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

SERMON,

PREACHED BY THE REV. JAMES KIDD, A. M., IN SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH, RICHMOND, N. B., 10TH MARCH, 1869.—*on the subject of the Rev. John Goodhope's intended mission to the South Sea Islands.*

(Concluded.)

Let us now, in the next place, direct our attention for a little, more particularly to the meaning of the last words of the text, "for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty." This has a reference to some of the heathen usages,—and they, when compared with what the Gospel enjoins upon all men to observe, are most revolting and degrading. "The dark places of the earth" is a very expressive phrase, and signifies that in such dark places these many habitations of cruelty can only exist. They are dark, because the beams of the Sun of Righteousness, the glorious light of the Gospel, has not as yet enlightened them. The minds of the people are sunk in ignorance, dark as to divine knowledge, and blind as to the light of truth, having no knowledge of God nor of His ways. They continually grope their way in this thick darkness, and can, by no means of their own device, free themselves of it: it is nothing strange, then, that these dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty, for what has man there to influence and direct him but the promptings of a sinful and depraved heart?

Let the infidel living in Christendom—that strong advocate of nature, but turn his eyes on heathen lands, and there he will find, in its practical shape and bearings, what he so much cries up:—man impelled to all his actions by the workings of nature, his model of what man ought to be. Let infidelity blush at the sight, and acknowledge itself to be a child of the same parent who has made these places of the earth dark and filled them with the habitations of cruelty. The impulse of wicked passions alone stimulates the savage to exertion, and his work does not belie the workman, for both he and it give abundant proof from whence they proceed. The enemy of all righteousness here leads captive at his pleasure, because the influence of the Gospel is not brought to bear against him.—In this dark land he holds supreme sway; it is the citadel of his kingdom.