, but the statements of lines 240–242 are not applicable to any of the Antonines, either literally or metaphorically.

246. *First unit.*—Designating Aurelius—that is, Marcus Aurelius.

(178–194.)

- 255 And he shall sack the whole land of the Germans,
 When a great sign of God shall be displayed
 From heaven, and shall for the king's piety
 Save men in brazen armor and distress ;
 For God who is in heaven and hears all things
- 260 Shall wet him with unseasonable rain
 When he prays. But when these things are fulfilled
 Of which I spoke, then with the rolling years
 Shall also the renowned dominion cease
 Of the great pious king; and at the end
- 265 Of his life, having then proclaimed his son
 Succeeding to the kingdom, he shall die
 By his own lot and leave the royal power
 Unto the ruler with the golden hair,
 Who with two tens in his name, born a king
- 270 From the race of his father, shall receive
 Dominion. This man with superior powers
 Of mind shall grasp all things; and he shall rival
 Great-hearted overweening Hercules,
 And be the best in mighty arms and have
- 275 The greatest fame in chase and horsemanship;
 But he shall live in peril all alone.
 And while this man is ruler there shall be
 A fearful sign: there shall be a great mist
 Then in the plain of Rome, so that a man

256. *Great sign.*—The marvelous thunder-storm, by aid of which the emperor and his army gained a great victory over the Quadi, and which the Romans ascribed to Jupiter Tonans, who heard Aurelius's prayer, but which the Christians of his army affirmed was in answer to their own prayers.

265. *Son.*—Commodus, who succeeded him.

269. *Two tens.*—Represented by K, Greek initial of Commodus, specially famous for his skill with the bow and other arms, and boasting himself to be a rival of Hercules.

- 280 May not discern his neighbor. And then wars
 Shall come to pass along with mournful cares,
 When the king himself, exceeding mad with love,
 And weakly, shall come in the marriage-bed
 Shaming his youthful offspring, infamous
- 285 For inconsiderate wedding-songs impure.
 And then, in helpless loneliness concealed,
 The mighty baneful man held under wrath
 Shall in a bath-room suffer evil plight,
 Man-slaying Ares bound by treacherous fate.
- 290 Know then the fatal lot of Rome is near
 Because of zeal for power; and by the hands
 Of Ares many in Palladian halls
 Shall perish. And then Rome shall be bereft
 And shall repay all things, which she alone
- 295 Before accomplished by her many wars.
 My heart laments, my heart within me mourns;
 For from the time when thy first king, proud Rome,
 Gave good law to thee and to men on earth,
 And the Word of the great immortal God
- 300 Came to the earth, until the nineteenth reign
 Shall have been finished Cronos shall complete
 Two hundred years, twice twenty and twice two,
 With six months added; then the twentieth king,
 When smitten with sharp brass he with the sword
- 305 Shall in thy houses pour out blood, shall make
 Thy race a widow, having in his name

288. *Bath-room*.—Commodus was assassinated by suffocation in a bath-room.

300. *Nineteenth*.—That is, the nineteenth reign reckoning from Augustus. Comp. line 303.

302. This computation is obviously erroneous, for Commodus was assassinated A. D. 192, to which if we add the thirteen years of Augustus before the date of our era we have only two hundred and five years.

- The letter which the number eighty shows,
 And burdened with old age; but he shall make
 A widow of thee in a little time,
- 310 When many warriors, many overthrows,
 And murders, homicides, and deadly feuds
 And miseries of conquests there shall be,
 And in confusion many a horse and man
 Shall, cleft by force of hands, fall in the plain.
- 315 And then another man shall rule, and have
 The sign of his name in the number ten;
 And many sorrows shall he bring to pass,
 And groans, and he shall plunder many men;
 But he himself shall be short-lived and fall
- 320 By mighty Ares, struck by gleaming iron.
 Another, numbering fifty, then shall come,
 A warrior roused up by the East for rule;
 A warlike Ares he shall come to Thrace;
 And he shall flee thereafter and shall come
- 325 Into the land of the Bithynians
 And the Cilician plain; but brazen Ares
 The life-destroyer shall with speedy stroke
 Utterly spoil him in the Assyrian fields.
 And then again there shall rule craftily
- 330 A man skilled in fraud, full of various wiles,
 Roused up by the West, and his name shall have
 The number of two hundred. And again

307. *Eighty*.—Represented by II, initial of Pertinax, who was sixty-seven years old when made emperor and lived only eighty-seven days thereafter.

316. *Ten*.—I, here referring to Julianns (Didius Julianns), who after the murder of Pertinax made the highest bid for the empire, but reigned only sixty-six days.

321. *Fifty*.—N, designating Niger, who claimed the empire on the death of Pertinax and was supported by the East, but being repeatedly defeated by the troops of his rival, Severus, he fled for Parthia, but was overtaken and slain.

332. *Two hundred*.—Represented by Σ and designating Septimius Severus. (238–258.)

- Another sign: he shall contrive a war
 For royal power against Assyrian men,
 335 Raise a whole army and subject all things.
 And he shall rule the Romans with his might;
 But there is much contrivance in his heart,
 Impulse of baleful Ares; serpent dire,
 And violent in war, who shall destroy
- 340 All high-born men upon the earth, and slay
 The noble for their wealth, and, robber like,
 Stripping all earth while men are perishing,
 He shall go to the East; and all deceit
 Shall be to him . . .
-
- 345 Then shall a youthful Cæsar with him reign
 Having the name of a puissant lord
 Of Macedon, by the first letter known;
 Bringing in broils around him he shall flee
 The hard deception of the coming king
- 350 In the bosom of the army; but the one
 Who rules by his barbaric usages,
 A temple-guard, shall perish suddenly
 Slain by strong Ares with the gleaming iron;
 Him even dead shall people tear in pieces.
- 355 And then the kings of Persia shall rise up;
 And . . . Roman Ares Roman lord.

347. *First letter.*—Alexander Severus is denoted, his name reminding the writer of Alexander the Great of Macedon.

352. *Temple-guard.*—Heliogabalus (or Elagabalus) seems to be here referred to, who was in early youth trained as a priest in the Temple of the Sun at Emesa, and who, after he was made emperor, was wont to wear his pontifical dress and tiara as high-priest of the sun. But he came before, not after, Alexander Severus.

355. *Kings of Persia.*—The dynasty of the Sassanidæ, or kings of the later Persian Empire, founded by Ardechir Babegan, commonly called Artaxerxes.

(259–278.)

- And Phrygia shall with earthquakes groan again
 Wretched. Alas, alas, Laodicea;
 Alas, alas, sad Hierapolis;
- 360 For you first once the yawning earth received.
 Of Rome . . . immense Aus . . .
 All things as many . . .
 Shall wail . . . while men are perishing
 In the hands of Ares ; and the lot of men
- 365 Shall be bad; but then by the eastern way
 Hastening to look down upon Italy,
 Stripped naked he shall fall by gleaming iron,
 Acquiring hatred for his mother's sake.
 For seasons are of all sorts; each holds back
- 370 The other . . . gleaming . . . and this not at once all
 know;
 For all things shall not be (the lot) of all,
 But only those shall be for happiness
 Who honor God and shun idolatry.
 And now, Lord of the world, of every realm
- 375 Unfeigned immortal King—for thou didst put
 Into my heart the oracle divine—
 Make thou the word cease; for I do not know
 What things I say; for thou art in me he
 That speaketh all these things. Now let me rest
- 380 A little and put from my heart aside
 The charming song; for weary is my heart
 Foretelling with divine words royal power.

The verses which follow are so fragmentary that no certain meaning can be made out of them. Lines 365-368 appear to refer to the death of Alexander Severus.

374-382. Comp. conclusion of books xi and xiii.
 (279-299.)

BOOK XIII.

CONTENTS OF BOOK XIII.

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BOOK XIII.

- GREAT word divine he bids me sing again—
 The immortal holy God imperishable,
 Who gives to kings their power and takes away,
 And who determined for them time both ways,
 5 Both that of life and that of baneful death.
 And these the heavenly God enjoins on me
 Unwilling to bring tidings unto kings
 Concerning royal power. . . .

 And spear impetuous Ares; and by him
 10 All perish, child and the old man who gives
 To the assemblies laws; and many wars
 And battles there shall be, and homicides,
 Famines and pestilences, earthquake-shocks
 And mighty thunderbolts, and many ways
 15 Of the Assyrians over all the world,
 And pillaging and robbery of temples.
 And then an insurrection there shall be
 Of the industrious Persians, and with them
 Indians, Armenians, and Arabians;
 20 And unto these again a Roman king

The twelfth and thirteenth books are as closely connected as are the first and second, and like them are probably the work of one author. After the words "royal power," in the eighth line, there is a noticeable defect in the text.

9. *Impetuous Ares*.—Reference probably to Maximinus.

18. *Persians*.—The Sassanidæ, as in book xi, 355.

20. *Roman king*.—Gordian III, who defeated the Persian army under

(1-14.)

- Insatiate in war and leading on
 His spearmen against the Assyrians
 Shall draw near, a young Ares, and as far
 As the deep-flowing silvery Euphrates
 25 Shall warlike Ares stretch his deadly spear
 Because of . . .
 For by his friend betrayed he shall fall down
 In the ranks smitten by the gleaming iron.
 And straightway coming out of Syria
 30 There shall a purple-loving warrior rule,
 Terror of Ares, and also his son,
 A Cæsar, shall even all the earth oppress;
 And the one name is unto both of them:
 On first and twentieth there are to be placed
 35 Five hundred. But when these in wars shall rule,
 And laws shall be enacted, there shall be
 A little rest from war, not for long time;
 But when a wolf shall to a flock of sheep
 Pledge solemn oaths against the white-toothed dogs,
 40 Then, having misled, he will tear in pieces
 The woolly sheep, and cast his oaths aside;

Sapor on the banks of the Chaboras, a branch of the Euphrates, and was soon afterward killed by Philippus (M. Julius Philippus), who succeeded to the empire.

