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"IF I FORGET THEN, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CURNING."—Ps 137, a. 5.

SERMON,

By Rev. J. Bunting, D. D.

"And he marvelled because of their unbelief."
—Mark vi. 6.

WHEN He, by whom the world was made, condescended to dwell among men, and so was "in the world," the world "knew him not." "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." They "hid as it were their faces from him; he was despised, and they esteemed him not." And by none of our Lord's countrymen was that saying more fully verified, than by the Nazarenes. In Nazareth he appeared as an infant; at Nazareth he was brought up; they had the honor of seeing the first indications of his superior wisdom and piety. It was at Nazareth that "the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was with him." To Nazareth he returned, after his celebrated conversation with the doctors in the temple; and there he was subject to Mary, his real mother, and to Joseph, his reputed father; while he "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man." It was at Nazareth that he wrought in the occupation of a carpenter, till the time came for his commencing his public ministry. It was at Nazareth, in fine, that he did many of his most wonderful works. His brethren,—that is, his kinsmen,—all lived there; and this, together with other circumstances, would naturally beget in our Savior some particular attachment to a place with which he had been so long connected: it would be his wish, that the companions of his early life should be made partakers of the benefits of his religion.

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Accordingly we find, that at the commencement of his ministry he went to Nazareth; and entered into the synagogue, "*as his custom was*."—I wish parents to notice this, for their encouragement to train their children to early habits of piety;—as his custom was or had been, "on the sabbath day he stood up to read;" and there he delivered a discourse founded on a passage in Isaiah. At the first part of his discourse his countrymen were delighted, and "wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth." But when he began to make a proper application of his subject, as it became him to do, their anger was greatly roused; and but for an interference of his miraculous power, his life had paid the forfeit of his fidelity. They "rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he," perhaps rendering himself invisible, or them powerless, "passing through the midst of them, went his way." So ungrateful a reception might well have discouraged him or induced him to abandon them for ever, as persons who judged themselves, passed sentence on themselves, as unworthy of eternal life. But our Savior, rich in mercy, and slow to anger, has taught us to be "patient in tribulation," and to persevere in doing good, though in doing it we suffer only ill. Mark tells us, and we have reason to believe, from comparing other circumstances, that it was only a few months after, that "he came to his own country, and when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue." As on the former occasion, the people were at first struck with