

thine infant head—the crown of meekness and the crown of pity, the crown of self-sacrifice and the crown of love.

What now were the PRINCIPLES or motives which led to this stupendous act of self-immolation on the part of Moses? Josephus¹ is obviously at fault in ascribing it to the envy and hatred which his military successes among the Ethiopians had excited against him in the breasts of the Egyptians—king and people; the writer to the Hebrews is nearer the truth when he traces it to the awakening within him of the hitherto slumbering spirit of patriotism, and the deepening in him of an all-controlling spirit of piety.

That patriotism, or love of country, had to do with Moses' espousal of the Hebrew cause is expressly stated by the author of Exodus, and by Stephen in his defence before the Sanhedrim. Nor is this surprising. Next to religion it is doubtful if a stronger or holier impulse can inspire the human bosom. It may even be questioned if patriotism be not included in any right conception of religion. The challenge of Sir Walter Scott may not be able to be answered in the negative—

“Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land?”

—but certainly in every right-feeling bosom there lurks an inextinguishable spark of patriotic fire. And never perhaps was there a people in whom that slumbering spirit broke forth more conspicuously and splendidly than it did in Israel. Few countries so small can boast of a roll of heroes so large—Joshua and Caleb, Gideon and Barak, Samson and Jephthah, David and Elijah, Ezra and Nehemiah, Zerubbabel and the second Joshua, Judas Maccabeus and his associates. Yea, so charged were the people with this hidden fire that it flamed up within the bosoms of their women, transforming for the time being their wives, sisters, and daughters that were made for love and the gentle ministries of home into prophetesses and poets, whose winged words kindled the souls of their husbands and sons, brothers and lovers, into martial ardour; and not infrequently also made of these, generals and com-

¹ *Antiq.* ii. 11, 1.