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If I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning."---Psalm 137, v.5.

Sermon.

BY

The Rev. John McMillan, B. D.,
OF MUSQUODOBOIT.

"Christ in you, the hope of glory."—Col. I, 27.

Hope is described as being "a complex emotion, made up of a *desire* for an object, and an *expectation* of obtaining it." In every man there is a soul of vast and boundless desires. No man can truthfully say:—"I am just what I want to be,—I have all I want to have,—I desire nothing more." Saint and sinner alike hunger and thirst after something they have not yet attained unto. This inherent craving after something as yet unpossessed,—this incessant cry of "Give, Give" distinguishes man from the lower animals, and points him out as a being destined to live forever. That word of mighty meaning, "Immortality," is clearly stamped on man's soul by the hand of omnipotence.

The desires of his soul the sinner seek to gratify by earthly things. To satisfy his inward thirsting, he drinks of the wells of worldly pleasure. The Christian, however, has found out that "all on earth is shadow,"—temporary, unsatisfactory, and unsatisfying; and, therefore, to gratify the mysterious craving within him, he looks beyond earth, and looks to the things above. Feeling that complete rest and satisfaction can be obtained only in heaven, he longs for its glory. Knowing that God alone can satisfy the soul, his language is: "As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the

living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

In order, however, that the Christian may have present peace, he must have more than a strong *desire* to get to heaven and near to God. It would be nothing short of a hell within the christian to have eager longing desires after the glory of heaven, if, at the same time, he had no sure and well-grounded expectation of obtaining it. Nothing could be conceived more painful to the soul of man than that it should be awakened to a sense of all the glory of heaven and led to desire ardently the perfection of the glorified throng above, without possessing, at the same time, some expectation that it would attain unto it. How can we describe the misery of a soul in such a case? Think of the imprisoned eagle, longing to soar away into the blue vault of heaven, gnawing fiercely at the iron bars of its cage! Think of the misery of the man whose ambitious soul intensely desires some high position in the state, but sees that the way to it is forever closed against him! Think of the misery of the ship-wrecked mariner, who, as he struggles in the boiling waters to get to the shore, sees wife and family and friends standing with outstretched hands, weeping and crying, on a rock not far from him! O how he longs to be with them, and to clasp them to his bosom! But as he struggles with the boisterous waves and the hidden rocks, his strength fails, and with the awful feeling that he cannot reach the loved ones crying for him, he gives up.—he sinks! O what agony fills his soul as all expectation to see his happy home again dies away from it! Or, think of the sinner drawing near to