26. Here the Greek text is somewhat corrupt and uncertain.

29. *Out of Syria*.—The reference is to M. Julius Philippus, who was called the Arabian because of his birth in Bostra, Syria, somewhere to the south of Damascus.

31. *His son*.—Philippus associated his son, of the same name, with him in the empire.

34, 35. The Greek letter for five hundred is Φ , initial of Philippus. The "one and twenty" is to be understood as denoting the initials (A=1 and K=20) of Augustus, the title assumed by the father, and Cæsar (Kaisar), the name of his son.

38, 39. Comp. book xiv, 448, 449.

(15-30.)

- And then shall there be an unlawful strife
 Of haughty kings in wars, and Syrians
 Shall perish terribly, and Indians
 45 And the Armenians and Arabians,
 The Persians and the Babylonians
 Shall one another by hard fights destroy.
 But when a Roman Ares shall destroy
 A German Ares ruinous of life
 50 Triumphant on the ocean, then is war
 Of many years for haughty Persian men,
 But for them there shall not be victory;
 For as a fish swims not upon the point
 Of a high many-ridged and windy rock
 55 Precipitant, nor does a tortoise fly,
 Nor does an eagle into water come,
 So also are the Persians in that day
 Far off from victory, while the fond nurse
 Of the Italians, in the plain of Nile
 60 Reposing by the sacred water's side,
 Sends forth the appointed lot to seven-hilled Rome.
 Now these things are; and while the name of Rome
 Shall hold in numbers of revolving time,
 So many years shall the great noble city
 65 Of Macedon's lord, willing, deal out corn.
 Another much-distressing pain I'll sing
 For Alexandrians who are destroyed
 By reason of the strife of shameful men.
 Strong men who were aforetime terrible

48. *Roman Ares*.—Comp. book xii, 355, 356.

58, 59. *Nurse of the Italians*.—Alexandria, as representing Egypt and source of the grain supply of Italy and the Roman world.

62. *Name of Rome*.—Comp. book viii, 195, and the note on the numerical value of the letters of the name.

- 70 Being then impotent shall pray for peace
 By reason of the wickedness of chiefs.
 And there shall come wrath of the mighty God
 On the Assyrians and a mountain stream
 Shall utterly destroy them, which shall come
- 75 To Cæsar's city and harm Canaanites.
 The Pyramus shall irrigate the city
 Of Mopsus; then shall the Ægæans fall
 Because of strife of very mighty men.
 Thee, wretched Antioch, shall Ares strong
- 80 Leave not while round thee an Assyrian war
 Is pressing, for a chief of men shall dwell
 Within thy houses who shall fight with all
 The arrow-hurling Persians, he himself
 Having obtained of Romans royal power.
- 85 Now, cities of Arabians, deck yourselves
 With temples and with places for the race,
 And with broad markets and with splendid wealth,
 With images, gold, silver, ivory;
 And thou who art of all most fond of learning,
- 90 Bostra and Philippopolis, that thou may'st come
 Into great sorrow; and the laughing spheres
 Of the zodiacal vault, Aries,
 Taurus, and Gemini, and as many stars
 Ruling hours as with them in heaven appear

75. *Cæsar's city*.—Perhaps referring to Cæsarea Philippi.

76. *Pyramus*.—River of Cilicia.

77. *Mopsus*.—More commonly called Mopsuestia, a town situated on the Pyramus. *Ægæans*.—Inhabitants of the city of Ægæ, near the mouth of this same river.

79. *Wretched Antioch*.—Comp. line 165, and book iv, 181.

90. *Bostra*.—Situated some fifty miles to the south of Damascus.

91-95. These allusions to the constellations may imply notable devotion to astrology on the part of the people of Arabia.

95 Shall benefit thee not; thou, wretched one,
 Hast trusted many, when that very man
 Shall afterwards bring near that which is thine.

And now for Alexandrians loving war
 Will I sing wars most dreadful; and much people
 100 Shall perish while their cities are destroyed
 By citizens against each other matched
 And fighting for the sake of hateful strife,
 And round them horrid Ares, rushing on,
 Shall cease from war. And then one of great soul
 105 Along with his own mighty son shall fall
 By treachery on the older king's account.

And after him there shall rule powerfully
 O'er fertile Rome another great-souled lord
 Versed in war, coming from the Dacians
 110 And numbering three hundred; he shall have
 Also the letter of the number four,
 And many shall he slay, and then the king
 Shall all his brothers and his friends destroy
 Even while the kings are cut off, and straightway
 115 Shall there be fights and pillagings and murders
 Suddenly on the older king's account.
 Then, when a wily man shall summoned come,

104-106. The father and son here referred to are the same as those described in lines 29-33.

107-112. This seems to describe Trajan of Pannonia, who is better known as Decius. Sent by the emperor Philip against Mœsia, the troops proclaimed him emperor, and he exercised the imperial power for about two years. The names Trajan and Decius are represented by their initial letters, which are the Greek numerals respectively for *three hundred* and *four*.

116. Comp. line 106 above. The *older king* is here apparently intended for Philip.

117. *Wily man*.—Referring perhaps to Cyriades, one of the so-called "thirty tyrants" who arose in various parts of the empire about this time.

(72-89.)

- A robber and a Roman not well known
 From Syria appearing, he by guile
 120 Into a race of Cappadocian men
 Shall drive through and, besieging, shall press hard,
 Insatiate of war. And then for thee,
 Tyana and Mazaka, there shall be
 A capture; thou shalt be enslaved and put
 125 Upon thy neck again a fearful yoke.
 And Syria shall mourn for men destroyed
 And then Selenian goddess shall not guard
 Her holy city. But when he by flight
 From Syria shall before the Romans come,
 130 And shall pass over the Euphrates' streams,
 No longer like the Romans, but like fierce
 Dart-shooting Persians, then, fulfilling fate,
 Down shall the ruler of the Italians fall
 In the ranks smitten by the gleaming iron;
 135 And close upon him shall his children perish.
 But when another king of Rome shall reign,
 Then also to the Romans there shall come
 Unstable nations, on the walls of Rome
 Destructive Ares with his bastard son;
 140 Then also shall be famines, pestilence,
 And mighty thunderbolts, and dreadful wars,

123. *Tyana and Mazaka*.—Chief cities of Cappadocia.

127. *Selenian goddess*.—Goddess of the moon. *Her holy city* may be understood as Seleucia on the Tigris, once noted for the worship of the moon.

133. *Ruler of the Italians*.—Decius Trajan, described in lines 107–112 above, who was smitten down under a shower of darts while fighting the Goths.

136. *Another king*.—Gallus Trebonianus, who was proclaimed emperor by the legions on the death of Decius.

139. *Bastard son*.—Reference to Volusianus, son of Gallus.

140. Comp. lines 11–14 above, and book xii, 149, 150, 202–204.

(90–106.)

- And anarchy in cities suddenly;
 And the Syrians shall perish fearfully;
 For there shall come upon them the great wrath
 145 Of the Most High and straightway an uprising
 Of the industrious Persians, and mixed up
 With Persians shall the Syrians destroy
 The Romans; but by the divine decree
 They shall not make a conquest of their laws.
 150 Alas, how many with their goods shall flee
 From the East unto men of other tongues!
 Alas, the dark blood of how many men
 The land shall drink! For that shall be a time
 In which the living uttering o'er the dead
 155 A blessing shall by word of mouth pronounce
 Death beautiful and death shall flee from them.
 And now for thee, O wretched Syria,
 I weep in sorrow; for to thee shall come
 A dreadful blow from arrow-shooting men,
 160 Which thou didst never think would come to thee.
 Also the fugitive of Rome shall come
 Bearing a great spear, crossing on his way
 Euphrates with his many myriads,
 And he shall burn thee, and dispose all things
 165 In a bad way. O wretched Antioch,
 And thee a city they shall never call,
 When by thy lack of prudence thou shalt fall
 Under the spears; and stripping off all things
 And making naked he shall leave thee thus
 170 Coverless, houseless; and when anyone

156. Comp. books ii, 376, and viii, 468.

158-160. Comp. book iii, 387-389.

161. *The fugitive*.—Nero. Comp. book iv, 178-180.

165-168. Comp. book iv, 181-183.

- Sees he shall of a sudden weep for thee.
 And thou shalt be, O Hierapolis,
 A triumph, also thou, Berœa; weep
 At Chalcis over lately wounded sons.
- 175 Alas, how many by the steep high mount
 Of Casius shall dwell and by Amanus
 How many, and how many Lycus laves,
 And Marsyas as many and Pyramus
 The silver-eddying; for even to the bounds
 180 Of Asia they shall treasure up their spoils,
 Make cities naked, and bear idols off
 And cast down temples on much-nourishing earth.
 And sometime to Gauls and Pannonians,
 To Mysians and Bithynians there shall be
 185 Great sorrow when a warrior shall have come.
 O Lycians, Lycians, there shall come a wolf
 To lick thy blood, when Sannians shall come
 With city-wasting Ares and the Carpians
 Shall draw near with Ausonians to fight.
- 190 And then by his own shameless recklessness
 The bastard son shall put the king to death,
 And he himself for his impiety
 Shall straightway perish. And again shall rule
 After him yet another whose name shows

172-174. *Hierapolis* . . . *Berœa* . . . *Chalcis*.—Cities of Syria, eastward from Antioch.

