

*we render the CALVES of our lips."* To an English ear there is something grating in the expression "*the CALVES of OUR LIPS,*"—and without a knowledge of Jewish peculiarities, we shall not understand it. But when we remember that *calves* were among the best of the sacrifices which were offered up to God, we gain at once a key to the explanation, and a view of the beauty of the figure. The passage, in our language, means simply this; "So will we render the best sacrifice of praise from our lips."

*Thirdly.* The dress and manners of the ancients were exceedingly different from ours. Their loose and flowing raiment formed a perfect contrast to the tight inelegant garb of our own time and country. A knowledge of this is necessary to explain many passages of Scripture. The girding-up of the loins is frequently mentioned in places which allude either to diligence in labour, or to swiftness in running the appointed course. Now it is obvious, that a long, loose robe, would be very inconvenient to servants who required to have their hands much at liberty, and to be able to stoop with ease in the performance of their work; and also to those who had to move quickly, and required that their steps should not be impeded, nor their feet entangled by the length of their garments. To remedy this, they always had a girdle, by means of which, when they had gathered up the skirts of their garment, they fastened it round the loins. To one who knew that he could neither work nor run without having recourse to this measure, how forcible would be such passages as these—*Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, and ye yourselves like unto men who wait for their Lord. Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope unto the end, &c.*