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ISRAEL'S STONE OF REMEMBRANCE.

"The Lord hath done great things for us."

The history of the Jews is not the history of an ordinary people. Whenever we look into it, we immediately come in contact with something altogether different from the events and actors of ordinary history. We trace springs of action, and a character of events, which we meet with in no other annals. A miraculous agency attends the people from their first beginnings down through all the steps of their subsequent progress. God is at once the founder, the conductor, the consolidator of their nation. Let us take a brief review of the more remarkable events in the history of the Jewish nation, distinguishing them as a peculiar people, and marking out God's hand as so visibly present in the midst of them.

Let us remark in the first place how they grew in Egypt—so that from a very small nation, or rather a very few people, they came to excite the fears even of the Pharaohs themselves. How miraculously were they preserved and multiplied even amid the cruellest oppression, amid all that was calculated to repress their growth, and cut off their very existence! The hardest laws of Pharaoh had no effect upon them but to make them increase the more. The more their task-masters afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. Years of oppression rolled over; and at length God intended to deliver them; and did he not choose the very way of doing so most calculated to exhibit his power, and magnify his name? We need not recount the ten plagues of Egypt, each rising above the other, if possible, in miraculous

grandeur, and impressive effect. We need not especially remind the reader of the darkness which covered the land for three days, a darkness that might be felt; and last of all, and most terrible of all, that dreadful dispensation when the destroying angel smote all the first born, the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham. These were indeed signs and wonders sufficiently calculated to impress the hearts of all who heard of them—to inspire the people of God, on the one hand, with confidence in his power, and fill his enemies, on the other, with the terror of his name. But these were only preparatory to what was to follow, a dark and solemn foreground to a long line of bright and glorious miracle. Let us recall what took place at the Red sea—what great things God did there for Israel. Pharaoh said: "I will pursue, I will overtake". He was resolved to recover his lost prey, to bring back the people whom he had suffered to escape out of bondage, and subject them again to his cruel yoke. For this purpose he had summoned his chief captains and his warriors, his chariots and his horsemen—he had put himself at the head of the formidable army, and set out in pursuit. He was not wrong in his calculations of the comparative speed of his own march, and that of the Israelites. "I will overtake", said he; and he had just come up upon the flying host, where it seemed impossible they should escape his grasp.—Hemmed in on every side by impassable mountains, the Red sea was before them! O! how would he exult when he saw their camp lining the margin of that water which it would never suggest itself to his infidel heart that they could pass.—Would he not think: "I have overtak-