176. *Casius*.—Rising to the south of Antioch. *Amanus*.—A mountain range north of Antioch and overlooking the valley of Pyramus.

177. *Lycus*.—River of Pontus.

178. *Marsyas*.—A river of Syria, a branch of the Orontes.

183-189. The mention of these widely separated provinces depicts the broad range of the desolating wars of this period.

191. *Bastard son*.—The same as in line 139.

- 195 First letter; but he too shall quickly fall
 By mighty Ares, struck by gleaming iron.
 And yet again the world shall be confused,
 Men perishing by pestilence and war.
 And the Persians maddened by the Ausonians
- 200 Shall in the toil of Ares yet again
 Force their way. And then there shall be a flight
 Of Romans; and thereafter there shall come
 The priest heard of all round, sent by the sun,
 From Syria appearing, and by guile
- 205 Shall he accomplish all things. And then too
 The city of the sun shall offer prayer;
 And round about her shall the Persians dare
 The fearful threatenings of the Phœnicians.
 But when two chiefs, men swift in war, shall rule
- 210 The very mighty Romans, one of whom
 Shall have the number seventy, and the other
 The number three, even then the stately bull,
 That digs the earth with his hoofs and stirs up
 The dust with his two horns, shall many ills
- 215 Upon a dark-skinned reptile perpetrate—
 Which draws a trail with his scales; and besides,

195. *First letter*.—Evidently denoting Æmilianus, who was himself in turn cut off before he had reigned four months.

199. *Persians . . . again*.—Under Sapor, who captured Valerian, put the Romans to flight, and spread destruction over Syria and Cappadocia.

203. *Priest*.—Odenatus.

206. *City of the sun*.—Here referring to Palmyra.

211. *Seventy . . . three*.—The first is represented by O, initial of the Greek form of the name Valerian [Ὀὐαλῆριανος], and the second by Γ, initial of Gallienus.

212. *Bull*.—Here representing Valerian, who dealt out many ills to the Persians, but was himself destroyed.

215. *Dark-skinned reptile*.—Sapor, King of the Persians.

(145–161.)

Himself shall perish. And yet after him
 Again shall come another fair-horned stag,
 Hungry upon the mountains, striving hard
 220 To feed upon the venom-shedding beasts ;
 Then shall a dread and fearful lion come,
 Sent from the sun, and breathing forth much flame.
 And then too by his shameless recklessness
 Shall he destroy the well-horned rapid stag,
 225 And the most mighty venom-shedding beast
 So dread, that sends forth many piping sounds,
 And the he-goat that sideways moves along,
 And after him fame follows ; he himself
 Sound, unhurt, unapproachable, shall rule
 230 The Romans, and the Persians shall be weak.
 But, Lord, King of the world, O God, restrain
 The song of our words, and give charming song.

218. *Stag*.—Macrianus, the Roman general.

221. *Lion*.—Odenatus.

225. *Most mighty . . . beast*.—The Persians.

227. *He-goat*.—Reference doubtful. Alexandre suggests Balista, one of the so-called "thirty tyrants," who made pretension to the throne in the reign of Gallienus. Comp. Dan. viii, 5, for the same figure.

228. *He himself*.—Odenatus.

231, 232. Comp. conclusion of books xi and xii.

(161-173,)

BOOK XIV.

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BOOK XIV.

- O MEN, why do ye vainly think on things
 Too lofty, as if ye immortal were?
 And ye are ruling but a little time,
 And over mortals all desire to reign,
 5 Not understanding that God himself hates
 The lust of rule, and most of all things hates
 Insatiate kings fearful in wickedness,
 And over them he stirs up what is dark ;
 Wherefore, instead of good works and just thoughts,
 10 Ye all choose for your garments purple robes,
 Desiring wretched fights and homicides ;
 Them God imperishable who dwells in heaven
 Shall make short-lived, destroy them utterly,
 And overthrow one here, another there.
 15 But when there shall a bull-destroyer come

This book is the most obscure and inexplicable of the entire collection. Its date and authorship are quite uncertain. After the opening lines against the lust of power (1-14) there appears to be an allusion to the closing part of the preceding book; but the writer goes on to designate a long succession of emperors and conquerors, giving the initial letter of most of the names, as in previous books, and otherwise describing them, yet so inconsistently with what we know of history as to leave it impossible to identify with any certainty the individuals and events intended. Ewald has attempted to identify most of these names with known characters of Roman and Byzantine history (*Abhandlung*, pp. 99-111), but the results of his study have commanded no following. In the following notes we insert for the benefit of the reader his more plausible conjectures, but with no conviction that they represent the persons intended by the author.

15. *Bull-destroyer*.—That is, the lion mentioned in book xiii, 221, symbolizing Odenatus.

(1-12.)

- Trusting in his own might, thick-haired and grim,
 And shall destroy all, he shall also tear
 Shepherds in pieces, and no victory
 Shall be theirs unless soon, with speed of feet
 20 Pursuing eagerly through wooded glens,
 Young dogs shall meet in conflict; for a dog
 Pursued the lion which destroys the shepherds.
 And then there shall be a lord confident
 In his might, and named with four syllables,
 25 And shown forth clearly from the number one;
 But him shall brazen Ares quickly slay
 Because of conflict with insatiate men.
 Then shall two other princely men bear rule,
 Both of the number forty; and with them
 30 Shall great peace be in the world and to all
 The people law and right; but them in turn
 Shall men with gleaming helmet, needing gold
 And silver, impiously put to death
 For these things, catching them by their deft plans.
 35 And then again a dreadful lord shall rule,
 Young, fighting hand to hand, whose name shall show
 The number seventy, life-destroying, fierce,
 Who to the army basely shall betray
 The people of Rome, slain by wickedness
 40 Because of wrath of kings, and he shall hurl

18. *Shepherds*.—Chiefs of the various tribes and nations whom Odenatus subdued.

21. *A dog*.—Mæonius, the assassin of Odenatus. Comp. book viii, 208.

24. *Four syllables*.—Aureolus.

29. *Both . . . forty*.—Macrianus, father and son of same name. But from this point onward the identification of the persons intended is purely conjectural and uncertain.

37. *Seventy*.—Represented by O, and possibly denoting the Achaian pretender, Valens.

Down every city and hut of the Latins.
 And Rome is no more to be seen or heard,
 Such as of late another traveler saw ;
 For all these things shall in the ashes lie,
 45 Nor shall there be a sparing of her works ;
 For hurtful he himself shall come from heaven,
 God the immortal from the sky shall send
 Lightnings and thunderbolts upon mankind ;
 And some he will destroy by lightnings burned,
 50 And others with his mighty thunderbolts.
 And Rome's strong children and the famous Latins
 Shall then the shameless dreadful ruler slay.
 Around him dead the dust shall not lie light,
 But he shall be a sport for dogs and birds
 55 And wolves, for he a martial people spoiled.

After him, numbering forty, there shall rule
 Another, famous Parthian-destroyer,
 German-destroyer, putting down dread beasts
 That kill men, which upon the ocean's streams
 60 And the Euphrates press continuous on.
 And then shall Rome again be as before.

But when there comes a great wolf in thy plains,
 A ruler marching onward from the West,
 Then shall he under powerful Ares die
 65 Being cleft asunder by the piercing brass.

And o'er the very mighty Romans then
 Shall there rule yet again another man
 Of great heart, from Assyria brought to light,
 Of the first letter, and he shall himself
 70 By means of wars put all things under him,

57. *Parthian-destroyer*.—Macrinus (M=40).

62. *Wolf*.—Reference, perhaps, to Quintilius, the brother of Claudius.

66-73. Aurelian.

And by his armies at once power display
 And lay down laws; but him shall brazen Ares
 Quickly destroy by treacherous armies falling.

- After him three of haughty heart shall rule,
 75 One having the first number, one three tens,
 And the other with three hundred shall partake,
 Cruel, who gold and silver in much fire
 Shall melt in statues of gods made with hands,
 And to the armies they, equipped for war,
 80 Will, for the sake of victory, moneys give,
 Dividing many costly things and goods;
 And in like manner, striving eagerly
 After power, they shall harm disastrously
 The arrow-shooting Parthians of the deep
 85 And swift Euphrates, and the hostile Medes,
 And the soft-haired warlike Massagetæ
 And Persians also, quiver-bearing men.
 But when the king shall his own fate unloose
 Leaving unto his sons more fit for arms
 90 The royal scepter and entreating right,
 Then they, forgetful of their father's words
 And having their hands all prepared for war,
 Shall rush in conflict for the royal power.

- And then another lord, of the third number,
 95 Shall rule alone, and smitten by a sword
 Shall quickly see his fate. Then after him
 Shall many perish at each other's hands,
 Being very valiant for the royal power.

Moreover a great-hearted one shall rule

74. *Three*.—Their names beginning with A, L ($\Lambda=30$), and T ($=300$), the reference might be to Achilleus, whom the people of Palmyra invested with the purple, and Lollian and Tetricus, who, however, belonged to the western provinces.

