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TRANSLATION OF THE OLD ENGLISH *EXODUS*.¹

1. THE GREATNESS OF MOSES.

LO! far and near throughout the world have we heard the commandments of Moses, wondrous statutes for the generations of men, proclaim unto all the blessed an amends for this life in heaven after death's fatal journey, and to all the living a 5 long-lasting counsel; who will, let him hear.

Him in the desert the Lord of hosts, the righteous King, eternal and omnipotent, invested with His own might, and into 10 his possession gave many wonders. He was dear to God, a prince of the people, a wise and prudent leader of the army, a firm commander. Pharaoh's race, God's adversaries, he bound 15 with affliction by the stroke of his rod, when the Ruler of victories entrusted to him, valiant leader² of men, the life of his kinsmen, and granted to Abraham's children an abiding home. Noble was the recompense, when the gracious Master gave him power over weapons against the raging might of the enemy, 20 wherewith he overcame in combat many kinsfolk, the liberty of foes.

The first time that the Lord of hosts addressed him, he related to him many true wonders—how the wise Lord, powerful 25 in victory, created this world, fixed the circuit of earth and the firmament, and revealed His own name, which the sons of men, the ancient race of the fathers, knew not before, though they knew many things.³ With true powers had He strength- 30 ened and honored the prince of the host, Pharaoh's enemy, on his wayfaring, when long ago that mightiest of multitudes with ancient punishments was drowned in death. At the

¹ Based on the text of Grein-Wülker. The text often seems corrupt, so that the rendering must be regarded as in some respects a provisional one.

² Reading *magoræswan*, with Grein.

³ Exodus 6. 3.

destruction of the treasure-warders mourning was renewed ; mirth 35
 slumbered in the hall, robbed of its riches. Fiercely at midnight
 had He slain his malicious foes, many of the first-born, had
 crushed the city-defenders. The slayer, fierce persecutor, strode
 far and wide ; the land darkened with the bodies of the dead. 40
 The host set forth ; lamentation was abroad, little joy was there
 in life, locked were the hands of them that had raised laughter.
 The people were suffered to begin their toilsome journey ; the
 nation was departing. Despoiled was the enemy, hosts were in 45
 hell. There entered lamentation ; the idols fell prostrate.

2. THE MARCH OF THE ISRAELITES.

Glorious upon earth was the day when the multitude set forth,
 the band of Egyptians, accursèd of old, they who have suffered 50
 many seasons of captivity¹ in hell because they had thought,
 if God should permit them, for evermore to deny to the kinsmen
 of Moses their long-cherished desire for the journey. The host²
 was made ready ; brave was he who led the kinsmen, a 55
 doughty commander. He passed with the troop many fortified
 cities, land and demesne of the hated foe, many narrow defiles,
 an unknown course, until they bore their armor against the
 warlike Ethiopians. A cloud concealed their lands, their 60
 march-dwellings on the hillside.³ Over them Moses led his
 army against many hindrances. Then, two nights after they
 had escaped the enemy, he bade the glorious heroes,⁴ the mighty
 force, encamp with tumult of the host in the border lands,
 round the city of Etham, all the army together. 65

Straitly they pressed on the northern roads, and on the south
 became aware of the land of the Ethiopians, the city-heights
 scorched by the sun, and the people bronzed with the glowing 70
 coals of heaven. There holy God shielded his people against
 the terrible heat, overspread the burning heaven with a canopy,
 the glowing air with a sacred network. With wide embrace

¹ *fæsten*. The next two words are not in the original. The sense is obscure. Grein suggests: 'Hölle? oder Gefangenschaft unter den Fluthen des rothen Meeres? oder jejunium?'

² of the Israelites.

³ Meaning of *môrheald* uncertain.

