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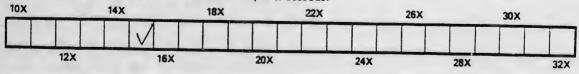
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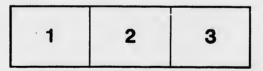
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DUKE OF WELLINGTON,

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A Luneral Sermon,

PREACHED ON SUNDAY, THE 21st OF NOVEMBER,

IN THE MORNING, AT

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELORA,

AND IN THE EVENING AT ST. GEORGE'S, GUELPH.

OF NIAGARA.

PRINTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHURCHWARDENS AND CONGREGATION OF ST. JOHN'S, ELORA.

> ELORA, C. W.: PRINTED AT THE "PACKWOODBMAN" OFFICE. 1852.

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"And when the children of Israel cried unto the Lotd, the Lord raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, Othniel, the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

"And the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war, and the Lord delivered Chushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia into his hand, and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.

"And the land had rest forty years.) And Othniel, the son of Kenaz, died."

WE profess, in general terms, to acknowledge God as the supreme disposer of all things, but, it is to be feared, very frequently fail to recognise him as such in the varied occurrences of life. We are too apt to fix our attention upon the instruments which he employs, and to overlook that almighty power which moves and guides them in accordance with his sovereign will and purposes.

Distinguished individals, from time to time, make their appearance, and take a prominent part in the affairs of the world, and we are dazzled by their eloquence in the senate, or by their success in the battle field. We speak of their brilliant talents, of their patriotism, of their learning, and of their bravery. Every voice is loud in eulogising the statesman, and a grateful country is ready almost to idolize the conqueror. But, alas I how often do we overlook the fact, that the objects of our esteem and reverence, are but the instruments which God has raised up for accomplishing his own purposes in the government of the world. It is quite right that we should admire genius, and honor bravery; but in doing so, we should

remember whence both are derived, and the purposes for which they have been conferred. The highest possible honor that we can pay the wise, the brave, and the good, is to recognise them as the chosen instruments of God, raised up for purposes of mercy towards us. The present occasion is one peculiarly suited for meditating upon God's providential government of the world, and of the human agency which he employs in that government.

We have been recently called upon to mourn over the loss of Britain's most distinguished son, the illustrious Wellington. During the past week, the mortal remains of that immortal general and statesman, have been consigned to their last resting place, in St. Paul's Cathedral. He has faithfully fulfilled the important duties assigned him by Divine Providence, and has descended to the tomb full of years and honors. In looking back upon his eventful career, while we reverence him, as an unrivalled example of the purest patriotism, and the most consummate bravery, let us also regard him as raised up of God, for conferring inestimable blessings upon our fatherland.

If we fail to discern the operation of a divine hand in the rise and fall of nations, it is that we forget the solemn declaration of God himself, that he putteth down one and setteth up another. In the history of the Israelites, as recorded in the books of the Old Testament, we have the divine government of the world depicted in the most striking colors and with the most perfect accuracy. We must always remember, that God is same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. The narrative, which we have in Holy Writ, of Jehovah's

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dealings with his chosen people, under the dispensation of the law, is also intended to shew that there is a like providential superintendence exercised under the Gospel.

I have, therefore, selected for our present consideration, a portion of Holy Scripture which gives a vivid description of the achievements of an individual. raised up of God, in order that he might effect the deliverance of Israel, at a most critical period of their history. There are so many points of resemblance between the history contained in our text, and the history of the great man whose loss we now deplore, that we must, on a careful comparison, be constrained to admit, the one as well as the other, to have been alike raised up of God, for the accomplishment of his purposes. Let us then, in the first place, direct our attention to the history of Othniel, and we shall see in his case a striking instance of human agency employed for the accomplishment of the divine purposes.