- 100 The very mighty Romans, an old lord,
Of the number four, and manage all things well.
And then upon Phœnicia shall come war
And conflict, when there shall come nations near
Of arrow-shooting Persians; ah, how many
- 105 Shall before men of barbarous speech fall down !
Sidon and Tripolis and Berytus
The loudly-boasting shall behold each other
Amid the blood and bodies of the dead.
Wretched Laodicea, round thyself
- 110 Thou shalt a great and unsuccessful war
Stir up through the impiety of men.
Ah, hapless Tyrians, ye shall gather in
An evil harvest; when in the day-time
The sun that lighteth mortals shall withdraw,
- 115 And his disk not appear, and drops of blood
Thick and abundant shall flow down from heaven
Upon the earth. And then the king shall die,
Betrayed by his companions. After him
Shall many shameless leaders still promote
- 120 The wicked strife and one another kill.
And then shall there a reverend ruler be,
Of much skill, with a name that numbers five,
Confiding in great armies, whom mankind
Will fondly love because of royal power;
- 125 And having the good name he shall thereto
Add by good deeds. But while he reigns there shall
'Twixt Taurus and snow-elad Amanus be
A fearful sign. From the Cilieian land
A city new and beautiful and strong

101. *Four*.—Possibly denoting Diocletian.

113–117. *Comp.* book ii, 21; iii, 991–1002; xii, 72–74.

122. *Five*.—The letter E, denoting Eugenius.

(78–100.)

- 130 Shall by the deep strong rivers be destroyed.
 And in Propontis and in Phrygia
 Shall there be many earthquakes. And the king
 Of great renown shall under his own lot
 By wasting deadly sickness lose his life.
- 135 And after him shall rule two lordly kings,
 One numbering three hundred, and one three;
 And many shall he utterly destroy
 In defense of the seven-hill city Rome,
 And for the sake of powerful sovereignty.
- 140 And then shall evil to the senate come,
 Nor shall it from the angry king escape
 While he holds wrath against it. And a sign
 Shall then appear to all men upon earth;
 And fuller shall the rains be, snow and hail
- 145 Shall ruin field-fruits o'er the boundless earth.
 But they shall fall in wars, slain by strong Ares
 In behalf of the war for the Italians.
 And then again another king shall rule,
 Full of devices, gathering all the army,
- 150 And for the sake of war distributing
 Money to those with brazen breastplate clad;
 But thereupon shall Nilus, rich in corn,
 Beyond the Libyan mainland irrigate
 For two years the dark soil and fruitful land
- 155 Of Egypt; but all things shall famine seize
 And war and robbers, murders, homicides.
 And many cities shall by warlike men
 Be thrown down headlong by the army's hands;
 And he, betrayed, shall fall by gleaming iron.

136. *Three hundred*.—Represented by T, and, according to Ewald's conjecture, here designating Theodosius by his Latin initial. *Three*.—Γ, initial of Gratian.

- 160 After him one whose number is three hundred
 Shall rule the Romans, very mighty men;
 He shall stretch forth a life-destroying spear
 Against the Armenians and the Parthians,
 The Assyrians and the Persians firm in war.
- 165 And then anew shall a creation be
 Of splendidly built Rome with gold and amber
 And silver and ivory in order raised;
 And in her many people shall abide
 From all the East and from the prosperous West;
- 170 And the king shall make other laws for her;
 But then shall death destructive and strong
 fate
 In turn receive him in a boundless isle.
 And there shall rule another, of ten triads,
 A man like a wild beast, fair-haired and grim,
- 175 Who shall be a descendant of the Greeks.
 And then a city of Molossian Phthia
 Feeding much, and Larissa shall be bent
 Down on Peneus's overhanging brows;
 And then too in horse-feeding Scythia
- 180 Shall be an insurrection. And dire war
 Shall be hard by the waters of the lake
 Mæotis at streams by the utmost mouth
 Of the fount of watery Phasis on the mead
 Of asphodel; and there shall many fall
- 185 By powerful warriors. Ah, how many men
 Shall Ares with strong brass receive! And then,

160. *Three hundred.*—If the T of line 136 could represent Theodosius, this would most naturally refer to Theodosius the Younger, whom Gratian invested with the purple.

173. *Ten triads.*—A, initial of Leo, who was acknowledged emperor of the East in A. D. 457.

Having destroyed a Scythian race, the king
 Shall die in his own lot unloosing life.

- And yet another of the number four
 190 Shall rule thereafter, openly made known
 A dreadful man, whom all Armenians,
 Who drink the best ice of the flowing stream
 Araxes, and the Persians of great soul
 Shall fear in wars. And between Colchians
 195 And very strong Pelasgi there shall be
 Wars, fights, and homicides. And those who
 hold

- The cities of the land of Phrygia
 And those of the Propontis, and make bare
 From out their scabbards the two-edged swords,
 200 Shall smite each other through sore impioussness.

- And then shall God to mortal men display
 From heaven a great sign with the rolling years,
 A bat, the portent of bad war to come.
 And then the king shall not escape stern fate,
 205 But die by hand, slain by the gleaming iron.

- After him, numbering fifty, there shall rule
 Again another coming out of Asia,
 A dreadful terror, fighting hand to hand;
 And he shall set war on Rome's stately walls,
 210 And among Colehians, and Heniochi,
 And the milk-drinking Agathyrans
 By Euxine sea, at Thracia's sandy bay.
 And then the king shall not escape stern fate,
 And they will tear in pieces his dead corpse.

189. *Four*.—Δ, representing, as Ewald suggests, Dreskyllas, another form of the name Threskyllas.

203. *A bat*.—The Greek work is φάλαγγ. Can it mean a *falcon*?

206. *Fifty*.—N, initial of Nepos, emperor in A. D. 474.

- 215 And then, the king slain, man-ennobling Rome
 Shall be a desert, and much people perish.
 And then again one terrible and dread
 From mighty Egypt shall rule, and destroy
 Great hearted Parthians and Medes and Germans,
- 220 And Agathyrnsians of the Bosporus,
 Iernians, Britons, and Iberians
 That bear the quiver, bent Massagetæ,
 And Persians thinking themselves more than men.
 And then a famous man shall look upon
- 225 All Hellas, acting as an enemy
 To Scythia and windy Caucasus.
 And there shall be a dread sign while he rules:
 Crowns altogether like the shining stars
 Shall from heaven in the south and north appear.
- 230 And then shall he bequeath the royal power
 To his son whose initial letter heads
 The alphabet, when in the halls of Hades
 The manly king in his own lot shall go.
 But when the son of this man in the land
- 235 Of Rome shall rule, shown by the number one,
 There shall be over all the earth great peace
 Much longed for, and the Latins will love him
 As king because of his own father's worth;
 Him, eager to go both to East and West,
- 240 The Roman people shall against his will
 Retain at home and in command of Rome,
 For among all there is a friendly heart

217-223. The reference is unknown, and the allusions of the rest of the book defy even the ingenuity of Ewald to make even plausible.

227. Comp. lines 126-128 above, and book xi, 30, 31; xii, 93, 94, 277, 278.

236. *Great peace.*—Comp. book iii, 940; xi, 105; xii, 223.

(170-191.)

- Felt for their royal and illustrious lord.
 But baneful death shall snatch him out of life,
 245 Short-lived, abandoned to his destiny.
 But others afterwards again shall smite
 Each other, powerful warriors, carrying on
 An evil strife, not holding kingly power,
 But being tyrants. And in all the world
 250 Shall they bring many evil things to pass,
 But chiefly for the Romans till the time
 Of the third Dionysus, until armed
 With helmet Ares shall from Egypt come,
 Whom they shall surname Dionysus lord.
 255 But when the famous royal purple cloak
 A murderous lion and murderous lioness
 Shall rend, together they shall grasp the lungs
 Of the changed kingdom; then a holy king,
 Whose name has the first letter, pressing hard
 260 For victory, shall cast down hostile chiefs
 To be the food of dogs and birds of prey.
 Alas for thee, O city burned with fire,
 O powerful Rome! How many things must thou
 Needs suffer when all these things come to pass!
 265 But the great far-famed king shall afterward
 Raise thee all up again with gold and amber
 And silver and ivory, and in the world
 Thou shalt in thy possessions foremost be,
 Also in temples, market-places, wealth,
 270 And race-grounds; and then shalt thou be again
 A light for all, even as thou wast before.
 Ah, wretched Cecropes and Cadmeans

266, 267. Comp. lines 166, 167 above, and book xii, 218; xiii, 88.

272. *Cecropes* . . . *Cadmeans* . . . *Laconians*.—Named respectively for Athenians, Thebans, and Spartans.

- And the Laconians, who are situate
 Around Peneus and Molossian stream
 275 Thick grown with rushes, Tricca and Dodona,
 And high-built Ithome, Pierian ridge
 Around the summit of Olympian mount,
 Ossa, Larissa, and high-gate Calydon.
 But when God shall for mortals bring to pass
 280 A great sign, day dark twilight round the world,
 Even then to thee, O king, the end shall come,
 Nor is it possible that thou escape
 A brother's piercing dart against thee hurled.
 And then again shall rule a life-destroyer,
 285 A fiery eagle from the royal race,
 Who shall of Egypt's offspring take fast hold,
 Younger, but than his brother much more strong,
 Who has for his first sign the number eighty.
 And then the whole world shall for honor's sake
 290 Bear in its lap the soul-distressing wrath
 Of the immortal God; and there shall come
 On mortal men, the creatures of a day,
 Famines and plagues and wars and homicides,
 And an incessant darkness o'er the earth,
 295 Mother of peoples, and relentless wrath
 From heaven, and disorder of the times,
 And earthquake shocks, and flaming thunderbolts,
 And stones and storms of rain and squalid drops.
 And the high summits of the Phrygian land
 300 Feel the shock, bases of the Scythian hills
 Feel the shock, cities tremble, and all earth
 Trembles at the cliffs of the land of Greece.
 And many cities, God being very wroth,

285. *Fiery eagle*.—Comp. book iii, 769.

293. Comp. book xii, 149, 150; xiii, 140, 141.

(216-240.)