⁴ Reading *tirfæste hæleð*.

had the tempestuous cloud equally divided earth and heaven, 75
 leading on the host. Quenched was the fiery flame which had
 blazed with heavenly splendor. The heroes were amazed, most
 joyful of companies. The sun¹ moved above the clouds; wise
 God had screened its course with a sail, though men who 80
 dwell upon earth could discern by no cunning its halyards and
 spars, nor divine by what means He had fastened that greatest
 of tents. 85

Here for the comfort of the people was the third encampment,
 since He had clothed in glory His faithful vassals. All the
 marching host saw how the sacred sails were towering there, a
 flashing air-wonder. The people, the noble band of Israel, per- 90
 ceived that the Lord was come, the Lord of hosts, to mark off
 their camp-ground. Before them traveled fire and cloud in the
 bright firmament, two pillars, sharing between them by night 95
 and day the high service of the Holy Ghost, the march of the
 bold in heart.

Then have I heard that in the morn the war-trumpets of the
 valiant in spirit blew a loud blast of glory. All the host arose, 100
 as Moses, the famous leader of men, had commanded them, all
 the troop of the brave, the people of God, making ready their
 battle-array. Onward they saw the guide of life measure the
 air-way; a sail led the journey. The seafarers moved toward the 105
 waters; the people were happy; loud was the shout of the army.

Each evening another rare wonder arose, a heavenly beacon,
 a burning pillar, whose care was to shine in a flame on the folk 110
 of the nation after the setting of the sun. Gleaming above the
 archers rose the pure radiance; bucklers glittered, shadows
 disappeared. The deep shades of night availed not to hide
 the dark retreats. Heaven's candle burned, a new nightly 115
 guardian, tarrying perforce above the hosts, lest, through dread of
 the wilderness, the hoary heath with tempestuous weather
 should distract their minds with sudden sense of peril.

The forerunner had fiery locks, bright beams; with terror of 120
 flame,² with fervid fire, it threatened the troop to consume their
 host in the wilderness, unless they, the stout of heart, listened to

¹ Following Cosijn, *Beitr.* 19. 460.

² MS. *bell eggan*.

Moses' voice. Flashed the resplendent host, the bucklers glit- 125
tered. The shield-warriors saw in a straight course the stand-
ard above the troops, until at the end of the land the fastness
of the sea opposed their eager march. A camp arose; the weary
men rested. Stewards gave food to the brave, renewing their 130
strength. Along the hills the seafarers spread their tents at the
sound of the trumpet. There was the fourth encampment, rest
for the shield-warriors, beside the Red Sea.

3. FEAR FALLS UPON THE ISRAELITES.

Then befell the army sudden dread tidings, fear of the men of 135
the land. Panic and deadly terror arose mid the host. The
fugitives awaited the hateful pursuers, who long ere this, stead-
fast in punishments, had imposed upon the homeless people 140
tribulation and woe, for they had kept not the covenant¹ which
the former king had granted² of old, when with treasures he
purchased the lordship of the native-born people, and so mightily
prospered.³ All this the tribes of the Egyptians forgot, as soon 145
as they became vexed at resistance.⁴ Then they fashioned deadly
injuries for their countrymen, plotted strife, broke the covenant.
Welling passion and violent anger stirred the hearts of the
treacherous men. They wished, wicked ones, to requite that 150
blood-vengeance with perfidy to the people of Moses, to pay for
that day's work with blood, if mighty God should speed them on
their journey of destruction.

Then the hearts of the nobles grew despondent when they 155
saw the army of Pharaoh advancing from the southern ways, the
forest-paths,⁵ a resplendent host. The spears were thick clus-
tered as the war rolled on, bucklers were flashing, trumpets 160
sounding, banners floating, people treading the plain. Soaring
in a circle the army-birds were screaming, eager for slaughter;
the black carrion-seeker, dewy-feathered, [hovered]⁶ o'er the
bodies of the slain. The wolves, care-free beasts, howled a fear- 165

¹ Cf. Gen. 47. 5, 6, 11.

² Supplying *iwðode*, with Grein.

³ Construction and meaning doubtful; cf. Gen. 47. 14-26.