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We must bear in mind, that the Israelites were the chosen people of God, selected to become the keepers of his law, the guardians of his temple and worship, and, as such, to be. *nationally*, an instrument of mercy towards all mankind. Notwithstanding their imperfections, follies, and sins, or the punishments with which they were visited for those sins, they were the covenant people of God. In their history, we see, indeed, sin and punishment, as cause and effect, ever linked together. But we see also mercy triumph over judgment, and the Lord Jehovah to be gracious to his people, when they turn to him with humility and true repentance.

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David, in the Book of Psalms, addressing the Deity, has this striking expression, " The wicked are a sword of thine." From this passage we learn that the wicked are frequently employed as instruments of chastisement, by whose agency nations or individuals are punished for their rebellion against God. But when the wicked have thus, unconsciously, effected the Divine purposes as instruments of punishment towards others, they are themselves punished for their own wickednesses. When the People of God have drawn down upon themselves his displeasure, by their forgetfulness of him, or by their disobedience of his laws, he permits, for a time, the wicked to act as the instruments of his chastisement. But when the chastisement has had its desired effect in humbling them, and leading them to true repentance, an instrument of another description is raised up, by which the wicked are themselves punished, and the Lord's people effectually delivered. This we shall see to have been particularly the case in the history we are now about to consider.

Before we can perceive the full force of that brief but interesting narrative, contained in our text, we must, for a few moments, direct our attention to the peculiar circumstances of the Israelites when the events themselves occurred.

The children of Israel had been, at that time, for several years inhabitants of the land of Canaan, and were in possession of all its most valuable localities, and many of its principal cities. The Lord had enabled them to advance that far, but had not permitted them to gain entire possession of the country, nor to exterminate its aboriginal inhabitants. This remnant of the idolatrous Canaanites, was left to test the fidelity of Israel, that it might be seen whether they would obey the Lord theirGod. They remained faithful during the life of Joshua, and of those who, with him, had been witnesses of God's miraculous guidance of their fathers in the wilderness, and of the no less miraculous manner in which they had been put in possession of the promised land. But, when a new generation arose, they connected themselves by marriage with the idolatrous inhabitants, and were thus led into evil, and, consequently, drew down upon themselves the divine displeasure. As a punishment for their iniquities, the Lord permitted the king of Mesopotamia to make war upon them, and he having conquered them, they became his servants.

Their servitude being doubtless of the most rigorous kind, and lasting eight years, had effectually humbled them, and led them, in true repentance, to return to the Lord God of their fathers. The chastisement having thus effected its object, their prayers were heard, and a deliverer was raised up in the person of Othniel.

We are expressly told in our text, that Othniel was raised up of God, in answer to the prayers of his repenting children, in order that he might effect their deliverance. We are told also, in terms equally emphatic and clear, that he acted under the especial guidance of the spirit of the Lord, both as a general and a judge. When he went out to war, it was as an instrument in the hands of his divine Master. It was not by his own skill, or the power of his army, that the Mesopotamian hosts were conquered, but it was Jehovah himself who delivered them into his

hand. The Mesopotamians were themselves idolaters, but were permitted of God to punish Israel for its idolatry. Israel having been reclaimed by such intrumentality, were made in return the instruments of executing vengeance upon the Mesopotamians, who had been not only their conquerors, but, also, the enemies of their God. In this case, we have the equity of the divine government displayed in a most striking manner. On the one hand, we are shown the erring childred of a gracious Father, chastened in mercy, brought to repentance thereby, and again restored to favor: on the other, we have the blind idolaters chastened in judgment, and utterly cut off. In reading history, whether sacred or profane, if men would but read and reflect, they would see that such has ever been the case. God chastens his own children in mercy, for their present and everlasting good, but he chastens the wicked in his anger, and thereby brings them to nothing.

There was, doubtless, in Othniel a peculiar fitness for the high office to which he was divinely appointed. He was the son-in-law and nephew of that good man, Caleb, who, on so many occasions, had distinguished himself, as a faithful servant of the Lord God of Israel. We may reasonably suppose, that Othniel would have been influenced for good by the advice and example of so estimable an individual.

