

brief company He tasted the joy of intelligent sympathy. "They spake of His exodus which He was about to accomplish" at Jerusalem. They associated the work of the cross, to which He was drawing nigh, with the exodus from Egypt. That exodus was the outstanding event of Jewish history. No other event had ever bulked so largely in the imagination and memory of the nation. It marked the birthday of Jewish national life. Until the exodus the Israelites were political nobodies. For generations they were but a wandering tribe of herdmen, and after that, for centuries, a race of slaves. But the exodus gave them a new consciousness and a new dignity before the world. It generated in them the ennobling sense of nationhood; it vitalised them with a new and splendid hope. From the day of the exodus they felt themselves to be a people with a bright and beckoning future. The spirit of prophecy was stirred. No sooner had the waters of the Red Sea closed upon their oppressors than Moses and the children of Israel sang a song unto the Lord, a song that voiced their new-born aspirations and convictions. Dreams of conquest and of Empire find expression in that song. "Thou in Thy mercy hast led forth the