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1

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## FUNERAL AERMON/

 PREACHI:D IN CHRIST CHURCH, SOREI ON THE DEATII OF THE LATE I.AMENTED
## MRS. ROSS CU'THBERT,

SUNDAY, TLPE 5ri MAY, 1850,

by her sinceme and sonnowing firiend and pastol,

## THE REV. W. ANDERSON, RECTOR:

Printed by Request, and for Private Distrinution.

SOREL., 1850.

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## FUNQRAL SERMON.

> "Lord, now luttest thou thy servant dopart in peace, according to chy word, for mine cyes have seen thy salvation."-Lerit II. 29,30 .

Every spiritually-enlightened and serious reader of his Bible must.be struck with the perfect composure, the calm, unruffled tranquillity, with which. God's ancient servants are recorded to have met, and to have triumphed over,' Death, the great king of terrors. They seem to have thought no more of the act of dying than other men da of the ordinary and the every day occurrence of taking a journey, or of composing themselves to rest in slecp. Thus, of the Patriarchs, we read, that when their last hour came, they "gathered up their feet into their bed," collected their households around them, gave them their parting injunctions, or prophetic instructions, with their dying blessing, and then, without a recorded feeling of regret or of alarm, surrendered up their souls into the hands of God who gave them. There is, in truth, something singularly striking in the Scripture narrative of the dying hour of some of these ancient worthies. To Aaron, it was said, "Go up to Mount Hor," and to his brother Moses, "Go up to Mount Ncbo, and die." Now, we know that to depart out of life is, in all cases, a most solemn thing, and one from which man instinctively recoils. * Even in the best of men, nature, when gathering itself up for the final act of dissolution, seems to necd all
the prayers and the kinduesses of friends, that it may be cuabled to meet the last enemy with composure. The chamber in which a good man dies, is ordinarily occupied by affectionate relatives. They stand round his qed to watch his every look, and to catch his every word. 'They whisper to him encouraging truths, and they speak cheeringly of the better land to which he is hastening ; though they may often be compelled to turn away the face, lest he should be grieved by the tears which their own loss extorts. But it is remarkable, that all of gloom and terror, overhanging dissolution, seems to have been takea away in the departure hence of the Patriarchs and holy mon of old. They speak of dying just as they would have spoken of taking rest in sleep-as though there could be nothing forinidable in the act of dissolution-nothing from which human nature might shrink. Or, they are told by God, to "go up and dic"-the Lord speaking to them as familiarly, and with as little indication of requiring what was painful or diffichathe if He had biden them to a banquet, or directed them to perform the most ordinary duty. But there is here much more than at first sight meets the eye. Deaih was every whit as mysterious and as solemn a thing then, as it is now. And those who died were all of them men of like passions and infirmities-of like feelings and frailties with oursolves. Fime, has reither stripped the former of its terrors, nor the latter of his fears. Scripture itself, however, furnishes a clear and satisfactory solution of the enigma : and that portion of Scripture presented to you, in the words of our text, looth embiodies in crample, and exhibits in precept, the solntion of which we spak. They are the words (as
friends, that it may y with composure. y dies, is ordinarily 'They' stand romud 1 to catch his every urigring truths, and - land to which he n be compelled to be srieved by the But it is remarkwerhanging dissoway in the deparholy men of old. ould have spoken liere could be no-solution-nothing ink. Or, they are he I ord speaking tlle indication of as if He had ted them to perlere is here muel cyc. Deaili was mnn a thing then, all of them men ike feelings and reither stripped ller of his fears. clear and satisthat prortion of orls of our text, s in precept, the e the words (as
you will doubtless remember, ) of a " man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon," of whom it was written that "he was a just man and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel,'" and to whom it was "revealed, by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Being directed, by express revelation, to enter the temple at the moment when Mary was presenting Jesus before the Lord, he took the babe, we are told, into his arms, and blessed God, saying, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word for mine cyes have scen thy salvation." The plain, and obvious truths which these words convey, are simply these: that Christ is appointed of God as man's"" salvation": and that "ssecing Christ," (not so muchavith the oyc of sense, for many, like Simeon, did that, who yet believed not in Him), but that "secing Christ, with the cye of faith, disarms Death of its sting and the Grave of its terrors, and enables the believer to pass throw, that otherwise dark and dreaded valley "fearing no cvil," but " departing in peace." And ne laboured proof, no cxtended Scriptural citations, will be needed to substantiate these glorious and most blessed truthis. They are stamped, in broad and legible characters, on every page of Scripture. They run parallel with the whole history of man-from his first apostacy to this hour. And in type, prophecy, or precept, they may bo read in every book, and nearly in every chapter of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Theše were * the truths, wrapped up in that first memorable promise of "the Seed of the Woman bruising the Serpent's head," made to Adam and Eve, after their grievons fall, in paradise. And thesc, the same truths,
in whic:h their rightcous son, Abel, expressed his faith und hopr", iïi thitt "sacrifice, more excellent than Cain's, by whish, heiner dead, he yet speaketh." I'hese were the: trulnis, which Patriarchs and Prophets-which Apostle: mul Martyrs-which the Holy Church, throushinul all the world, from Abel downwards to the Inc:mation of the Saviour-did profess and acknowledin!. I'ime, indeed, would utterly fail as to particulariz' - los apoak even of the illustrious-in their successive innurations, of men, like Enoch and Noah, and Abrahum., Inld Saac, ind Jacol, and Moses, and David, and a visil miultitude more, who "saw not Death till they hand lirat seen the Lord's Christ," and secing IFim, though hot ninht, departed this life rejoicing. These all dical in linith, not having reccived the promises, but *ecinir thenn afiur off, they were persuaded of them, and embrinerd them; and, looking confidently for their fillihucut thromert Jesus, they confessed themselvesthey livil and they died as strangers and pilgrims upon curth, hainir here no continuing city-no abiding homo-- hut looking, as the purchase of a Saviour's "luelh, the tiver gift of a Siviour's unbounded love-for "home hoyoul, the skies-for a better and an enduring Nimeon: thoy watited for "the consolation of Israel." And when, lo each in succession, the last of earth had arrivel, and the summons came beckoning them "Wily to Hh:t bourne whose sands are marked by no returnins dind-prints, it found them not trembling and mhinkins: $\quad$ in the banks of the Jordan of Death-it vines: bur it fonuge them confidently looking for life and insw: $\begin{aligned} & \text { atg herond its narow, dividing strean- }\end{aligned}$
waiting for their long expected delicerance ; able, like one, to say, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though aftor my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I sce God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another ;" like a sccond, "My flesh, also, shall rest in hope; and when I awake, it shall be after thy likeness;" or, with a third, "Thy dead men shall live; together with my dead body, shall they arise;" or, like yet a fourth, staying himself upon the promise of his God, "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth, shall awake; some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. But go thou thy way, Daniel, till the end be, for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot, at the end of the days." They all, thus, "saw not death, till they had first"seen," with the eye of faith, "the Lord's Christ ;", and when the hour of their departure was at hand, they met it in the spirit of good old Simeon: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, apegarding to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvition."