- Shall fall prone under burning thunderbolts
 305 And with bewailings, and to shun the wrath
 And make escape is not even possible.
 And then the king shall by a strong hand fall,
 Struck as if he were no one by his men.
 After him of the Latins many men
 310 Wearing the purple mantle on their shoulders
 Shall be again raised up, who shall by lot
 Desire to lay hold on the royal power.
 And then upon the stately walls of Rome
 Shall be three kings, two having the first number,
 315 And one the eponym of victory
 Bearing as no one else. They shall love Rome
 And all the world, concerned for mortal men;
 But they shall not accomplish anything;
 For God has not been gracious to the world
 320 Neither will he be gentle with mankind,
 Because they have done many evil things.
 Therefore to kings shall he a mean soul bring
 Still worse than that of leopards and of wolves;
 For harshly seizing them with their own hands,
 325 Like feeble women who are idly slain,
 Shall men in brazen breastplate utterly
 Destroy the kings together with their scepters.
 Ah, wretched lofty men of glorious Rome,
 Trusting in false oaths ye shall be destroyed.
 330 And then shall many masters with the spear,
 Men rushing not in order furious on,
 Take away offspring of the first-born men

314. *Three kings*.—Could these be, as Ewald (p. 111) propounds, Anastasius (Byzantine emperor, A. D. 491-518) and the infamous and insolent Harmatius Achilles and Basiliscus, the usurpers who preceded him, the last name being supposed to be equivalent to the Latin Victorinus?

In their blood. . . . Therefore thrice
 Shall the Most High then bring on dreadful doom,
 335 And all men with their works shall he destroy.
 But into judgment yet again shall God
 Cause them to come that have a shameless soul,
 As many as determined evil things;
 And they themselves are fenced in, falling one
 340 Upon another, and given over there
 Into that condemnation of wickedness.

.
 All one by one, yet a brilliant comet

.
 Of much to come, of war and battle strife.

But at the time when one about the isles
 345 Shall gather many oracles that speak
 To strangers of fight and of battle strife,
 And grievous harm of temples, he shall bid
 One in great haste to gather in Rome's halls
 For twelve months wheat and barley in abundance,
 350 And this most quickly. And in wretched plight
 The city shall be those days, and straightway
 Shall it again be prosperous not a little;
 And rest shall be when that rule is destroyed.
 And then the last race of the Latin kings
 355 Shall be, and after it again shall grow
 Dominion, children and the children's race
 Shall be unshaken; for it shall be known,
 Since of a surety God himself is king.

There is a land dear, nourisher of men,
 360 Situate in a plain, and round it Nile

333. *Thrice*.—Comp. line 336 below.

342, 343. Comp. book viii, 252-254.

359-361. Comp. book viii, 58-61.

(263-285.)

- Marks off the boundary and separates
 All Libya and Ethiopia.
 And Syrians short-lived, one from one place,
 Another from another, from that land
- 365 Shall snatch away all movable effects;
 A great and careful lord shall be their king,
 Training up youth and sending off for men,
 And planning something fearful about those
 Most fearful, above all he shall send forth
- 370 A powerful helper of all Italy
 The lofty-minded. And when he shall come
 Unto the dark sea of Assyria
 He shall despoil Phœnicians in their homes,
 And fastening evil war and battle dire
- 375 Shall be one lord of the two lords of earth.
 And now will I for Alexandrians sing
 Their grievous end; alas, barbarians
 Shall possess sacred Egypt, land unharmed,
 Unshaken, when wrath from the gods shall come.
- 380 . . . making winter summer,
 Then shall the oracles be all fulfilled.
 But when three youths in the Olympian games
 Shall conquer, and thou shalt bid them that know
 The oracles that call on God to cleanse
- 385 First by the blood of sucking quadruped,
 Thrice therefore shall the Most High then bring on
 A fearful lot, and he shall over all
 Brandish the mournful long spear; then much blood

366-362. The Greek text is here corrupt and the sense uncertain.

376. Comp. book viii, 66-68, 98, 99.

380, 381. Comp. book viii, 281, 282.

386. *Thrice*.—Comp. line 333 above, and book viii, 225, 226.

(285-304.)

- Barbarian shall be poured out in the dust
 390 When the city shall be plundered utterly
 By inhospitable strangers. Happy he
 Who is dead, also happy any one
 Who is without a child; for he who once
 Was leader surnamed for them that are free,
 395 Far-famed in song, no longer in his mind
 Revolving earlier plans, shall place their neck
 Under a servile yoke; such slavery,
 Cause of much weeping, shall a lord impose.
 And then straightway an army of Sicilians
 400 Ill-fated shall come, carrying dismay,
 When a barbarian nation shall again
 Come suddenly; and the fruit, when it grows,
 They from the field shall sever. Upon them
 Shall God the lofty Thunderer bestow
 405 Evil instead of good; continually
 Shall stranger pluck from stranger hateful
 gold.
 But now when all shall look upon the blood
 Of the flesh-eating lion and there comes
 Upon the body a murderous lioness,
 410 Down from his head will he the scepter cast
 Away from him. And as in friendly feast
 In Egypt when the people all partake,
 They perform valiant deeds, and one restrains
 Another, and among them there is much
 415 Shouting aloud; so also shall there be
 Upon mankind the fear of furious strife,
 And many shall be utterly destroyed
 And others kill each other by hard fights.

401. Comp. book iii, 657.

408. *Lion*.—Comp. book xi, 287; xiii, 221.

(305-325.)

And then one covered with dark scales shall
come;

- 420 Two others shall come acting in concert
With one another, and with them a third
A great ram from Cyrene, whom before
I spoke of as a fugitive in war
Beside the streams of Nile; but in no wise
425 An unsuccessful way do all complete.

- And then the lengths of the revolving years
Shall be exceeding quiet; yet again
Thereafter shall a second war for them
In Egypt be stirred up, and there shall be
430 A battle on the sea, but victory
Shall not be theirs. Ah, wretched ones, there shall
A conquest of the famous city be,
And it shall be a spoil of war not long.

- And then men having common boundaries
435 Of much land shall flee wretched, and shall lead
Their wretched parents. And they shall again
Having great victory light on a land,
And shall destroy the Jews, men staunch in war,
Wasting by wars far as the hoary deep,
440 On both sides, fighting in the foremost ranks
For father-land and parents. And a race
Of trophy-bearing men shall for the dead
Be reckoned. Ah, how many men shall swim
About the waves! For on the sandy beach
445 Many shall lie; and heads of golden hair
Shall fall beneath Egyptian winged fowls.
And then for the Arabians mortal blood

419. *Dark scales*.—Comp. book xiii, 215.

422. *Ram*.—Comp. *he-goat* of book xiii, 227.

443. The text is corrupt and doubtful here.

Shall go in quest. But when wolves shall with dogs
 Pledge in a sea-girt island solemn oaths,
 450 Then shall there be the raising of a tower,
 And the city that suffered very many things
 Men shall inhabit. For deceitful gold
 Shall no more be nor silver, nor acquiring
 Of the earth, nor much-laboring servitude;
 455 But one fast friendship and one mode of life
 With cheerful soul; and all things shall be common
 And equal light among the means of life.
 And wickedness shall sink down from the earth
 Into the vast sea. And then near at hand
 460 Is come the harvest-time of mortal men.
 There is imposed a strong necessity
 That these things be fulfilled. And at that time
 There shall not any other traveler say,
 In this conjecturing, that the race of men
 465 Though perishable shall ever cease to be.
 And then a holy nation shall prevail
 / And hold the sovereignty of all the earth
 Unto all ages with their mighty sons.

448, 449. Comp. book xiii, 38, 39.

459, 460. Comp. book ii, 208.

461, 462. Comp. book iii, 721-724.

466-468. Comp. book iii, 58-60; viii, 223-225.

(348-361.)

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

FRAGMENTS OF THE SIBYLLINE ORACLES.

I.

YE mortal men and fleshly, who are naught,
 How quickly are ye puffed up, seeing not
 The end of life! Do ye not tremble now
 And fear God, him who watches over you,
 5 The one who is most high, the one who knows,
 The all-observant witness of all things,
 All-nourishing Creator, who has put

FIRST FRAGMENT.

This fragment is found in the writings of Theophilus, a bishop of Antioch, who lived in the latter half of the second century. Near the close of his second book, addressed to his friend Autolytus [chap. xxxvi; Migne, G., 6, 1109], Theophilus introduces these lines (thirty-five in number in the Greek) with the following words: "Now the Sibyl, who among the Greeks and other nations was a prophetess, in the beginning of her prophecy upbraids the race of men, saying." From this statement it has been inferred that the lines stood originally at the beginning of our third book, which contains the oldest portions of our present collection; for Lactantius attributes the passages which he cites from this fragment to the Erythræan Sibyl, to whom he attributes elsewhere citations from the third book only. Citations from other books he refers to other Sibyls.

1. This first line is cited by Clement of Alexandria, *Strom.*, iii, 3 [Migne, G., 8, 1117], who also in the same connection quotes a similar passage from Empedocles. Comp. Homer, *Od.*, xviii, 130: "Earth nourishes nothing feebler than man."

7-9. These lines are quoted by Lactantius, iv, 6 [L., 6, 462], who, however,
 (1-5.)