⁴ Cf. Exod. 1. 8-10, also 2. 11-15; but the sense is doubtful.

⁵ Reading, with Kluge, *ofer holtwegan* (for *-um*).

⁶ This word supplies a lacuna in the MS.

ful even-song in hope of food, savagely threatening on the track of the foe the slaughter¹ of the multitude; in the midnights howled those warders of the frontier. Many a death-doomed soul departed; the people were afflicted.

Forth from the host at times proud thanes measured the mile- 170 paths with their steeds. There before the banner rode their victorious king,² prince of men, war-guard of heroes, with his border army. He clasped the visor of his helmet in expectation 175 of combat, while the helm-adornments flashed. He rattled the links of mail, and bade his cohorts zealously hold fast the battle-array.

With hostile eyes the enemy were gazing on the approach of the men of the land. Round about the leader were moving 180 fearless warriors, grizzled army-wolves were seeking battle, thirsty for hard fighting, loyal to their lord. For that ancient³ duty he had chosen from the manhood of the people two thousand famous warriors of noble lineage, who were kings 185 and kinsmen. So every one led forth his men, all the male warriors whom he could find in the allotted time. All the youths were together, princes in a throng, awaiting meanwhile 190 the familiar sound of the horn in the assembly. To their young warriors the war-band offered itself ready.⁴

So there they led on too the swarthy host, foe after foe, a mul- 195 titudinous throng, hastening thither by thousands. They were minded at daybreak to destroy in hardy bands with their battle-axes the race of Israel, in vengeance for their brothers. Therefore wailing was uplifted in the camp, a dire even-song. Terrors arose, 200 toils of battle ensnared them, tumult entered, they fled the fearful tidings. The foe was courageous, the host brilliant in battle-gear, until the mighty angel, who protected the multitude, 205 scattered the arrogant, so that no longer could the foes gaze upon each other. Their path was divided.

¹ *fyll*, Gr. *ful* ms. Bouterwek, Thorpe, Wülker.

² Reading *sigecyning*, with Grein.

³ Reading *ealde*, with Kluge.

⁴ Meaning doubtful.

4. THE ISRAELITES PREPARE FOR BATTLE.

The fugitives had night-long respite, though on either side
foes were pressing, the troop or the sea-stream. No way of 210
escape had they, no hope of a homeland. Along the hills they
tarried in glistening apparel, in expectation of woe. That
band of kinsmen watched and waited, all together, for the
mightier multitude, till Moses bade the nobles at morning light 215
assemble the people with brazen trumpets, bade warriors arise,
don their corselets, think on valorous deeds, bear shining armor,
summon the troop with beacons beside the sandy shore. 220

Quickly the warders bethought them of the battle-cry. The
host was arrayed; the seafarers struck their tents along the hills,
obeying the trumpet. The host hurried forward, as soon as they
had assigned to the van of the army twelve troops of men stout 225
of heart, embattled against the wrath of the enemy; aroused was
the multitude. From each of the noble tribes they selected
fifty cohorts in the folk-numbering, chosen from the manhood
of the people who bear the linden-shield. Each cohort of the 230
famous host had a thousand glorious, spear-bearing warriors.
That was a warlike company. In that number the army-
leaders summoned not the weak, who by reason of youth could
not yet defend with their hands the corselet of men 'neath the 235
buckler against the treacherous enemy, nor had ever awaited
over the hollow¹ linden-shield the pang of a wound, trace of a
body-wound, boastful play of the spear. Nor could the warriors 240
hoar with age do battle, whom bodily strength had failed,
though still rich in valor. Yet according to their vigor they
sought the conflict, as courage and dignity prompted them to 245
remain amid the people and their bodily force let them wield²
the spear-shaft. Then was the army of the strong of hand
gathered together, ready for the march. Uprose their ensign,
brightest of pillars. Again they all tarried until the harbinger
broke brightly through the regions of air over the linden-shields 250
beside the sea-streams.