And the same blessed experience-the same perfect triumph of Grace over Nature-of Faith, over human frailty and fear-of Christ, and trust in Him, over all the terrors of Dcath, and the Grave, and the Judgment to come, has been realized, and is still experienced every day by a multitude, in the aggregate, which, ro man can number. Under every phase and varied condition of this chequered life-under every conceivable disadvantage and the greatest discouragements to which poor, fiail humanity could be exposed, has this triumph over ourselves, our weakness and our fears, and
over the combined power and mitise of our worst enemies, been obtained. It the deepest poverty-in obscurity, friendlessuess and desertion-under the exhaustion of protracted, or the suflerings of painful illness-amid the infirmities of advancing yeaifs, and the natural weakness and physical debility of frail and shrinking wemanhood, is, this sustaining, and marvellous power of the Gospel everywhere and daily witnessed. And like tho existing and predicted preservation of the Jows, God's ancient people, it is a standing miracle, and to cvery thinking mind, will furnish powerful iuternal evidence of the truth and divine origin of Christianity. We know that lore of country, of honour, or of fame, or that mere animal courage will incite men to deeds of noble daring-to scek'the bubble reputation, at the cannon's mouth-to brave death; amid all the storm and the strife of battle. But where all these, and civery other conceivable worldly motive is wanting, and where, in their place, is substituted ceverything that can depress and dishearten, poverty, desertion, pain, and sickness, with no hope of release but in death, or of rest but in the grave; and yet, above all these, men and women, and very children, too, are seen to rise buoyant, and checrful, and triumpliant, and with the enduring fortitude of a martyr, and the unconquerable courage of a lero, to grapple with the last enomy, and to triumpli over him, oven in their fall! What, my brethren, but the Gospel of Christ, experimentally known, received, and lovedwhat; but the Almighty power of an invisible Saviour, making "His grace to be sufficient for us, and His strength to be perfected in our weakness;" can or will do this? Oh, there is a something in the dying cham-