- In all things his sweet Spirit and has made
 Him leader of all mortals? God is one,
 10 Who rules alone, supremely great, unborn,
 Almighty and invisible, himself
 Alone beholding all things, but not seen
 Is he himself by any mortal flesh.
 For what flesh is there able to behold
 15 With eyes the heavenly and true God divine,
 Who has his habitation in the sky?
 Not even before the bright rays of the sun
 Can men stand still, men who are mortal born,
 Existing but as veins and flesh on bones.
 20 Him who alone is ruler of the world,
 Who alone is forever and has been
 From everlasting, reverence ye him,
 The self-existent unbegotten one
 Who rules all things through all time, dealing out
 25 Unto all mortals in a common light
 The judgment. And the merited reward

inserts the word *God*. He observes: "The Erythræan Sibyl in the beginning of her song, which she commenced by the help of the Most High God, proclaims the Son of God as leader and commander of all in these verses:

"All-nourishing Creator, who in all
 Sweet breath implanted, and made God the guide of all."

9-12. *God is one*.—Quoted by Justin Martyr, *ad Gr.*, 16 [G., 6, 272]. Comp. Theodoret, *Hist. Eccl.*, i, 3 [G., 82, 904]; Basil, *adv. Eunom.*, iii [G., 29, 668]; Greg. Naz., *Orat.*, xxvi, 19 [G., 35, 1252]; Lact., i, 6 [L., 6, 140]; Orphica, ed. Hermann, *Frag.* i, 10; ii, 11.

14-19. Cited by Clem. Alex., *Strom.*, v, 14 [G., 9, 165], and Eusebius, *Præp.*, xiii, 13 [G., 21, 1121]. Comp. Cyril, *Contr. Jul.*, i, 32 [G., 76, 549]; Philemon in Just. Mar., *de Monarch.*, 2 [G., 6, 316]; Xenophon, *Memor.*, iv, 3, 13; Cicero, *de Nat. Decorum*, i, 12.

20-22. Cited by Lact., *de fals. Relig.*, vi [L., 6, 147].

25. *Common light*.—An allusion to the universal moral sense of men. Comp. book i, 409; iii, 588; John i, 9.

- Of evil counseling shall ye receive,
 For ceasing the true and eternal God
 To glorify, and holy hecatombs
 30 To offer him, ye made your sacrifice
 Unto the demons that in Hades dwell.
 And ye in self-conceit and madness walk,
 And having left the true, straightforward path
 Ye went away and roamed about through thorns
 35 And thistles. O ye foolish mortals, cease
 Roving in darkness and black night obscure,
 And leave the darkness of night, and lay hold
 Upon the Light. Lo, he is clear to all
 And cannot err; come, do not always chase
 40 Darkness and gloom. Lo, the sweet-looking light
 Of the sun shines with a surpassing glow.
 Now, treasuring wisdom in your hearts, know ye
 That God is one, who sends forth rains and winds,
 Earthquakes and lightnings, famines, pestilence,
 45 And mournful cares, and storms of snow, and ice.
 But why do I thus speak them one by one?
 He guides heaven, rules earth, over Hades reigns.

II.

Now if gods beget offspring and remain
 Immortal there had been more gods than men,
 And there had never been sufficient room
 For mortals to stand.]

38-47. Cited by Clem. Alex., *Cohort.*, viii [G., 8, 97]. Line 34 is also cited in *Strom.*, v, 14 [G., 9, 173].

SECOND FRAGMENT.

This passage, which appears nowhere in the twelve books of our collection, is found in Theophilus, *ad Antol.*, ii, 3 [G., 6, 1049].

(19-35.)

III.

- Now if all that is born must also perish,
 It is not possible for God to be
 Formed from the thighs of man and from a womb;
 But God alone is one and all-supreme,
 5 Who made heaven and the sun and stars and moon,
 Fruit-bearing earth and billows of the sea,
 And lofty hills and mouth of lasting springs.
 He also bringeth forth great multitude
 Of creatures that amid the waters live
 10 Innumerable, and the creeping things
 That move upon earth he sustains with life,
 And dappled, delicate, shrill-twittering birds,
 That ply the air shrill-whirring with their wings.
 And in the glens of mountains wild he placed
 15 The race of beasts, and to us mortals made
 All cattle subject, and the God-formed one
 He constituted ruler of all things,
 And unto man all variegated things
 Made subject, things incomprehensible.
 20 For all these things what mortal flesh can know ?
 For he himself alone, who made these things
 At the beginning, knows, the incorrupt
 Eternal Maker, dwelling in the heaven,
 Bringing unto the good good recompense
 25 Much more abundant, but awakening wrath

THIRD FRAGMENT.

This excerpt, which numbers forty-nine lines in the Greek text, is preserved to us in Theophilus, and is placed by him immediately after the first fragment with the following introductory words: "Also in regard to those (gods) who are said to have been born, she thus speaks."

1, 2. Cited by Lact., i, 8 [L., 6, 154].

4-7. Cited by Lact., i, 6 [L., 6, 147].

21-26. Cited by Lact., *de Ira Dei*, xxii [L., 7, 143].

(1-18.)

- And anger for the evil and unjust,
 And war and pestilence, and tearful woes.
 O men, why, vainly puffed up, do ye root
 Yourselves out? Be ashamed to deify
 30 Polecats and monsters. Is it not a craze
 And frenzy, taking sense of mind away,
 If gods steal plates and carry off earthen pots?
 Instead of dwelling in the golden heaven
 In plenty, see them eaten by the moth
 35 And woven over with thick spider-webs!
 O fools, that bow to serpents, dogs and cats,
 And reverence birds and creeping beasts of earth,
 Stone images and statues made with hands,
 And stone-heaps by the roads—these ye revere,
 40 And also many other idle things
 Which it would even be a shame to tell;
 These are the baneful gods of senseless men,
 And from their mouth is deadly poison poured.
 But of Him is life and eternal light
 45 Imperishable, and he sheds a joy
 Sweeter than honey sweet on righteous men,
 And to him only do thou bow thy neck,
 And among pious lives incline thy way.
 Forsaking all these, in a spirit mad
 50 With folly ye did all drain off the cup
 Of judgment that was filled full, very pure,
 Closely pressed, weighed down, and withal unmixed.
 And ye will not wake from your drunken sleep
 And come to sober reason, and know God
 55 To be the king who oversees all things.

27. *Tearful woes*.—Comp. Clem. Alex., *Strom.*, v, 14 [G., 9, 188]; Just. Martyr, *de Monarch*, ii [G., 6, 316]; *Cohort.*, xv [G., 6, 272]; Euseb. *Præp.*, xiii, 12 [G., 21, 1100].

Therefore on you the flash of gleaming fire
 Is coming, ye shall be with torches burned
 The livelong day through an eternal age,
 At your false useless idols feeling shame.
 60 But they who fear the true eternal God
 Inherit life, and they forever dwell
 Alike in fertile field of Paradise,
 Feasting on sweet bread from the starry heaven.

IV.

Hear me, O men, the King eternal reigns.

V.

He only is God, Maker uncontrolled;
 He fixed the pattern of the human form,
 And did the nature of all mortals mix
 Himself, the generator of (all) life.

VI.

Whenever he shall come
 A smoky fire shall be in mid-night dark.

60-64. Cited by Lact., ii, 13 [L., 6, 324]. In these last verses we may note allusions to such passages of Scripture as Matt. xix, 29; Luke xxiii, 43; 2 Cor. xii, 4; Rev. ii, 17; Psa. lxxviii, 24; cv, 40; John vi, 31.

FOURTH FRAGMENT.

This fragment, consisting of but a single line, is found in Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 24 [L., 6, 808].

FIFTH FRAGMENT.

These lines are found in Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, ii, 12 [L., 6, 319], and also in the Anonymous Preface.

SIXTH FRAGMENT.

This fragment is also found in Lactantius, *Div. Inst.*, vii, 19 [L., 6, 797].
 (43-49.)

VII.

The Erythræan Sibyl, addressing God, says: Why dost thou, O Lord, enjoin on me the necessity of prophesying, and not rather take me aloft from the earth and preserve me unto the most blessed day of thy coming ?

SEVENTH FRAGMENT.

This, which Rzach calls a "doubtful fragment," is cited as a saying of the Erythræan Sibyl in Constantine's *Oration to the Assembly of the Saints*, chap. xxi [G., 20, 1300].

ANONYMOUS PREFACE TO THE SIBYLLINE
ORACLES.¹

IF the labor bestowed upon the reading of the writings of the Greeks brings much advantage to them that perform it, since it is able to make those who labor on these things very learned, much more is it fitting that they who are possessed of good understanding devote their leisure continually to the Holy Scriptures, which tell about God and the things which minister profit to the soul, thence gaining the double benefit of ability to profit both themselves and their readers. It seemed good to me, therefore, to set forth in one connected and orderly series the so-called Sibylline Oracles, which are found scattered and in a confused condition, but which are helpful to the reading and understanding of those (Holy Scriptures), so that being easily brought together under the eye of the readers they may bring to these (readers) by way of reward the advantage that is to be derived from them, setting forth not a few necessary and useful things, and also rendering their study more valuable and varied. For (these oracles) also speak clearly of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the sacred and life-originating Trinity, and of the incarnate dispensation of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ, I mean his birth from a virgin without emanation, and of

¹ This Preface or Prologue assumes to have been prepared by the person who collected and arranged these pseudepigraphical oracles in the order in which they have come down to us. The exact time of his writing is unknown. Alexandre (*Excursus ad Sibyllina*, chap. xv, pp. 421-433) argues that it was probably written in the sixth century, during the reign of Justinian.

the acts of healing performed by him, as also of his life-giving passion, and of his resurrection from the dead on the third day, and of the judgment to come, and of recompense for what we all have done in this life; furthermore (these oracles) distinctly set forth what is made known in the Mosaic writings and in the books of the prophets concerning the creation of the world, and the formation of man, and his expulsion from the garden and of his new formation hereafter. With regard to certain things which have been or perhaps are yet to be, they prophesy in various ways; and in a word, they are able in no small measure to profit their readers.