¹ *lærig*. Grein, *margo clypei?* Rieger, *Körper des Schildes*. I have followed the rendering in S. W. Singer's article in reply to Jacob Grimm's inquiry 'Was heisst lærig?' *Notes and Queries*, Vol. I, Mar. 9, 1850.

² Supplying *gegân mihte*, with Grein.

5. THE PASSAGE OF THE RED SEA.

Then up sprang the war-herald, bold warrior, before the heroes,
 raised his shield aloft, and bade the leaders of the people restrain
 the army until the many had heard the speech of the valiant one, 255
 guardian of the nation, who wished with holy voice to harangue
 the cohort. Spake then in grave discourse the counselor of the
 host :

‘Be not the more dismayed though Pharaoh bring countless
 troops of sword-girt warriors, heroes unnumbered. This day 260
 by my hand will the mighty Lord give them all a recompense,
 that no longer they may live to vex with woes the race of Israel. 265
 Fear not, with timorous breasts, the legions of the dead ! The
 respite of their transitory life is at an end. From your minds
 God’s lore has departed ; I counsel you to better purpose, that
 ye honor the Prince of glory, and pray the Lord of life that He 270
 grant you his grace, speed of victories, whithersoever ye go.
 This is the eternal God of Abraham, Lord of creation, who,
 valiant and mighty, guardeth this host with his powerful hand.’ 275

Then before the armies the leader of the living spake in a
 loud voice, saying unto the people :

‘Lo ! now gaze ye with your eyes, best beloved, on a sudden
 wonder, how I myself and this right hand have smitten the 280
 ocean’s depth with a green rod. Up surges the billow, straight-
 way forms the water into a rampart. The ways, gray army-
 roads, are dry, the ancient foundations of the sea spread open, 285
 whereon never in the world went men aforetime, so far as I have
 learned. Here are foamy¹ fields, the fettered sea-depths, which
 ever of old, eternally, the billows covered. The south wind,
 a blast from the sea, hath snatched them away, the ocean is 290
 torn asunder, the ebbing sea spat sand. I know full well that
 mighty God hath revealed to you His mercy, nobles gleaming in
 bronze !² Haste is best, that ye may escape from the grasp of the
 enemy. Now hath the Master reared up the red streams in a 295
 bulwark ; fairly are the ramparts builded, wondrous sea-paths,
 toward the roof of heaven.’

¹ Reading *fāmge*.

² Doubtful.

After these words all the host arose, the band of the brave. 300
 Silent abode the sea. The cohorts lifted white linden-shields,
 standards on the beach. The sea-wall arose and stood upright
 for the space of a day beside the Israelites. The troop of heroes
 was stout-hearted; with firm grasp the wall of waters¹ kept 305
 covenant of peace. Naught did they scorn the holy instruction,
 as soon as the lay of the dear one, nigh to fulfilment, ceased,
 the tumult and mingling of song.

Then the fourth tribe went first, passing over the green bed 310
 through the ocean wave with a crowd of warriors. The troop
 of Judah² accomplished alone the strange journey before
 their kinsmen. For that day's work mighty God gave them 315
 ample recompense, when triumph of victorious deeds befell
 them thereafter, that they should have dominion over the
 realms, glory among their kinsfolk. Over their bucklers as a 320
 token, when they stepped into the deep, the greatest of tribes
 had raised the standard of a golden lion, fiercest of beasts, amid
 the throng of spearmen. They would not brook an insult con-
 cerning their chief throughout his life from any nation, when they
 raised the spear-wood to battle. Strife was in the vanguard, hard 325
 hand-play, squires doughty in the deadly smiting of weapons,
 fearless warriors, bloody sword-strokes, rush of the battle-troop,
 crashing of helmets, where Judah was faring. 330

After that host moved the seafarers proudly, the sons of
 Reuben. Over the salt marsh the vikings bore their shields,
 a throng of men,³ a mighty array, marching unterrified. For
 Reuben had lost his sovereignty by his sins, and so he followed 335
 in the track of the beloved. His own brother had taken from
 him the right of the first-born in the nation, his estate and pre-
 eminence. Yet was he ready withal.

