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"I will forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning."—Ps. 137, v. 3.

SERMON,

By the Rev. John Sprott, Musquodoboit.

"Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces."—PSALM CXXII. 7.

THE love of country or kindred is one of our earliest and strongest affections, and no change of circumstances can break the ties which unite us to our dear native land. We think of its hills and vallies, its temples and churches, and the scenes of early years. In foreign lands, we look back to it with a feeling of tenderness and veneration as the birth-place of heroes and saints. The love of country was a virtue of the highest class among the Greeks and Romans, and a Jew never mentions Zion or Jerusalem but withapture and gladness. King David had an ardent love for his country; his mind catches fire when he speaks of the vine-covered mountains and gay regions of Palestine. It had many objects of attraction: it was the glory of all lands. In the beautiful language of the prophet—"The mountains dropped down sweet wine, and the hills flowed with milk; a land of wheat and barley; a land of fig trees, olive oil and honey." The long resolutions have blasted its vines and thinned the fig trees, but the bee still murmurs on the fragrant cliffs of Carmel, and the Cedars of Lebanon have not all been destroyed. Sharon has not lost its roses, nor the hills of Sion their lilies. The attachment of King David to the City of Jerusalem was very strong. He alluded to her in many of his psalms, and in some of them she constitutes the principal theme. He spared neither time nor expense in beautifying the city. But we

do the memory of the Psalmist an injury if we suppose that his affection for her arose from the splendour of her buildings or her busy population. It was rather because that within her walls were the memorials of the Divine regard, the symbols of the Divine presence, and because the Jews three times in the year assembled, from Dan to Beersheba, to worship the Almighty. My brethren, do you admire the piety, the patriotism and public spirit of the Psalmist? You must not content yourself with paying to him the tribute of admiration; you must catch a portion of the same spirit, and do likewise. You must substitute the Christian Church for Jerusalem, and labour to promote the welfare of Zion where you live—the welfare of our trans-atlantic Zion. Now this should be done by ministers, elders, communicants, and heads of families, and by all who attend Divine service.

I. The prosperity of the Church must greatly depend on the ability and fidelity of her *Ministers*. The pulpit, under the blessing of God, has been a successful engine for the conversion of sinners and the edification of saints. We must take the lead and redouble our exertions in every branch of our sacred duty, and preach the Gospel in season and out of season. We must habitually and abundantly bring forward the great doctrines of Redemption and Grace. The Apostles, who are the best patterns and examples, dwell on the doctrines of Christ and him crucified. We must dwell much on the love of Christ, and handle every subsequent so as to keep Christ continually in view. It was this that made the preaching of Rowland