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"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—Ps 137, v. 5.

### SERMON.

*By Rev. James Sherman.*

"He that winneth souls is wise."—PROV. XI. 30.

BEHOLD, teachers, your work! It is to "win souls." Behold the encomium put upon that work! "He that winneth souls is wise." And this is an encomium, pronounced by lips which cannot err, and by one who never flatters.

You are some of the representatives of the schools of Britain, which contain within their number more than two millions of these souls. To you is entrusted their religious training, the formation of their character, their habits, and their hopes. Oh! how responsible—how tremendously responsible, is the position which some persons occupy! The eyes of the Church are directed to you, as instruments of pouring new blood into it, when it is exhausted—of planting young trees, from your nurseries, in the vineyard of the Church. The eyes of the Church are upon you, to bring about such a state of things, in the coming generation, as shall introduce the millenium, and make the earth once more God's paradise. And if you are faithful to your trust, God shall honor you with this exalted result—"He that winneth souls is wise."

The timid and the fearful may, therefore, be greatly encouraged in their work, by this statement; and I hope I may hereafter be able, in the course of this sermon, to show, that although they may not now see the wisdom or fruit of their exertions, God shall show both, by-and-by.

Brethren, the times indicate a remarkable fulfilment of that prophecy—"Many shall run  
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to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Science and literature never had so many patrons, as they have now; real religion never had so many friends as she has now, notwithstanding the declensions visible in some Churches, and in some individuals. Everything seems progressing, with remarkable rapidity; to a crisis or conclusion, of a remarkable character. And those are wise, in Scripture estimation, who aid this great progression as it is going forward.

He who helps others, by schemes and inventions, to grow wealthy, is reckoned wise in his generation; he who first made a locomotive engine, and brought railways to perfection, to accelerate our speed from one place or country to another, was thought wise in his generation; he who imparts learning to youth, to fit them for usefulness to man, and for holding important situations in the government, is justly honored and wise; he who heals disease, restores health, and prolongs life to individuals, is sought after, as one who is wise; and the individual who lives for the purpose of restoring that to a sorrowing sutor which fraud has taken away from him, is estimated by the man, when he puts his foot on, as he thought, his once forfeited estate, as one of the wisest men in the world for him.

Now all these things are united in your own characteristic. Your object and your labor, if you understand it aright, is to win the soul. You are to teach that soul how to grow rich; your invention is to be taxed, to accelerate it in its speed from earth to heaven; you are to instruct it in the great, wondrous, and almighty science of salvation; you