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FOR THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

A SERMON.

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He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

The theme of the inspired ode from which the text is taken, is by universal consent, the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon. It may therefore be considered as one of the latest compositions in the old Testament: that portion of the inspired volume having been completed soon after the event referred to. The date of this and other inspired songs reminds us, that, so long as the Holy Spirit continued the prophetic gift in the church, he prompted the utterance of gratitude and praise, and of the instructions of heavenly wisdom in song. And as these songs dwell on the varying dispensations of Providence towards the church, this may be taken as an intimation of the perpetual obligation of the church, both to make use of song in the worship of God, and to vary the themes of her songs with the varying aspect of his Providence.

The Psalm before us in a few masterly strokes, if we may apply to it the language of common criticism, sets forth the glorious event of Israel's restoration.

The ecstasy of the emancipated Jews, the amazement of the Heathens themselves, and their acknowledgment of the hand of God in the deliverance of those whom they had despised and oppressed are the circumstances, which the inspired poet has touched on in describing this event. A short prayer for the completion of Israel's deliverance, with a reflection or two in the way of a moral make up this beautiful Psalm. The moral is contained in these words: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy" v. 5. The last verse—our Text, is just an expansion of this thought, after the way of the Poets of inspiration "He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed" (or as we would rather read with the margin "bearing the seed basket") shall doubtless come again with rejoicing (rather "with singing") bringing his sheaves with him."

This is a maxim of very general import; it has much the same meaning with that saying of our Lord's. "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." The people of God may take it to themselves in all the afflictions which befall them in the way of duty, as a promise of coming deliverance and joy. It seems however, from the terms in which it is expressed to have a special application to the Ministers of the Kingdom of God in their trials and discouragements. As we read it, we are reminded of the parable of the sower. "The sower" said Jesus "Soweth the seed" that is, he is the Minister who is