Thronging after him came the troop of Simeon's sons, the third 340
 division. Banners waved over the spear-bearing company; on
 pressed the war-troop with dewy spear-shafts. Over the ocean's
 way⁴ came the rush of dawn, one of God's beacons, radiant 345

¹ Supplying *ȝða weall*, with Grein.

² Mürkens (*Bonner Beitr.* 2. 74), compares *Gen.* 29. 35; 49. 8, 9; *Deut.* 33. 7.

³ Reading *manna menio*, with Sievers.

⁴ Supplying *begong*, with Grein.

morning. On moved the multitude, host after host. One guided the iron-clad army, mightiest ranks, whereby he gained renown. Race after race,¹ tribe after tribe fared² on the 350 march. Each knew the rights of family, the rank of nobles, as Moses had commanded them. One was their father, a beloved prince, sage of mind, dear to his kinsman, one of the patri- 355 archs. He received the land-right, and begat a race of spirited men, a holy nation, the tribe of Israel, God's peculiar people;³ so the ancients with clear vision recount, they who best under- 360 stand all men's kinship and lineage and ancestry.

6. INTERPOLATION.—NOAH AND ABRAHAM.

[Noah, the glorious chief, sailed with his three sons over strange floods, over the mightiest of drowning torrents that ever befell the world. And because he had holy faith in his breast, 365 he brought over the waters the greatest of treasures whereof I have knowledge. For the protection of earth's living creatures that sagacious seafarer preserved for all mankind an everlasting 370 remnant, a first generation, both father and mother, of all that bear offspring, of sorts more diverse than are known to men. Moreover in the bosom of their ship the heroes carried every 375 seed that men enjoy on earth.

Now the sages tell us that Abraham's father was of Noah's lineage in the ninth generation. He is that Abraham for whom 380 the God of angels appointed a new name, and gave into his keeping holy assemblies, far and near, and sway over people. He lived in exile. Afterward he brought the soul most dear to him in answer to the Holy One's behest. They twain, blood-kindred, 385 mounted a high place, the hill of Zion. There, as men have learned, they saw God's glory, found a pledge and covenant, noble and holy, where in after time the wise son of David, the famous king, sagest of earthly monarchs, builded with prudent 390 counsel a temple to God, a holy fane, the loftiest and holiest and best known to heroes, greatest and of highest renown, that the 395

¹ *folcum*, Grein. *wolenum*, Wülker.

² Reading *lor*, with Grein.

³ *onriht Godes*. This is Bosworth's rendering. Grein reads *godes* and renders 'sich ans Gute haltend.'

children of men ever fashioned on earth with the labor of their hands.

To this tryst Abraham led Isaac his son, and kindled the funeral-pyre. Upon the primal murderer was laid no greater woe! He was minded to deliver as a glorious sacrifice to the 400 blaze and flame of fire his heir, the best of children, his own dear son and sole successor upon earth, the comfort of his life. And there after this wise he found long-lasting hope for the 405 instruction¹ of the people. Then did he reveal, when he seized the boy with firm hand, and drew his world-famed, ancient heir-loom with loud-clanging blade, that the days of his life were not more precious to him than that he should hearken 410 unto heaven's King. Up rose the hero with intent to slay his offspring, to kill his son, a boy ungrown, with the edge of the sword, should God permit it. But the noble Father had no will to bereave him of his child in holy sacrifice, and with His 415 hand laid hold upon him. Then came a voice from heaven, a sound of glory, to restrain him, and thereto added a word:

