

MEDITATION FOR THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION.

(From "Short Meditations," by Rev. F. F. Hook, D.D.)

How infinitely merciful, loving and humble is our blessed Lord! He took our nature upon Him, He became perfect man, but He nevertheless went through all the penalties which the sinfulness of our flesh demands of us...

His name was called Jesus—a name above every name; God in old times was known by names of power, of nature, of majesty; but His name of mercy was reserved till now, when God purposed to pour out the whole treasure of His mercy by the ministry and mediation of His Son.

While we are following a friend to his grave, it is obvious to reflect, that his day of trial is at an end, that the time allotted him for his probation is over, and his condition fixed for eternity.

That Thy holy hands should be pierced; forgive thereby whatever I have done amiss by unlawful touch or illicit operation.

That Thy precious side should be opened; forgive thereby whatever I have offended by lawless thoughts in the ardour of passion.

That Thy blessed feet should be riven; forgive thereby whatever I have done by feet swift to evil.

DESIGN OF THE INCARNATION.

(From Spencer's Christian Instruction.)

"As respects the purpose or object of the incarnation of the Son of God," the same Holy Scriptures which declare the fact, also make known the intent. The Lord Jesus came into the world with a special object in view, viz. "to save sinners."

While we rejoice in the blessed privilege of assembling together to praise God the Father for the incarnation of His only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, let us remember who He is, and for what purpose He came: let us moderate our joy, or rather take heed that it be such a joy as, while it leads us to cling to Him as one who was man, may make us continually and thankfully worship and adore Him as God our Saviour.

THE OLD YEAR A DEPARTED FRIEND.

(From a Sermon by Bishop Horne.)

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That Thy whole body should be distended; forgive thereby whatever iniquity I have committed by the intervention of all my members.

When we say that we have lost a friend, we mean only that, that we have lost for a time. He is not finally perished; we shall see him again; and therefore it behoves us to consider what our sensations will be at the sight of him; which must always depend on our usage of him during his life.

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DOVER.

(From Sharpe's Magazine.)

We all know that "it is but a step from Dover to Calais," though, if all we hear be true, that "step" is sometimes a doleful and weary one; sufficiently so to call up pathetic imaginings in the "sea-sick" mind, of the delights of dusty high roads, and even of those lines

"Where all antipathies to comfort dwell," the railroads. Yet, if ancient records speak sooth, our ancestors might (had they invented steam) have travelled by railway from London to Paris, if some untoward convulsion in ancient days had not ruthlessly riven our little island from its parent earth; or if the perpetual contests of Neptune's angry hosts of the north and southern oceans had, not by slower degrees, but with equally certain result, worn away the obstacle which opposed their meeting.

For there is an old tradition,—one, too, which has not lacked the support of the learned,—that our little island, which rises so proudly from her surrounding waves,—which towers so independently from the bosom of the hoary deep,—and which boasts so loftily of her Queenship over the whole earth, was once in truth and reality only an insignificant corner of the continent of Europe; and consequently, that "Master John Bull," of independent fame, was, not metaphorically, but literally, a born brother of "Mousser."

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THE CASTLE OF DOVER.

(From Sharpe's Magazine.)

fully aware of the natural capabilities of the place, that they early enlarged, extended, altered, and adapted as a Roman station, the British fortification which they found there, and in which, tradition says, Arrivagus the British chief ennobled himself when he refused to pay tribute to Cæsar.

In the second century, the far famed Lucius, a Christian Briton of the highest rank, built a church within the fortress on the cliff. It became desecrated, and was reconsecrated by St. Augustine.

From its lofty and commanding position, Dover has ever been considered a place of vast importance, and has always been a noted place of defence.

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A JEWISH TALE.

(From Sharpe's Magazine.)

LIBERALITY GROWN UPON MEDICINE, NOT TO BE CONSIDERED BY ANY OF US AS A NEW INVENTION, BUT AS AN OLD ONE.

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cently; and was, notwithstanding his poverty, cheerful and contented. The year passed on. One evening he was sitting at the door of his miserable hut, so near to the labour of the day, he perceived the shadow of a coming at a distance.

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