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IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—Ps. 137: 5.

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.

A SERMON:

BY REV A. W. HERDMAN, PICTOU.

(Continued.)

II. We come now, in the second place, to the glory which shall accrue to the Divine Architect from His performance.

There is praise due to an architect from his successful design. The graceful column, the lofty roof, and the massy pillar, all testify to his skill; no less does the well-proportioned building; and some architects have engraved their names on their works; and so long as these remain shall they be immortal. But the best work of man is fading, and subject to decay. The very church that now rears its towers aloft, and which we expect to serve generations to come, shall yet at last yield to the ravage of time, and pass away; but this spiritual temple is everlasting; through endless ages it shall continue. Every living stone here shall be added to the upper sanctuary there, and throughout eternity serve God. Then shall a glory accrue to our Heavenly Architect that belongs not to any earthly,—a glory that excels from the spirituality of the work, and a glory that endures from its permanence and unfading lustre. But to be more specific. Our Divine Architect shall have the glory of having designed His work, as well as having successfully executed it.

1st. Earthly architects plan their work beforehand, and the design costs both labour and skill; but The Branch contrived His in the councils of heaven before time was, and both wisdom and love He expended. There, when the question was raised, "How shall a temple be reared on the prospect of man's fall?—how, consistently with the Divine attributes, shall the work of man's salvation be accomplished?" there was none to respond, till He arose and offered Himself for the undertaking. He engaged to bear the responsibility of the whole work,—to meet the demands of His Father's law and people's salvation, and to fulfil both; and for that end He pledged wisdom, power, love—nay, His every attribute. Himself would be both foundation and corner-