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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."—Psalm 137, 4-5.

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

BY THE LATE NORMAN MACLEOD, D. D.

All right thoughts about religion begin with right thoughts about God; while true religion itself is to know Him truly. To say, then, that we know not God, is to say that we know not religion; for "this is life eternal, to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." Again, all true knowledge of ourselves as immortal and responsible beings, of our duties, of our temptations—the understanding, in short, of the problem of our existence, with our varied relations to persons and things, to time and to eternity—all is derived from our knowledge of God. This is the light which makes all things manifest. Without it, the light that is in us, whatever it be, is darkness. Blessed be God, that He has not left us to discover Him, but has revealed Himself to man; and that while He is ever doing so in ways manifold because He is a living God, and loves to hold intercourse with us in many a different language from within and from without, yet, blessed be His name for that brightest display of His glory "in the face" of Him who came from the bosom of the Father to reveal Him to us.

Now, there is no fact with which we are more familiar than that God is, and that His government is absolute over all persons and things, and is unchangeable for ever and ever. But, would that we could grasp this truth with heart, soul, and strength—that we did not so much possess it as a dead truth, which, with a thousand others, might be laid by uselessly in our minds, but that it possessed us with living power! How it would mould our whole being and give a meaning to all things! Let us but attach reality to the single fact that our own lives and eternal history, for weal or woe, as also that of all those we hold dear, and the destiny of every inhabitant of every world for ever, are absolutely at the disposal of one living Person. Think of it, ponder over it, till you see intensely its truth—that God, God alone, can do with you now and for ever whatever He pleases; that all creation which has sprung from His simple Will can no more question His right to govern nor resist His power to act as He chooses to act, than an infant can arrest the movements of a man with its uplifted arms. There is a mighty God before all beings and all worlds, a mighty God ruling over all beings and worlds, by Whom all are made, and through which He worketh out His purposes. For ever and ever