Sibyl is a Latin word meaning prophetess, or rather soothsayer; hence the female soothsayers were called by one name. Now Sibyls, according to many writers, have arisen in different times and places, to the number of ten. There was first the Chaldean, or rather the Persian (Sibyl), whose proper name is Sambethe. She was of the family of the most blessed Noah, and is said to have foretold the exploits of Alexander of Macedon; Nicanor, who wrote the life of Alexander, mentions her. The second was the Libyan, of whom Euripides makes mention in the preface of (his play) the *Lamia*. The third was the Delphian, born at Delphi, and spoken of by Chrysippus in his book on divination. The fourth was the Italian, in Cimmerium in Italy, whose son Evander founded in Rome the shrine of Pan which is called the Lupercal. The fifth was the Erythræan, who predicted the Trojan war, and of whom Apollodorus the Erythræan bears positive testimony. The sixth was the Samian, whose proper name is Phyto, of whom Eratosthenes wrote. The seventh was the Cumæan, called Amalthea, also Herophile, and in some places Taraxandra. But Vergil calls the Cumæan Sibyl Deiphobe, daughter of Glaucus. The eighth was the Hellespontine, born in the

village of Marpeſſus near the ſmall town of Gergithion, which, according to Heraclides of Pontus, was formerly, in the time of Solon and Cyrus, within the boundaries of the Troad. The ninth was the Phrygian, and the tenth the Tiburtine, named *Albunæa*.]

It is ſaid, moreover, that the Cumæan Sibyl once brought nine books of her oracles to Tarquinius Priscus, who was at that time king of the Romans, and demanded for them three hundred pieces of gold. But having been diſdainfully treated, and not even queſtioned as to what they were, ſhe committed three of them to the fire. Again, in another audience with the king ſhe brought forward the ſix remaining books, and ſtill demanded the ſame amount. But not being deemed worthy of attention, again ſhe burned three more. Then a third time bringing the three that were left, and aſking the ſame price, ſhe ſaid that if he would not procure them, ſhe would burn theſe alſo. Then, it is ſaid, the king examined them and was aſtoniſhed, and gave for them a hundred pieces of gold, took them in charge and made requeſt for the others. But ſhe declared that neither had ſhe the like of thoſe that were burned nor had ſhe any ſuch knowledge apart from inſpiration, but that certain perſons from various cities and countries had at times excerpted what was eſteemed by them neceſſary and uſeful, and that out of theſe excerpts a collection ought to be made. And this (the Romans) did as quickly as poſſible. For that which was given from God, though truly laid up in a corner, did not eſcape their ſearch. And the books of all the Sibyls were deposited in the capitol of ancient Rome. Thoſe of the Cumæan Sibyl, however, were hidden and not made known to many, becauſe ſhe proclaimed more eſpecially and diſtinctly things that were to happen in Italy, while the others became known to all.] But thoſe that were written by the Erythræan Sibyl have the name that

was given her from the place; while the other books are without inscription to mark who is the author of each, but are without distinction (of authorship).

Now Firmianus,¹ being an esteemed philosopher and a priest of the aforementioned capitol, having looked unto the Christ, our eternal Light, set down in his own works the things spoken of by the Sibyls concerning the ineffable glory, and ably exposed the senselessness of Hellenic error. His forcible exposition is in the Italian tongue, but the Sibylline verses were published in the Greek language. And that this may not appear incredible, I will produce the testimony of the man before mentioned,² which is after this manner:

“Inasmuch as the Sibylline Oracles which are found in our city not only, as being very plentiful, are held in low esteem by those of the Greeks who are cognizant of them (for it is things which are rare that are held in honor), but also since not all of the verses keep to the precision of the meter, their credit is lower. But this is the fault not of the prophetess, but of the shorthand writers who could not keep up with the rush of the Sibyl’s words, or who were uneducated; for her remembrance of the things she had spoken ceased with the spell of inspiration. Which fact Plato also had in view when he said that (the prophets) treat correctly many and great matters while they know nothing of the things of which they speak.”

¹ Reference to Firmianus [Lactantius] contemporary with Diocletian and Constantine (cir. A. D. 284–325), noted for his numerous citations from the Sibylline Oracles. See the Index to this volume.

² This reference seems to be to the Firmianus Lactantius just mentioned, but the passage cited is not found in the writings of that author; it is rather a free reproduction of the concluding portion of the thirty-seventh chapter of Justin Martyr’s *Hortatory Address to the Greeks*. The reader will find this entire chapter on pp. 272, 273, of this Appendix.

We shall, accordingly, from those oracles which were brought to Rome by the ambassadors (of Tarquin), produce as much as possible. Now, concerning the God who is without beginning one declared these things:

One God, who rules alone, immense, unborn.
But God alone is one, highest of all,
Who made the heaven and sun and stars and moon,
Fruit-bearing earth and billows of the sea.
He only is God, Maker uncontrolled ;
He fixed the pattern of the human form,
And did the nature of all mortals mix
Himself, the generator of (all) life.

This (the Sibyl) has said either on the ground that being joined together (husband and wife) become one flesh, or with the thought that out of the four elements which are opposite to each other God fashioned both the world and man.

LACTANTIUS'S ACCOUNT OF THE SIBYLS.

ONE of the fullest accounts of the Sibyls which we possess is that which is found in the writings of Firmianus Lactantius (*Divine Institutes*, book i, chap. vi; Migne, L. P., vol. vi, 140-147). The author of the foregoing "Anonymous Preface" probably derived his account of the Sibyls from this Latin father, who flourished about the close of the third century of our era, and who refers to Varro as his authority. This passage seems also to have been the principal source of information for later writers, and we here furnish the reader with a translation from the Latin text of Migne:

Marcus Varro, than whom no one more learned ever lived, neither among the Greeks, nor even among the Latins, in books on sacred subjects which he wrote to Caius Cæsar, the chief pontiff, when he was speaking of the Quindecemviri,¹ says that the Sibylline books were not the work of one Sibyl, but were called by one name, Sibylline, since all female prophets were called Sibyls by the ancients, either from the name of the one at Delphi, or from their announcing the counsels of the gods. For in the Æolic manner of speaking they call the gods *sious* (σιούς), not *theous* (θεούς), and counsel is not *boule* (βουλή), but *bule* (βυλή); and so Sibyl is pronounced as *siobule* (σιοβυλή). But the Sibyls were ten in number, and all these he enumerated under authors who had written of each one. And first there was the Persian of whom mention is made by Nicanor, who wrote the history of Alexander of Macedon; the second was the Libyan, whom Euripides mentions in the prologue of the *Lamia*; the third was the Delphian, of whom Chrysisipus speaks in that book which he composed on divination; the fourth was the Cimmerian in Italy, whom Nævius in his books of the Punic War and Piso in his annals names; the fifth was the Erythræan, whom Apollodorus of Erythræa affirms to have been his own countrywoman and to have prophesied to the Greeks who were moving against Ilium both that Troy

¹ The Quindecemviri were a college, or board of fifteen priests, to whom the care of the Sibylline books was intrusted at Rome.

would be destroyed and that Homer would write falsehoods; the sixth was the Samian, of whom Eratosthenes writes that he had found something written in the ancient annals of the Samians; the seventh was the Cumæan, by name Amalthea, who is by others called Demophile or Herophile. She brought nine books to King Tarquinius Priscus, and asked three hundred pieces of gold for them, but the king spurned the greatness of the price and laughed at the insanity of the woman. She thereupon in sight of the king burned three of them, and for the rest asked the same price; but Tarquinius all the more thought the woman was insane. But when again, having destroyed three more, she persisted in the same price, the king was moved, and bought what was left for three hundred pieces of gold.¹ Afterward their number was increased, the capitol being rebuilt, for they were collected out of all the cities both of Italy and Greece, and especially of Erythræa, and brought to Rome in the name of whatever Sibyl they chanced to be. The eighth Sibyl was the Hellespontine, born in the Trojan country, in the village of Marpeessus, near the town of Gergitha. Heraclides of Pontus writes that she lived in the times of Solon and Cyrus. The ninth was the Phrygian, who prophesied at Ancyra; the tenth was the Tiburtine, by name Albunea, who is worshiped at Tibur as a goddess, near the banks of the river Anio, in which stream her image is said to have been found, holding a book in her hand. Her oracular responses the Senate transferred into the capitol.

So far Lactantius appears to quote substantially from Varro, and then he adds, as if contributing further information, the following:

Of all these Sibyls the songs are both made public and held in use except those of the Cumæan, whose books are kept secret by the Romans; neither do they hold it lawful for them to be inspected by anyone except the Quindecimviri. And there are single books of each which, because they are inscribed by the name of a Sibyl, are believed to be the work of one; and there are also confused ones, nor is it possible to discern and assign to each its own except that of the Erythræan, who both inserted her own true name in her song and foretold that she would go by the name of the Erythræan, although she was born in Babylon. . . . All these Sibyls proclaim one God, but especially the Erythræan, who is held among the others to be more distinguished

¹ Dionysius Halicarnasseus also records this story of Tarquin and the Sibyl, and adds that, having delivered over the books, she disappeared from among men.—*Antiq. Rom.*, iv, 62.

and noble, since indeed Fenestella, a most careful writer, speaking of the Quindecemviri says that upon the restoration of the capitol the consul Caius Curio proposed to the Senate to send ambassadors to Erythræ, who should search for the songs of the Sibyl and bring them to Rome. And so Publius Gahinius, Marcus Otacilius, and Lucius Valerius were sent, and they brought to Rome about a thousand verses written down by private persons.