There is in the last verse of our text something strikingly expressive. We are there emphatically told, that after the conquest of the Mesopotamians by Othniel, "the land had rest forty years." Under his wise guidance, the Israelites enjoyed peace, prosperity, and happiness, during that long period.—

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The narrative then closes with the announcement, "And Othniel, the son of Kenaz, died." The sacred historian makes no comment—tells us nothing of the grief of his admiring countrymen—is silent as regards the pomp and pageantry of his funereal obsequies, those sacred rites by which, in all ages, the living have found a consolation in doing honor to the dead. Human nature, being then the same as now, doubtless so distinguished an individual would be consigned to the tomb with all due solemnity, amid the tears of mourning Israel. In all these particulars, the imagination is left full scope for its exercise, we being told no more than that, "Othniel, the son of Kenaz, died."

Having thus reviewed the remarkable events recorded in our text, we must at once perceive, that Othniel was an instrument in the hands of God, raised up for the especial purpose of freeing the Israelites from the thraldom of Mesopotamian servitude.

And is not the sovereign power of God exercised in the government of the world as much in our time as it was in the time of Othniel? Unquestionably so. The God of Providence, of nature, and of grace, is eternally the same. That Almighty Power which kept the heavenly bodies in their various courses when Othniel contended with the Mesopotamian hosts, is the same Almighty Power which now, after a lapse of three thousand years, keeps the celestial orbs in their appointed places, causing them to perform their various revolutions. With equal certainty, then, did that Almighty Power, which gave Othniel the victory on the plains of Judea, gave the vic-

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tory to Wellington on the plains of Waterloo. Both were alike instruments raised up of God, for the accomplishment of his own purposes. Whence, therefore, is it that we so generally fail to recognise the divine hand in his providential government of the world? It is, alas ! in this, as in every thing else, that we are naturally inclined to forget Him, in whom we live, and move, and have our being. We honor the creature more than the Creator, who is God over all, blessed for evermore. We short-sighted mortals look only at the human instrument, and perceive not that unseen influence, by which the Deity regulates the complex affairs of the universe. In thus overlooking the first canse, we act as irrationally as if we were to give credit to the operator, at the electric telegraph, for the effects produced through his instrumentality, when, in fact, they are produced by an uuseen power, which darts forth with lightning speed, as the real though mysterious agent.

In the Scriptures of unerring truth, we have numberless illustrations of God's providential government of the world, and learn therefrom, that he invariably acts by human instrumentality. We have the express and emphatic declaration of our text, that the deliverance of Israel was effected by the divine igency, and through the instrumentality of Othniel. On that head, there can be no mistake. I would, therefore, in conclusion, notice a few particulars in which the career of the illusrious Wellington, resembled that of Othniel, and thence infer, that he, *also*, was raised up of God, for the deliverance of our nation

The Duke of Wellington entered the army at the commencement of the first French revolution. This

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revolution was, indeed, but a natural consequence of the national profligacy. At that time, religion and morality were well nigh extinct, both in France and the adjoining states. The lack of piety in the priesthood, and the unscriptural ceremonies of an erring Church, had made the French people infidels, and sunk Spain, Portugal and Italy in the most abject su perstition. In the tragical events of what is aptly termed the Reign of Terror, we have a remarkable instance of French infidelity being the instrument of Napoleon was, himself, unquesits own punishment. tionably an instrument, raised up of God, for the chastisement of the other continental states. His conquest of kingdom after kingdom naturally caused much excitement and anxiety in Britain. Nor were those fears groundless. That restless and ambitious individual, elated with success, having erected the im. perial throne on the ruins of the Republic, announced his intention of invading England. But in this, though he knew it not, he was exceeding his commission, and thereby taking that fatal step which led to his own punishment.

