

# THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY.

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## SERMONIC.

### JOHN THE BAPTIST.

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*And this is the record of John, etc.—John  
i: 19-34.*

LAST SUNDAY we spoke of the darkest hours in the life of a servant of God as exemplified in the man brought before us by the Gospel of the day. It was John the Baptist in prison, enveloped, not externally only in the gloom of his cell, but inwardly also, in the dark clouds of troubled thoughts, of anxious care for the kingdom of God, of painful doubt regarding the Messianic mission of Him on whom he had set all his hopes.

How different are the outward circumstances and inner disposition in which on this occasion we find this remarkable man of God. Here he stands in the height of his power, amid the fire of his activity; in his soul burns the bright flame of inspired zeal for the cause of his Lord; from his mouth streams the joyous testimony to Him of whom the Spirit had revealed to him: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh

\*Translated from the German by Rev. Thos. Macadam, Strathroy, Canada.

[Many of the full sermons and condensations published in this MONTHLY are printed from the authors' manuscripts; others are specially reported for this publication. Great care is taken to make these reports correct. The condensations are carefully made under our editorial supervision. All the sermons of the "International Sunday-School Service" are written expressly for THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY.—Ed.]

away the sin of the world!" On his brow glows the confident assurance: The kingdom of God is at hand; after me comes One mightier than I, who will gloriously complete, as Lord and Master, what I only prepare the way for, as His servant and forerunner.

These are the high, exultant hours of a servant of God, granted him in the midst of the trouble and toil of his calling, to recompense him for many a dreary hour of external opposition and inner conflict. These are the bright spots and lofty summits of life, as they are now and again vouchsafed, even today, to a servant of God, to a handmaid of the Lord, even if the place whereon we stand be far humbler, the sphere in which we act far narrower, and the trust over which we watch far smaller than that of this great forerunner of the Lord.

Let the Baptist then, whom we lately contemplated in his dark cell, be today in his blessed field of labor a stimulating example while we learn of him:

WHAT ARE THE JOYOUS HOURS IN THE LIFE  
OF A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD?

They are:

1. When he can testify of Him of whom his heart is full.