JUSTIN MARTYR'S ACCOUNT OF THE SIBYL.

THE following account of the Sibyl and her oracles constitutes the entire thirty-seventh chapter of a treatise entitled a *Hortatory Address to the Greeks* (Λόγος παραινετικός πρὸς Ἕλληνας), usually published among the works of Justin Martyr. It appears in Migne's *Greek Patrology*, vol. vi, 308, 309. The author of the "Anonymous Preface" cites the substance of the closing portion and seems to have regarded it as a testimony of Firmianus Lactantius. Its real authorship is uncertain.

You may very easily learn the true religion, in some part at least, from the ancient Sibyl, who teaches you through her oracles by a certain powerful inspiration things which seem to be near to the teaching of the prophets. They say that she was of Babylonian origin, being the daughter of Berosus, who wrote the Chaldean history; and when she had crossed over (I know not how) into the parts of Campania she uttered her oracles there in a city called Cumæ, six miles distant from Baiæ, where the hot springs of Campania are to be found. Being in that city, we saw also a certain place, in which was shown a very great basilica made out of one stone, a very great affair, and worthy of all admiration. There they, who received it as a tradition from their forefathers, say that the Sibyl announced her oracles. And in the middle of the basilica they showed us three reservoirs made out of one stone, in which when they were filled with water they said she bathed, and having put on her garment again, she was wont to go into the innermost room of the basilica, which is made out of the one stone, and sitting in the middle of the room on a lofty platform and on a throne, she thus proclaimed her oracles. Of this Sibyl as a prophetess many other writers have also made mention, and Plato also in his *Phædrus*. And Plato, when he read her oracles, seems to me to have regarded the reciters of oracles as divinely inspired. For he saw that the things which had been spoken of old by her were actually fulfilled; and therefore in the dialogue with Meno [99], expressing admiration and eulogy of the prophets for their sayings, he has thus written: "We might truly name as divine those whom we call proph-

ets. Not least should we say that they are divine and profoundly inspired and possessed of God when they truly speak of many and great matters, knowing nothing of the things of which they speak ;” clearly and obviously referring to the oracles of the Sibyl. For she was unlike the poets, who after the writing of their poems have power to correct and polish, especially the accuracy of the meters, but at the time of her inspiration she was filled with the matters of her prophecy, and when the spell of inspiration ceased her memory of the things spoken also ceased. This accordingly is the reason why all the meters of the verses of the Sibyl have not been preserved. For we ourselves, being in the city, learned from the guides who showed us the places in which she uttered her oracles that there was also a vessel made of bronze in which they said her remains were preserved. And besides all other things which they narrated, they also told us this, as having heard it from their forefathers, that they who received the oracles at that time, being without education, often utterly missed the accuracy of the meters, and this they said was the reason for the want of meter in some of the verses, the prophetess after the ceasing of her possession and her inspiration having no remembrance of what she had said, and the writers having failed for want of education to preserve the accuracy of the meters. Therefore it is evident that Plato said this about the reciters of oracles in reference to the oracles of the Sibyl ; for he thus said : “When they truly speak of many and great matters, knowing nothing of the things of which they speak.”¹

¹ Plato, *Meno*, 99.

THE SIBYLLINE ACROSTIC.

THE acrostic in book viii, 284-330 (Greek text, 217-250), is of a nature to attract special attention and interest. Not a few of the earliest published monographs touching the Greek Sibylline verses gave the text of this acrostic with explanatory observations upon it. Augustine in the eighteenth book of his *de Civitate Dei* (chap. xxiii) cites the first twenty-seven lines in a Latin translation which aims to retain the acrostic form of the Greek text. He further observes that "the verses are twenty-seven, which is the cube of three. For three times three are nine, and nine itself, if tripled, so as to rise from the superficial square to the cube, comes to twenty-seven. But if you join the initial letters of the five Greek words (Ἰησοῦς Χριστός Θεοῦ υἱὸς Σωτήρ) which mean, 'Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Saviour,' they will make the word ἰχθύς, that is, *fish*, in which word Christ is mystically understood, because he was able to live, that is, to exist, without sin in the abyss of this mortality as in the depth of waters."

The following version of the twenty-seven lines spoken of above is taken from Marcus Dods's translation of Augustine's *de Civitate Dei* in the "Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers." The reader will notice that the name of Christ is written in the lengthened Greek form Χρῆιστός.

- I Judgment shall moisten the earth with the sweat of its standard,
 H Ever enduring, behold the king shall come through the ages,
 Σ Sent to be here in the flesh, and judge at the last of the world.
 O O God, the believing and faithless alike shall behold thee
 Υ Uplifted with saints, when at last the ages are ended,
 Σ Sisted before him are souls in the flesh for his judgment.

- X Hid in thick vapors, the while desolate lieth the earth,
 P Rejected by men are the idols and long-hidden treasures ;
 E Earth is consumed by the fire, and it searcheth the ocean and heaven ;
 I Issuing forth, it destroyeth the terrible portals of hell.
 Σ Saints in their body and soul freedom and light shall inherit ;
 T Those who are guilty shall burn in fire and brimstone forever.
 O Occult actions revealing, each one shall publish his secrets ;
 Σ Secrets of every man's heart God shall reveal in the light.

 Θ Then shall be weeping and wailing, yea, and gnashing of teeth ;
 E Eclipsed is the sun, and silenced the stars in their chorus.
 O Over and gone is the splendor of moonlight, melted the heaven.
 Υ Uplifted by him are the valleys, and cast down the mountains.

 Υ Utterly gone among men are distinctions of lofty and lowly.
 I Into the plains rush the hills, the skies and oceans are mingled.
 O O, what an end of all things ! earth broken in pieces shall perish ;
 Σ Swelling together at once shall the waters and flames flow in rivers.

 Σ Sounding, the archangel's trumpet shall peal down from heaven,
 Ω Over the wicked who groan in their guilt and their manifold sorrows.
 T Trembling, the earth shall be opened, revealing chaos and hell.
 H Every king before God shall stand in that day to be judged.
 P Rivers of fire and brimstone shall fall from the heavens.

The following version of the same twenty-seven lines are from the *Christian Review*, vol. xiii, 1848, p. 99 :

- I Judgment impends. Lo ! the earth reeks with sweat ;
 H He, the destined King of future ages, comes ;
 Σ Soon he descends—the Judge in human form.
 O On speeds the God—his friends and foes behold him.
 Υ Vengeance he wears, enthroned with his holy ones.
 Σ See how the dead assume their ancient forms.

 X Choked with thorny hedges lies the waste, dreary world ;
 P Ruined are the idol gods ; they scorn their heaps of gold.
 E Even land and sea and sky, shall raging fire consume.
 I Its penetrating flames shall burst the gates of hell.
 Σ Shining in light behold the saints immortal.
 T Turn to the guilty, burning in endless flames.
 O O'er hidden deeds of darkness no veil shall be spread.
 Σ Sinners to their God will reveal their secret thoughts.

- O There will be a bitter wailing ; there they gnash with their teeth.
 E Ebon clouds veil the sun ; the stars their chorus cease ;
 O O'er our heads the heavens roll not,—the lunar splendors fade.
 T Underneath the mountains lie ; the valleys touch the sky.
 Y Unknown the heights or depths of man,—since all shall prostrate lie.
 I In the ocean's dark gulf sink the mountains and the plains.
 O Order casts away her empire ; creation ends in chaos.
 S Swollen rivers and leaping fountains are consumed in the flames.
 S Shrill sounds the trumpet ; its blast rends the sky.
 O O, fearful are the groanings, the sorrows of the doomed.
 T Tartarean chaotic depths the gaping earth reveals.
 H Earth's vaulted monarchs shall stand before the Lord.
 P Rivers of sulphur roll along and flames descend the sky.

The following version from the *Christian Remembrancer*, vol. xlii, 1861, p. 287, accords with the order of initial English letters of the words, **JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, THE SAVIOUR, THE CROSS:**

Judgment at hand, the earth shall sweat with fear ;
 Eternal King, the Judge shall come on high ;
 Shall doom all flesh ; shall bid the world appear
 Unveiled before his throne. Him every eye
 Shall, just or unjust, see in majesty.

Consummate time shall view the saints assemble,
 His own assessors ; and the souls of men
 Round the great judgment seat shall wail and tremble
 In fear of sentence. And the green earth then
 Shall turn to desert ; they that see that day
 To moles and bats their gods shall cast away.

Sea, earth, and heaven, and hell's dread gates shall burn ;
 Obedient to their call, the dead return ;
 Nor shall the Judge unfitting doom discern ;

Of chains and darkness to each wicked soul ;
 For them that have done good, the starry pole.

Gnashing of teeth, and woe and fierce despair
 Of such as hear the righteous Judge declare
 Deeds long forgot, which that last day shall bare.

Then, when each darkened breast he brings to sight,
Heaven's stars shall fall ; and day be turned to night ;
Effaced the sun-ray, and the moon's pale light.

Surely the valleys he on high shall raise ;
All hills shall cease, all mountains turn to plain ;
Vessel shall no more pass the watery ways ;
In the dread lightning parching earth shall blaze,
Ogygian rivers seek to flow in vain ;
Unutterable woe the trumpet blast,
Reechoing through the ether, shall forecast.

Then Tartarus shall wrap the world in gloom,
High chiefs and princes shall receive their doom,
Eternal fire and brimstone for their tomb.

Crown of the world, sweet Wood, salvation's horn,
Rearing its beauty, shall for man be born ;
O Wood, that saints adore, and sinners scorn !
So from twelve fountains shall its light be poured ;
Staff of the Shepherd, a victorious sword.

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