'Abraham, slay not thine own child, thy son with the sword! Truly is it made manifest, now that the King of all creatures hath proved thee, that thou hast kept troth, firm faith, with the 420 Ruler. That shall be unto thee peace throughout all thy life for aye unto time imperishable. Needeth the son of man a surer pledge? Heaven and earth cannot cover the words of His 425 glory, which are farther and wider than the regions of earth can embrace, the circuit of earth and the firmament, the tracts of ocean and the unbounded² air. By His own life He swears 430 an oath, He, Lord of angels, Ruler of destinies, God of hosts, just Warden³ of victories, that of thy race and kinsmen no man on earth shall have skill to tell the tale of shield- 435 warriors in words of truth, save if one wax so wise of understanding that he alone can count all the stones upon earth, 440 stars in heaven, sands on the sea-shore, and the salt billows. Between the seas shall thy people inhabit, even unto the nations

¹ Reading *lære* with Grein.

² Reading *cormenlyft*, with Cosijn. The ms. reading, *gēomre lyft*, 'mournful air,' seems to make no sense.

³ Supplying *weard*, with Dietrich.

of Egypt, the land of the Canaanites, the free-born children of 445
their father, the best of nations.]

7. THE SEA ENGULFS THE EGYPTIANS.

The people were affrighted ; dread of the flood fell upon their troubled spirits, the sea threatened death. The mountain-steeps were bedewed with blood, the deep spat gore, tumult was among the billows, the water full of weapons, death-mist arising. The 450 Egyptians wheeled about and fled in terror, when they perceived the sudden danger. Fain were they to reach their homes, a panic-stricken army. Sadder grew the voice of boasting, while the terrible welter of billows rolled over them. None of that 455 army came home again, but fate fell on their rear and caught them in the wave. Where roads had lain, the sea was raging ; the multitude was drowned.

Streams towered up ; the tumult rose high toward heaven, 460 the greatest of army-laments. Foes made uproar, the air grew dark above them ; blood from the bodies of the slain mingled with the waters. The ramparts were broken down, the greatest of deaths from the sea smote the heaven. Brave princes perished in a crowd, hope waned at the end of the billow.¹ 465 The battle-shields glittered. High over the heroes an ocean-wall arose, a furious sea-stream. The multitude was fast bound in death, their tide² of advance was cunningly fettered. The sand 470 abode the appointed destiny,³ until the stream of billows, the bitter-cold sea with its salt waves, naked harbinger of ill, prone 475 to wander, should come on hostile visit to the everlasting depths, after overwhelming the foe.

The blue sky was polluted with blood ; the bursting sea, the path of seamen, threatened horror of blood, until the just Disposer by Moses' hand removed the valorous, harried them afar, 480 swept them away in the grasp of death. The flood foamed, the death-doomed sank, the sea fell upon the land, the air was troubled. Down crashed the ramparts, waves burst, sea-towers

¹ Reading *wæges*, with Grein.

² *nēp* ? *nep* ? Grein connects the word with *neap*-tide.

³ *wyrde* Wülker ; *fyrde* (ford) Grein.

melted, when the mighty One, heaven's Warden, struck with holy hand those warriors of oak,¹ the haughty nation. They 485 could not stay the deep,² the raging waters, that troubled many with roaring horror. The ocean raved, up weltered, down toppled. Terrors arose, death-wounds welled forth. High from 490 the heavens fell on that warlike march³ the handiwork of God. With ancient sword the foamy-bosomed sea struck down the flood-ward, a wall that gave no shelter, so that the troops, sinful bands, smitten with a death-wound, fell asleep. There, 495 fast encompassed, the army, wan with drowning pallor, gave up their souls, when the murky stretches, maddest of billows, swept over them. All the host perished, when the chivalry of 500 Egyptians was drowned, Pharaoh with his people. Straightway as he sank, God's adversary found that the Warder of the flood was mightier than he, One who, wroth and terrible, willed with grasp of death to decide this battle. 505

Heavy recompense for that day's work befell the Egyptians, for none of all that innumerable army came home again, nor was any left to tell their journey, to proclaim among the cities that most woeful of tidings, the destruction of the treasure- 510 warders, to the wives of heroes. But the sea-death, that had success in its keeping, swallowed up the mighty hosts, slew⁴ the messenger, silenced men's boasting. Against God they had battled!

