

larging them, and removing every obstruction that might hurt his foot, or hinder his speed. No hillock was left, no river was allowed over which there was not a bridge, and the road was at least two and thirty cubits broad. At every turn there were posts erected bearing the words *Refuge, Refuge*, to guide the unhappy man in his flight.

When once settled in the city of *Refuge*, the manslayer had a convenient habitation assigned him gratuitously, and the citizens were to teach him some trade whereby he might support himself. At the death of the high priest they were restored to their liberty and property. And if the slayer died in the city of *refuge* before he was released, his bones were delivered to his relatives after the death of the high priest to be buried in the sepulchre of his fathers.

Now, as these cities of *refuge* among the Jews are in some respects illustrative of Christ as the sinner's *refuge*, and may lead the mind of our readers to think of Him, we shall order our observations with this view.

SIX CITIES AND ONE CHRIST.

There were six cities of *refuge*, and these were placed at such convenient distances that any of the children of Israel who were so unfortunate as to stain their hand in their brother's blood, could reach the place of *refuge* within twelve or fourteen hours. It was a great advantage that they could find a place to shield them so nigh. But though there was need for six cities, there is no need for more than one Christ. He is nigh to all that call upon Him. He is the sinner's *refuge*, and wherever the sinner may be, whether at the north or the South, the east, or the west, whether on the summit of a mountain, or in the deepest hollows of the earth, he can find in Christ a ready *refuge*.

THE AVENGER.

Under the Jewish Economy the nearest of kin was the recognized avenger of his relative's blood. He as avenger was at liberty to slay the manslayer if he found him outside of the city of *refuge*, and if after inquiry by the magistrates it was found that his relative was slain, not by accident, but after deliberation, then the murderer was handed over to the avenger of blood, who was required on no consid-

eration to spare him. Those who were injured had the right to avenge the injury, if they could find their victim outside of the boundaries of the city of *refuge*. Now, this avenger of blood is but an emblem of the sinner's avenger, the law of God.—Sinners have broken that law times and ways without number, and are subject to its curse, for "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law to do them."—This law is at their heels, thirsting for vengeance, demanding satisfaction, and will not leave off pursuing the sinner till it gets him within its power, or he escapes into the sinner's *refuge*. Reader! reader!—Are you still out of Christ? Think, oh, think of your danger. You have trampled on God's law, and God's law is after you to trample you. It is pursuing you constantly. It is getting closer and closer unto you, and if death overtakes you, and you out of Christ, this law will have you. It will make its demand against you at the bar of God. The justice of its claim will be considered, and if it be found to be unsettled, you will be handed over to its avenging power. Sinner think of this—God's law is pursuing you. Flee, therefore, to Christ Jesus as a *refuge* in whom you will be forever safe.

REFUGE, REFUGE.

In order that the fugitive might have all possible advantage in his flight, it was the business of the Sanhedrim to make the roads that led to the cities of *refuge* convenient, by enlarging them, and removing every obstruction that might hurt his foot or hinder his speed. No hillock was left. No river was left over which there was not a bridge. At every turn there were posts erected bearing the words, *Refuge, Refuge*, to guide the unhappy man in his flight.—Now, we cannot help meditating with pleasure on this provision for the unfortunate manslayer who, either through accident or carelessness, bereft his fellow of his life. These cities of *refuge* were not far away, and he may have been well acquainted with the way, yet, lest he should be confused and perplexed, and in danger of mistaking the place of safety, the boards by the way on which were printed *REFUGE*, were sure to keep him right. Now, it was important for them that they were rightly directed, for had they run to any of the other