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ANNIVERSARY SERMON

ON BEHALF OF THE UPPER CANADA BIBLE SOCIETY.

*Preached by the Rev. JOHN HALL, D.D., of New York, in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, on Tuesday evening, 8th May, 1888.*

The service was opened by the singing of the hymn,

Onward, Christian soldiers,

after which the Rev. Samuel Lyle, of Hamilton, led in prayer, and read for the Scripture lesson the fourth chapter of Zechariah.

After the singing of the hymn,

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun,

the Rev. Dr. John Hall, of New York, was introduced, and delivered the annual sermon of the Society as follows:—

The portion of God's Word, dear friends, to which your attention is now to be called, is in the chapter which has been read already in your hearing, in the book of the Prophet Zechariah, fourth chapter, sixth and seventh verses, "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying—This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it."

As you know, dear brethren, the prophets Haggai and Zechariah were associated with Ezra in the work that he had in hand. He was labouring to reconstruct the temple and to set up again the worship of Jehovah among the people. It was a very difficult work, and there were many hindrances to its success, but you and I may be assured of this, that when God calls us to do any work for Him, He will provide for us the aid and encouragement of which we have need, and notably was this the case with these two eminent prophets. There were two leading officials in connection with the people at this time—Zerubbabel, who had to do with the civil affairs, and Joshua, the