8. THE WORDS OF MOSES.

Thereupon Moses, illustrious hero, in a holy speech pro- 515 claimed upon the strand eternal counsels, a solemn message; they call it the day's work.⁵ Still in the Scriptures are found all those commandments that the Lord delivered to him in true 520 words on that journey. If life's interpreter, the bright warder of the body in the breast, wishes to unlock the ample good⁶

¹ *werbēamas.*

² *helandra pað* (path of the helpers?).

³ Following Grein.

⁴ Supplying *spilde* with Grein; but perhaps there is a lacuna here.

⁵ *dægweorc nemnað.* Apparently a corrupt passage. *Dægweorc* is usually applied to war or an act of hostility.

⁶ Reading *gōd* instead of *god*. This gives a more satisfactory sense for *ginfeast*.

with the keys of the spirit, the mystery will be explained, from 525
it counsel will follow. He hath wise words in his grasp, he will
teach our hearts with power, that we be not forlorn of God's
fellowship, of the Master's loving kindness. He revealeth unto
us, as the learned say, better and more enduring life-joys. 530

This life is a transient bliss, choked with miseries, the lot of
exiles, a pause of the wretched. It is an inn that homeless men
occupy with sorrows, grieving in spirit, aware of that house of 535
the wicked fast beneath the earth, where are fire and the worm,
the ever-yawning pit of all evil. So now arch-thieves of ability
participate in old age or early death, but future fate will come,
the mightiest of powers in the world, a day guilty of (evil) deeds. 540
The Lord himself in that place of assembly will give judgment
unto many. Then will he lead the souls of the righteous,
blessed spirits, into heaven, where are light and life, and the joy 545
of peace. A noble band shall praise the Lord with melody, the
glorious King of hosts, through time unending.

So in a loud voice he discoursed unto them, mindful of coun-
sels, gentlest of all men, strengthened with might. The army 550
awaited in silence the will of the law, apprehended the wonder,
the salvation declared unto them by the mouth of the valiant
one. To the multitude he said :

'Great is this throng, and steadfast its Captain, mightiest of
Supports, who leadeth this expedition. He hath granted unto 555
us in the land of Canaan cities and ring-money, wide dominions.
Now, if ye will observe His holy precepts, He will fulfil what 560
long ago in days of old He promised, Lord of angels, unto the
race of our fathers, that ye shall henceforth win victory over
all your enemies, and possess in triumph betwixt the seas the
wassail-halls of heroes. Great shall be your rejoicing !'

9. THE TRIUMPH OF THE ISRAELITES.

After these words the host was exultant, the trumpets of vic- 565
tory rang out, standards arose amid gladsome tumult. The folk
was on firm land ; by grace of God had the pillar of glory led
the host, the holy throngs. They took joy in life, for they had 570
snatched it from the power of the enemy, though they had

ventured boldly, those heroes, beneath the roofs of water. There had they seen walls arise. All the surges showed bloody unto them where they had borne their battle-armor. They triumphed in a pæan of victory, since they had escaped the host;¹ the troops lifted a loud voice, praising the Lord for the mighty 575 deed. That greatest of companies chanted a song of glory, an army-chorus of many great wonders, men and women answering each other in tremulous voices.

Then could one readily find on the ocean's strand African 580 maidens, adorned with gold. They lifted their hands in thanksgiving, they were blithe at sight of their deliverance; they won the spoils of battle; their bonds were loosed. On the shore they began to gather with nets what the sea had left them, 585 ancient treasures, shields and raiment. Into their possession fell gold and costly texture, the wealth of Joseph, the heroes' precious riches. In that place of death lay its former guardians, greatest of bands.

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¹ Supplying *herge* with Grein.