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"IF I FORGOT THEE, O JERUSALEM I LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—Ps. 137, v. 5.

### Sermon,

By Rev. John Logan, M. R. S.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."—1 Cor. xv. 55, 57.

The Messiah is foretold in ancient prophecy, as a magnificent Conqueror. His victories were celebrated, and His triumphs were sung, long before the time of His appearance to Israel. "Who is this," saith the prophet Isaiah, pointing him out to the Old Testament Church, "Who is this that cometh from Edom; with dyed garments from Bozrah? This that is glorious in His apparel, travelling in the greatness of His strength?" "I have set my King upon the holy hill of Zion. I shall give Him the heathen for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession." As a Conqueror, he had to destroy the works of the great enemy of mankind; and to overcome death, the king of terrors.

The method of accomplishing this victory was as surprising as the love which gave it birth. "Forasmuch as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through His own death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver them, who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Accordingly, His passion on the cross, which you have this day commemorated, was the very victory which He obtained. The

hour in which He suffered, was also the hour in which He overcame. Then He bruised the head of the old serpent, who had seduced our first parents to rebel against their Maker; then He disarmed the king of terrors, who had dominion over the nations; then triumphing over the legions of hell, and the powers of darkness, He made a show of them openly. Not for Himself, but for us did He conquer. The Captain of our salvation fought, that we might overcome. He obtained the victory, that we may join in the triumphal song, as we now do, when we repeat the words of the Apostle: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

It is the glory of the Christian religion, that it abounds with consolations under all the evils of life; nor is its benign influence confined to the course of life; but even extends to death itself. It delivers us from the agony of the last hour; sets us free from the fears which then perplex the timid; from the horrors which haunt the offender, though penitent; and from all the darkness which involves our mortal state. So complete is the victory we obtain, that Jesus Christ is said in Scripture to have abolished death.

The evils in death from which Jesus Christ sets us free, are the following:—in the *First* place, the doubts and fears that are apt to perplex the mind, from the uncertainty in which a future state is involved. *Secondly*. The apprehensions of wrath and forebodings of punishments, proceeding from the consciousness of sin. *Thirdly*. The fears that arise