Nice of our worst epest porerty-in on-mader the er lerings of painfil ncing yeaís, and debility of frail s sustaining, and everywhere and ing and predicted ient people, it is a ing mind, will fure truth and divine lat lore of country, $a$ animal courage ring-to seek'the mouth-to brave ife of battle. But onceivable worldly ir place, is substiand dishearten, with no hope of n the grave; and and vory childrcn, checrful, and triitude of a martyr, a hero, to grapple over him, even in ut the Gospel of ved, and lovedinvisible Saviour, t for w, and His ness," can or will the dying cham-
fler of a good man, which tells us of a truth that God isthere!-which brings honie to our hearts an irresistíble conviction of the heaven-born truth, and blessedness, and vitality, of our holy religion! And what is that something but the presence (to the dying servant of God) of the Saviour himself? What is it but the heavenly peace which flows to the believer from union to Jesus, effected through living, saving: faith, uniting us to Him, as the branch to the vine; and, when effected, realizing the Saviour, though unsecñ, continually to the view-making IFis merits, before God, our satisfying plea-His rightcousness, our ownHis all-sufficient grace and almighty strength, our very present help in our hour of utmost nẹed. This, and this alone, will enable us to say, when our own last hour" shall come, "O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be unto God, who hath given to me the victory, through oum Lord Jesus Christ." This, and this alore, will enable us to appropriate (2s best descriptive of our own state ąd feetings) the words of Simeon to ourselves: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine cyes have seen thy salvation."

And now, my brethren, the general tenor of these reflections, together with these surrounding badges of mourning and mementoes of respect for departed worth, will, doubiless, have led you to anticipate, in some degree, the remarks with which we close. And our reflections this day, hare been; indeed, elicited; and these emblems of mourning and tokens of respect are exhibited for one, who well incrits the laitcr, and who has cxemplified the formor through a long and
tried, and faithful-life, no less than in a tranquil, peaceful, happy death. Truly, brethren, in the venerated lady of whom we speak "A Mother in Israel, has fallen!" Though living, now, for many years comparatively secluded from the world, fet, in that world, was she widely known, but only known as widely to be respected, as widely to be loved, and now, alas! as widely to be mourned!- It is not as the daughter of the pious and celebrated Rush, the contemporary and friend of Washington and. Frantin, and others, of world-wide fame-it is not as the sister of a living and eminent Statesman, and recent Ambassador from the mightiest Republic to the mightiest Monarchies of earth-it is not as allied by birth and consanguinity, to some of the first families of the neighbouring States-it is not as the friend of Brock, decply regarded by that gallant hero in life, and specially mentioned in his posthumous memoirs-it is not as linown, respected, and beloved largely in the neighbouring Republic, and in our own Province, both far and near-it is not in any, or in all of these particulars, that the regard for this departed lady, and now, that her best eulogium, is to be sought or found. These all, indeed, are facts, and facts upon which many would, exclusively, have prided themselves. But in mer case, they served but to elicit a beautiful trait in her character; and one of the many traits, assimilating her to the moral likeness of her Redecmer-viz : her deep lumility-her perfect absence of all pride and of vain-grory-for the particulars we have mentioned, scarcely ever named, were certainly never divell upon with any degree of complacency and exultation. No, my brethren, these were not the circum-
il, peacecnerated acl, has compat world, idely to w, alas! langhter porary hers, of ing and oom the lies of guinity, ouring ply rey menknown, ouring rr and culars, v , that These many 3ut in rait in milat--viz : pride mennever d $\mathrm{cx}-$ cum-
stances which invested her with interest, and which have lastingly earned for hor a good report. It was the intrinsic worth of her own sterling character-it was her long life of unswerving integrity-it was her unvarying, and perfect uprightness of conduct-it was her high-toned principles, implanted from on high, and developing themselves in the daily exhibition of all Christian virtues and graces-in meekness, and gentleness, and courtesy, which New no respect of per-sons-in largeness of heart, and liberality of hand, bounded only by her means-in unmurmuring resignation to the will of her heavenly Father, through long years of accumulated and of sorest trials-in the most simple and implicit reliance upon God, her Saviour-in the constant and faithful discharge of every domestic, social, and relative duty-shedding sunshine upon her deeply-stricken household, and blessings on all around, even when advancing years, and heavy trials, had bowed her attenuated frame, almost to the dust.

