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If I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning."---Psalm 137, v.5.

## Testimony Concerning Christ.

### A Sermon

Preached on Sunday evening, at Crown Court Chapel, Convent Garden, by the  
**REV. JOHN CUMMING, D. D.**

"And the night following the Lord stood by him and said 'Be of good cheer, Paul, for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.'"—Acts xxiii. 11.

We see from the words which I have read, that the great Head of the Church is not an unconcerned spectator of the sufferings and the wrongs inflicted on His own people.—Throughout the whole of Paul's apostolical labours, his life was one stormy and tempestuous career, and the only thing that sustained him was the unquenchable ray of sunshine that shone down from the sanctuary above into the inmost recesses of the heart. We have a picture of his sufferings very graphically sketched by himself in 2 Cor. xi. "In labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft: of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one: thrice was I beaten with rods: once was I stoned: thrice I suffered shipwreck: a night and a day I have been in the deep: in journeyings often: in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." Certainly

this part of the Apostolic succession has not fallen upon preachers in modern times. The modern preacher has a very different sphere assigned to him in the good providence of God. Protected (as Paul scarcely was) by the law of the land, his voice having an echo in the hearts and consciences of the people, he enjoys an opportunity of preaching and teaching, and of leaving an impression, where he has taught, which was not enjoyed by the Apostles of ancient times. Therefore of all men the modern preacher should speak with power, speaking as he does of interests deep as hell, and high as heaven, touching the conscience with those electric truths that never fail to strike wherever they are spoken, having time for study, and having the labours and experience of eighteen centuries for his guidance. The life of the Apostle Paul, as we have seen, lay in the midst of all sorts of persecution. The modern Christian teacher or preacher has no persecution of this sort, nor indeed of any sort in fulfilling the functions committed to him; but we know, from this passage, the various extremities to which Paul was driven in finding opportunities for speaking. But in the silence of the night, in the darkness of the cell, Paul hears a word that strengthens his faith, encourages his heart, elevates his hopes, and gives him a consolation that nothing in the world besides could give—"Be of good cheer, Paul, for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou also bear witness at Rome."—This angel who spoke to the Apostle was unquestionably the Lord Jesus Christ. He enters the castle, passes through the long and well-watched corridor, the wardens and goal-