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"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—PS. 137: 5.

### SERMON,

PREACHED BY THE REV. JAMES KIDD, A. M., IN SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH, RICHMOND, N. B., 10TH MARCH, 1869,—on the subject of the Rev. John Goodwill's intended mission to the South Sea Islands.

"Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."—PSALM LXXIV. 20.

THIS petition of the Psalmist made to God has respect to heathen lands, and the saving change which he so earnestly desires to be effected in them, through the effectual working of the Holy Spirit, whereby He is able to subdue even all things unto Himself.

A subject is here spoken of, in which the mind of the true christian is ever interested:—this petition is the frequent breathing of his soul—the burden of many of his prayers—the ever-anxious concern of his heart. "Heavenly Father, Let Thy Kingdom come—Let Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in Heaven," are words put into our mouth by the Saviour himself, and every true christian knows well the meaning of the same.

Blessed be God, for His having given us the Gospel, so that we have this heavenly light of truth to be a lamp to our paths—a bright and true light to guide our feet in the ways of holiness—to lead us in the way everlasting.

But, contrasting our blessed and most enviable condition with the light of the glorious Gospel in our midst, and shining brightly around us—contrasting this with the benighted condition of the poor heathen, yet our brother man—while we have just reason to pour out our hearts in gratitude to God, no less will we see the propriety and the absolute need of rendering assistance, by every means in our power, to his most alject and miserable condition, and be ever endeavouring, with God's implored help, to alleviate and change it to the better—for this is the true spirit of christianity. This was the work in which Jesus Christ Himself in Person engaged in—this was the work in which His apostles, and disciples, and many of the holy men of old engaged in,—and this was their crown of rejoicing, to see converts gained to the Cross of Christ,—to see brands plucked from the burning,—to see the darkness of error giving way be'ore the light of truth. This battle has been raging long in the world, nor is it finished yet:—much has still to be done, before the man of sin be subdued and crushed—before the Divine ensign of the Gospel shall triumphantly wave from the rising to the setting of the sun. "Have respect, then, O God, unto the covenant," may each of us exclaim, from the innermost recesses of our heart, "for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."