These, my brethren, these are the things which have raised for her a monument in the world more durable than brass, better far than storied urn, or animated bust. "When the ear heard her, then it blessed her; and, when the eye saw her, it gave witness to her bccause she delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon. her, and she caused the widow's heart to sing for joy; she vas eyes to the blind, and foet to the lame, and a mother to the poor." This beautiful picture from Job, of the righteous man's life, is literally descriptive of the deeds of her whom now we mourn.

From the innermost circle of her nearest of kin, to the outer one of friends and acquaintance, or to the yet more extended one of her dependants and tenantry, sure I am that never has one heart ached, never has one cye been bedewed with tears for word or decd spoken or done by her. And her end was worthy of her life, it was, emphatically, peace! She had drunk decply of the cup of sorrow of which her Saviour drank, and had been baptised with His baptism of suffering. She had both actively done, and passively suffered, the will of God, till her Lord ordered for her no more either to do or to endure; and till, like a shock of corn fully ripe, she was gathered into the heavenly garner. As the sojourner of a night, she met her cnd at an Inn; and, like the sojourner wearied with his journey, she rejoiced to arrive at home. Not a doubt, not a fear, ruffled her peace, as she stood upon the banks of the Jordan of death. Even the attendant minister of God, familiarised with such scenes, was yet astonished at her perfect peace, her tranquil assurance, her calm, undoubting reliance, upon her Redeemer. That Redeemer's dying love once more she desired to com-memorate, and did so; and then, in the comfort of a reasomable religious and holy hope, in communion with the Church, and in peace with all mankind, bravely she entered, and triumphantly sie passed, through death's dividing stream, followed only by the sighs and the tears of others, till lost to view, she entered (as we confidently hope) Immanuel's land, passing, once for ever, into the rest that remaincth for the people of God. 'That warm, kind heart, beats now, indeed, no longer! That rare mind, never dimmed through long year; of trouble, is, for a season, obscured in death!
, to the et more , sure I onc eye oken or 1er lifc, eeply of and had She had will of er to do lly ripe, $s$ the so$n$; and, ey, she a fear, s of the of God, ished at calm, hat Reto comfort of a ion with vely she 1 death's and the (as we once for eople of lced, no ugh long a death !

But blessed be God, whilst with those that weep, we mingle our sympathies and heartfelt expréssions of sorrow, we yet rejoice, in the midst of all, for the blessed and consoling assurance which both this life and this death afford. They seel to us anew the assurance of a Saviour's undying faithfulness and love. We reçognize both in the beneficent and useful life, " the patience in tribulation," and the victory in death, which have signalized the case of her of whom we have spoken. Possessed, like every child of fallen Adam, of a depraved and guilty nature, it was the Grace of God alone which made her, in any respect, to differ-which supported her in trial, and which comforted her in death. And that grace, my brethren, free as the air you breathe, and boundless as eternity, is treasured up in Jesus, and is now most freely offered you. Oh, may you learn to seek it at a Saviour's hands! May you make that Saviour, your friend-your abiding stay and trust. For, in this life of many changes, where all around is now, or soon will $b e$, dark and drear-only in Him, (be ye well assured) only in a Saviour, truly known, sincerely loved, and faithfully served, will you find rest to your souls-with quietness, stability, and assurance for ever. And when Temporal life is ebbing away, and Etcrnal life is close at hand, only in Jesus will you be able, with Simeon, to say, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine cyes have. scen thy salration."

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