As a nation, our beloved country had doubtless in many things provoked the divine displeasure, but still there was a vast amount of genuine piety among its people, Like Judea of old, our fatherland had its divine guardian, and its people were in covenant with God. When that pious monarch, George III., saw the approaching storm, he fled for refuge to the Lord God of Israel. In the National Cathedral, the King, attended by both Houses of Parliament, solemly offered up prayers, imploring the divine mercy, and *deliverance* from the *threatened* danger.

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Their supplications were heard. Nelson struck the first blow at the invader, and the immortal Wellington was the chosen instrument by whom his power was to be completely annihilated. Napoleon having accomplished the divine purpose, as an instrument of chastisement, was himself pursued from country to country by England's victorious general, till his usurped power received its death blow on the plains of Waterloo.

We may, perhaps, not inappropriately designate these two remarkable men, as Napoleon, the instrument of chastisement, and Wellington, the instrument of deliverance. In accordance with all the examples which Holy Scripture furnishes, the former was himself ultimately the *victim* of chastisement, and the latter full of years and honors, comes to the grave in peace.

The proud, ambitious, and infidel Bonaparte, having chastised the infidelity of the various nations, by raising himself to the imperial power, was thrown from his eminence, through the agency of Wellington, the Christian general of Christian England. He who had been the scourge and terror of every nation on the continent of Europe, when meditating an invasion of Albion's sea-girt isle, was cut short at Waterloo by her victorious armies.

Instead of entering Britain as a conqueror, he entered, as a prisoner, one of her rocky islands in the South Atlantic, and there closed a life of turmoil in well merited captivity. How great the contrast between him and that illustrious man whose loss we now deplore. The watchword of Napoleon, was " glory,"—the watchword of Wellington was " duty." The one was urged on by a selfish ambition, the other by a disinterested patriotism. Bonaparte sought his own glory, for, though but of plebeian origin, he grasped an imperial crown. Wellington, a lineal descendant of Saxon Alfred and the Norman Conqueror, was only ambitious in serving his country, and wished for nothing higher than to be one of her loyal citizens.

Wellington having been the instrument of God, in delivering his country, was, like Othniel, permitted to see the rest and quiet of peace for nearly forty years. During that long period, his wise counsels have doubtless done much to promote the greatness and prosperity of the country. In all things, he was a pattern of conscientious attention to duty. If he made an appointment, or a promise, he held himself in duty bound to fulfil it, whatever might be the loss or the inconvenience. As a statesman, he was ever at his post, both in the House of Lords, and also in whatever office of the Government he might for the time be engaged.

Nor was he less punctual in his attention to his religious duties. Every Sunday morning, when in London, whatever might be the state of the weather, or the season of the year, did he walk a distance of half a mile, from Aspley House to the Chapel Royal at St. James, to attend the early morning service, at eight o'clock. When engaged in divine worship, he read distinctly and fervently the responses, and appeared to be completely absorbed in the performance of his religious duties. In this illustrious man, how much is there, my friends to and revere imitate.—

Ought we not to reverence a character so noble, so great, and so good? Ought we not to imitate him, by making duty our first, our greatest, our only aim? And, O, let us not forget to thank God for his good ness in having raised up such an individual, to be a blessing to our beloved country. May the Lord Jehovah, of his infinite mercy raise, up another Wellington whenever the nation may need his services !

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We are sorry to hear that the health of the Rev. J. W. Marsh is still such as to render him incapable of resuming his duties at this place. We, however, beg to inform such of our readers as attend the English Church, that the Rev. John Smithurst, from the Niagara District, has, at the request of the Bishop, undertaken to perform the duties until spring. In consequence of the heavy duties which at present devolve upon the Rev. Mr. Stewart, at Guelpl:, Mr. S. deems it but just to that gentleman to give him assistance by taking the evening service once a month. The services in this neighborhood it is purposed, for the ensuing three months, to hold as follows :—

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January 2, 9,		3		
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-Elora Backwoodsman.

