

The Home Study Quarterly

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Then and Now

When a child is found begging on the streets of Munich, and is taken care of at the public expense, before he is washed clean and clothed in the new garb provided for him, he is photographed in his ragged garments precisely as he is found. On the completion of his education, the photograph is given to him, that he may see the wide gulf between his present and former condition. His feeling is naturally one of intense gratitude for the kindness which has rescued and transformed him.

There is no other deliverance so wonderful as that which saves from the ruin and degradation of sin. Jesus found men, who were made in the image of God, wandering like beggars in the world, forgetful or ignorant of their true place and rightful privileges as children of the heavenly King. At the infinite cost of His own life, He restored them to the lofty position from which they had fallen, enriching them with priceless blessings now, and making them heirs of the life that shall never end.

The Return of the Conqueror

By Rev. Andrew Robertson, D.D.

It is in this sense the church of all ages has interpreted the Twenty-fourth Psalm (Ps. Sel. 16, Book of Praise), which is the Supplemental Hymn for the present Quarter. The gates which are challenged are the gates of heaven. After His victorious conflict with sin and death and "him that had the power of death," the conquering Christ returns to the gates of the city which He left on His great adventure, and summons them to open and ratify the triumph He has won. This is the song of the Ascension. The sanctified

imagination of good men has penetrated "the cloud which received Him out of their sight". They have pictured the return of the Conqueror. "Great David's greater Son" comes again, leading "captive captivity" and "bringing many sons to glory". "Lift up your heads"—higher than they ever have been lifted before. For He comes with "laureled renown", which adds even to the glory of "the city of the great King".

But there are other gates the Conqueror challenges. If all stories be true, this song was written by David to celebrate the return of the ark of God to the sanctuary within the walls of Jerusalem. That gate also is challenged,—the gate of the sanctuary. Is not the King sometimes left on the wrong side of the church doors? It was outside the gates of a certain church He cried in His own great way, "Behold, I stand at the door." The scriptures of both Old and New Testaments unite in warning us that He is not in the church, if the gates are not opened for His entrance. "Lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."

Still other gates. The Conqueror is to-day uttering His challenge before the gates of the world. He is declaring His name once again in the power of ancient times. "Who is this King? The Lord of Hosts"—that is His name. Yet in spite of its greatness, it "faded into dark silence—the hosts ceased to fight—and the empire of Israel fell to pieces." You are living at a time when the hosts of the new Israel gather to the fray—the silence is broken—and the great empire of Jesus Christ thrills with new ambitions and new zeal. All over the world the gates of heathendom are being challenged as never before. The Conqueror leads, and triumph is sure.