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UNDER THE
PATRONAGE OF HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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&c. &c. &c.

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY SERMON,

BY THE

REV. HUGH STOWELL, M.A.

(Of Manchester.)

PREACHED AT CHRIST CHURCH, NEWGATE STREET, ON WEDNESDAY EVENING,
MAY 7, 1845.

"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity; not willingly, but by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."—Romans viii. 19—22.

WE are told, that in those countries where the night lasts for many months successively, the inhabitants have a custom, when they conclude that the day-spring is at hand, to climb the loftiest mountains, taking with them instruments of music, and on the mountain tops they wait and watch with eager eye the first streak of returning day. That first streak is the signal for a burst of gladness and melody, and they welcome the day-spring with acclamations and songs of triumph. Such was the attitude of those who "waited for the consolation of Israel;" before the Son of God was "manifested in the flesh." They were then with earnest eye looking for the coming of Him

that should redeem them. And such ought to be the attitude of soul maintained by those, who look for Christ's second coming "without sin unto salvation." Such was the attitude of the spirits of the faithful in apostolic times; and such, thank God, is increasingly the attitude of the spirits of the faithful in these later days. The hope of the Christian is not death, but life; not dissolution, but renovation; not to be "unclothed, but to be clothed upon with his house, which is from heaven."

Our scriptural Church teaches her faithful children, over the grave where the righteous are laid, thus to pray:—"That it may please Thee, O God,