

The Lord did not intend that his church should be without a rule for uttering its gladness and its glory, its lamentation and its grief; and to bring such a rule and institute into being, He raised up His servant David, as formerly he raised up Moses to give to the church an institute of Law. And to that end He led him the round of all human conditions, that he might catch the spirit proper to every one, and utter it according to truth; He allowed him not to curtail his being by treading the round of one function, but by every variety of functions. He cultivated his whole being, and filled his soul with wisdom and feeling. He found him objects for every affection, that the affection might not slumber and die. He brought him up in the sheep-pastures that the groundwork of his character might be laid amongst the simple and universal forms of feeling. He took him to the camp, and made him a conqueror, that he might be filled with nobleness of soul and ideas of glory. He placed him in the palace, that he might be filled with ideas of majesty and sovereign might. He carried him to the wilderness, and placed him in solitudes, that his soul might dwell alone in the sublime conceptions of God, and His mighty works; and he kept him there for long years, with only one step between him and death, that he might be well schooled to trust and depend upon the providence of God. And in none of these various conditions and avocations of life, did He take away from him His Holy Spirit. His trials were but the tuning of the instrument with which the Spirit might express the various melodies which He designed to utter by him for the consolation and edification of spiritual men. It was the education of the man most appropriate for the divine vocation of the man.—*Edward Irving.*

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### “HE WENT AWAY SORROWFUL.”

Went away. He came running. His steps were light and eager then; for he almost hoped that he was about to find the pearl of great price, and that that very day he might carry salvation back to his house. But all that was over now; and sure we are he was not running when he went away. The woman of Jacob's well ran when she hastened to tell her neighbours that she had found the Christ; but the neighbors who saw the ruler wending back to his abode might see that he had lost something. Yes! he had lost his day of grace. He had lost his golden opportunity for obtaining eternal life. If he had known the gift of God, and who it was that said to him, “Sell all thou hast,” he would have done it on the spot, and on the spot Jesus would have given him treasures in heaven. But the opportunity was gone. Jesus returned to that region no more. He was going to Jerusalem. He was travelling to the cross. His earthly journey was well-nigh ended, and that particular road he should traverse no more. Ah, no! amiable but misguided young man! The moment is past. Jesus has gone one way, and thou hast gone another; and ere noon the friend of sinners will be far from these domains. But surely thou canst never forget the interview of this morning. When thou art grown old and miserly; when thou hast lost the simplicity, and warmth which for the present redeems thy worldliness, and when no friends are near thee, except on-hangers scrambling for thy great possessions, perhaps thou mayest recall this morning, and sigh to think what a Friend in heaven and treasure there were once within thine offer! And sure enough thou wilt remember it one day. There were no prints on his hands and feet with whom thou didst part with this morning, nor was there any crown upon his brow. But there will be when thou seest him again. That Jesus that passed near thy house this morning will be the crucified, and glorified, when next he meets thine eyes; and he who this day loved thee as the Son of man, will that day judge you as the Son of God. By that time thou shalt be where great possessions can not profit, but where bargains of time can not be recalled. The ma-