

gifts for men!—behold Him at that moment of triumph, radiant with victory, covered with the spoils of conflict, the conqueror of Satan, the Saviour of the lost!—and say, was ever such a conqueror?—was ever such a conquest? He also was the servant of God—his elect to accomplish this very work. “Behold”, says God by His prophet, “behold my servant whom I uphold, mine elect in whom my soul delighteth: I have put my spirit upon him; he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the streets. He shall not fail nor be discouraged till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law”.

But all this would not have been enough of itself. The decree must be issued for the actual emancipation of God's chosen. Their oppressor was subdued, but their actual liberty was not yet received or bestowed. But the Redeemer sent forth the fiat of their freedom. He published his decree in their behalf. He commissioned his spirit to emancipate them, to break their chains, to raise them from the dungeon of the captive, and bring them out to the light and liberty of the children of God. The chains of sin, accordingly, were made to fall from them—the fetters of a servitude which they could not of themselves break; and they are now not only no longer the slaves of Satan, but they are the freed ones of God: Theirs is the liberty wherewith God maketh His people free—a glorious freedom; and heaven, and all the privileges of the Jerusalem above, are within their view, or constitute the blessed home to which they are destined. “O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvellous things: His right hand and His holy arm hath gotten Him the victory. The Lord hath made known His salvation: His righteousness hath He openly shewed in the sight of the heathen”.

Such is the deliverance which the spiritual Israel of God have to celebrate.—Such are the great things God hath done for them. And they as far exceed what God did even for Israel of old, as the heavens excel the earth. Oh, how should their heart exult, even as that of the Israelites when their freedom was restored, and they set out again to their native land. Their mouth was filled with laughter, and their tongue with singing; and have not you, believer, greater cause to rejoice, and to praise the Lord, who hath deli-

vered you from an infinitely worse bondage, and set before you a far more glorious destiny? It is freedom from the thralldom of sin, redemption from the mansions of everlasting despair, which you have been made partaker of: it is the happiness of God's spiritual Israel into which you have been introduced, and the glories of heaven to which you have to look forward. Nothing could exceed these blessings in magnitude. Nothing could be more miserable than your former condition: nothing can be more blessed than your present state and your future prospects. Language fails to depict the happiness, the glories, which shall yet be yours. The new Jerusalem shining in the brightness of unclouded splendour, stands ready to receive you; and once entered it, you shall go no more out, but shall dwell for ever with God, and His angels, and the happy company of the Redeemed. God shall wipe away all tears from every eye; and a happiness pure, unalloyed, everlasting, will fill every heart, and pervade all the blessed mansions. “O, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy”.

Be not content with the land of your exile, with the scenes of your former captivity. Press on your march.—Every thing here may remind you of your exile, of your captivity, of your degradation. By these streams you sat and wept: on these willows you hang and weeped your harps. There you bewailed your sad state; you thought of a former time of happiness and glory. There the Oppressor's fetters, and weariful burdens, sat heavily upon you, and weighed you down to the very earth, and you refused to be comforted. How different your state now! Now you can awake the Lord's song though in a strange land. You have taken your harps from the willows: you are returning with songs to Zion; and the new Jerusalem with its palms and crowns of victory and dominion awaits your arrival. Tarry not in the land of your bondage: urge on your way: till the heavenly land is reached, the new Jerusalem is gained, and its golden gates have received you, welcome feet, and closed upon your sufferings and your sorrows for ever.