

Jesus, and wished Him extinct because He disturbed them with His light. The attempt was made to destroy Jesus in His infancy. Murderous Herod tried to quench that Morning Star in blood, when first it faintly rose in Bethlehem. The demons, too, whose element is darkness, complained that the Star had appeared too soon, exposing their malignant tyranny: "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"* Wicked men were no more glad than the very demons to see the day break. By long habit men become so inured to moral darkness, that it is painful and irksome to them to look on heaven's pure light. It was thus with the elders and chief priests, the scribes and Pharisees. They felt the presence of the Lord Jesus a constant rebuke to themselves; hence their plots to weaken His influence, to blacken His reputation, to eclipse the provoking radiance of that bright Star, and, if possible, extinguish it utterly in the darkness of death. These plots had their consummation and apparent triumph in the crucifixion. But from that hour, when all seemed lost, there was given a brighter lustre and a more extended radiance to our exalted Morning Star.

It must be acknowledged, that the day ushered in by the first advent of the Saviour has not been a

* Matt. viii. 29.