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S E R M O N.

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PSALM CXLVII--12.

*"PRAISE THY GOD, O ZION, FOR HE HATH STRENGTHENED
THE BARS OF THY GATES."*

AMONG the Nations of the East, a disposition has always prevailed to express the sentiments of piety and devotion by some correspondent external act. Thus a sacrifice was offered by the sinner, not as an atonement for his offences, but, as an acknowledgement of his unworthiness and guilt : a tacit confession that he deserved, himself, to suffer that death, which was inflicted on the victim thus substituted in his room. From the Altar, reared by the hand of the grateful worshipper, the smoke of incense ascended to Heaven, along with the praise of his creator, for some recent, and signal,
instance