

ARM OF THE LORD.

My Saviour is the *Arm of the Lord*. Under this title Isaiah invoked the long-tarrying Messiah: "Awake, awake, put on strength, O Arm of the Lord! Awake as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that cut Rahab and wounded the dragon? Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?" Now, these were the redeemed of the Lord. The Arm of the Lord, therefore, which made their way for them, is synonymous with Jehovah, the Redeemer of his people, the Saviour of my soul.

It hath been justly observed, that "God speaks in our way, but acts according to his own." By his arm, then, we are to understand the extent of his power; as his stretched-out arm, or infinite might, reaches to all things; by his *hand*, the most minute, exact, and perfect workings of that power, which descends to the arrangement of the least of his dispensations equally with the greatest, at once kindling the glimmer of the glow-worm, and the blaze of ten thousand suns, and sustaining alike the movements of seraphs and of babes; "and by his right hand, the brightest display of his omnipotence and majesty." If the finger of God, or the least exertion of his strength, could create the heavens, who can prescribe the bounds to the reach of his arms, or what is impossible to the strength of his divine *right hand*? But these terms do not merely imply the omnipotence of Jehovah; they frequently signify *Jehovah* himself; so that I am fully justified in declaring that the "Arm of the Lord is my Saviour."

Thus Moses, in his book of divine remembrance, told Israel well to remember the mighty hand, and stretched-out Arm, whereby the Lord their God brought them out of Egypt?—an office which I have seen to have been discharged by the Angel of the Lord, the Saviour of the world. For, says the Psalmist, "thou hast with thine Arm redeemed thy people," and I well know by whom alone this was or could be effected. Of whom, again, does Isaiah speak, in that remarkable portion of his prophecies, which he seems to have written as on Mount Calvary, in view of the bleed-

ing cross? Of whom can he speak but of my Saviour, when, with impassioned energy and sorrow, he asks, "To whom is the Arm of the Lord revealed?" He can mean no other than the divine and glorious personage who "was wounded for our transgressions, who poured out his soul unto death, who was stricken for the transgression of his people." The same prophet tells us, "that the Lord hath sworn by his *right hand*, and by the *arm* of his *strength*," in confirmation of his promises to his people. But "as he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself;" and therefore we see all the engagements of God established in Christ.

"Not only the power and Godhead of Christ are revealed under the denomination of Jehovah's hand, but also the Mediation of Christ between Jehovah and his people. A hand, or arm, is the instrument or mean of communication; and this Christ is to his people: he reaches out and takes from the divine fullness, and deals of it unto every one of them, according to his respective need." What other arm could raise itself so high or let itself down so low?

On this Arm of the Lord, it is at once my privilege and my duty to lean. On an arm of flesh I dare not rest, for God has most solemnly anathematized such confidence. For "thus saith the Lord, Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." On him I may repose in full assurance that he will never fail me. The Church in her pilgrimage state is thus beautifully described, in the question of an admiring spectator: "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?" Numerous, very numerous, are the occasions on which I have need of such an omnipotent support. In them all I am certified of obtaining it. Does sickness lay me low, and press my aching body on the couch of disease and pain? Well, I hear this encouraging oracle from heaven: "There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Does "the strong man armed" assail me? My Saviour is stronger than he, and, having already overcome him