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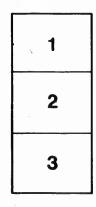
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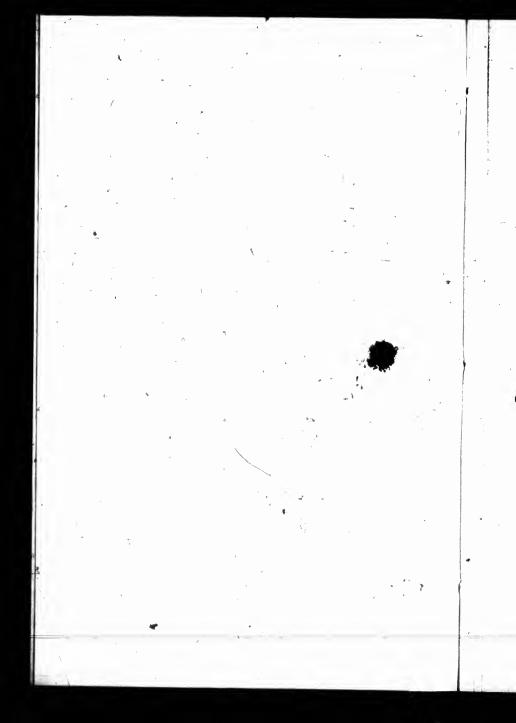
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# FUNERAL SERMON

PREACHED IN

### CHRIST CHURCH, SOREI

ON THE DEATH OF THE LATE LAMENTED

MRS. ROSS CUTHBERT,

- ON

SUNDAY, THE 5TH MAY, 1850,

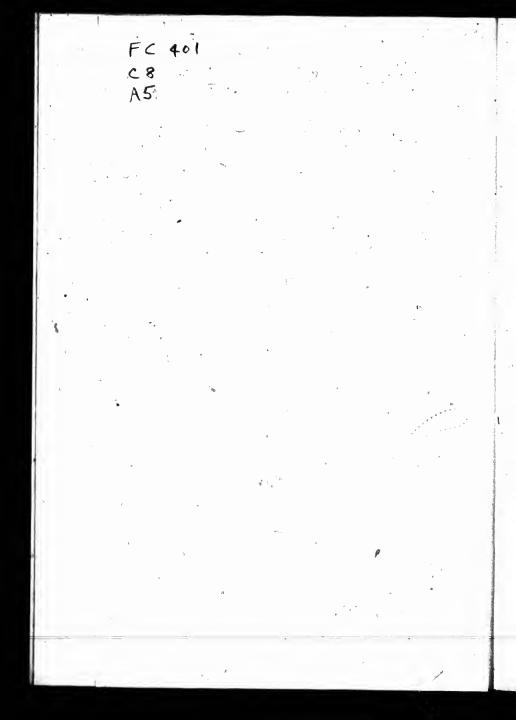
BY HER SINCERE AND SORROWING FRIEND AND PASTOR,

## THE REV. W. ANDERSON, RECTOR

Printed by Request, and for Private Distribution.

SOREL, 1850.

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## FUNERAL SERMON.

"Lord, now luttest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mina eyes have seen thy salvation."--LUKE 11. 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 do of the ordinary and the every day occurrence of taking a journey, or of composing themselves to rest in sleep. 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 Nebo, 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 need all

\* Melville.

the prayers and the kindnesses of friends, that it may be enabled 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 bed 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 taken away in the departure hence of the Patriarchs and holy men of old. They speak of dying just as they would have spoken of taking rest in sleep—as though there could be nothing formidable 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 difficult as if He had bidden 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. Death 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 ourselves. Time, has neither 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, both embodies in example, and exhibits in precept, the solution of which we speak. They are the words (as

friends, that it may y with composure. 'dies, is ordinarily They stand round l to catch his every uraging truths, and r land to which he en be compelled to be grieved by the But it is remarkoverhanging dissoway in the deparholy men of old. ould have spoken here could be nosolution-nothing ink. Or, they are he Lord speaking ttle 'indication of as if He had ted them to periere is here much eye. Death was own a thing then, e all of them men ike feelings and neither stripped ller of his fears. clear and satisthat portion of ords of our text, s in precept, the e the words (as

you will doubtless remember,) of a "man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simcon," 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 eyes have seen 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 "seeing Christ," (not so much with the oye of sense, for many, like Simeon, did that, who yet believed not in Him), but that "seeing Christ, with the

eye of faith, disarms Death of its sting and the Grave of its terrors, and enables the believer to pass through. that otherwise dark and dreaded valley "fearing no evil," but "departing in peace." And no laboured proof, no extended Scriptural citations, will be needed to substantiate these glorious and most blessed truths. 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 be read in every book, and nearly in every chapter of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. These 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 grievous fall, in paradise. And these, the same truths,

in which their righteous son, Abel, expressed his faith and hope, in that " sacrifice, more excellent than Cain's, by which, being dead, he yet speaketh." These were the truths, which Patriarchs and Prophets-which Apostles and Martyrs-which the Holy Church, throughout all the world, from Abel downwards to the Incurnation of the Saviour-did profess and acknowledge. Time, indeed, would utterly fail as to particularize to speak even of the illustrious-in their successive generations, of men, like Enoch and Noah, and Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and Moses, and David, and a vast multitude more, who "saw not Death till they lund first seen the Lord's Christ," and seeing Him, though not nigh, departed this life rejoicing. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but seeing them afar off, they were persuaded of them, and embraced them; and, looking confidently for their fulfilment through Jesus, they confessed themselvesthey lived and they died as strangers and pilgrims upon earth, having here no continuing city-no abiding home-but looking, as the purchase of a Saviour's death, the tree gift of a Saviour's unbounded love-fora home beyond the skies-for a better and an enduring world, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Thus, like Simeon: they waited for " the consolation of Israel." And when, to each in succession, the last of earth had arrived, and the summons came beckoning them away to that bourne whose sands are marked by no returning toot-prints, it found them not trembling and shrinking on the banks of the Jordan of Death-it found them not fearful to plunge, beneath its cold waves ; but it found them confidently looking for life and inemeriality beyond its narrow, dividing stream-

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expressed his faith cellent than Cain's, ceth." These were Prophets-which he Holy Church, bel downwards to lid profess and acterly fail as to partirious-in their sucnoch and Noah, and Moses, and David, saw not Death till t," and seeing Him, rejoicing. These d the promises, but ersuaded of them, onfidently for their essed themselvess and pilgrims upon city-no abiding ase of a Saviour's bounded love-forer and an enduring ness. Thus, like olation of Israel." the last of earth e beckoning them are marked by no not trembling and rdan of Death—it beneath its cold tly looking for life dividing stream-

waiting for their long expected deliverance; able, like one, to say, "I know that my Redcemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another ;" like a second, " 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, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

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 Death, and the Grave, and the Judgment to come, has been realized, and is still experienced every day by a multitude, in the aggregate, which, no man can number. Under every phase and varied condition of this chequered life—under every conceivable disadvantage and the greatest discouragements to which poor, frail humanity could be exposed, has this triumph over ourselves, our weakness and our fears, and

over the combined power and makee of our worst enemies, been obtained. In the deepest poverty-in obscurity, friendlessness and descrition-under the exhaustion of protracted, or the sufferings of painful illness-amid the infirmities of advancing years, and the natural weakness and physical debility of frail and shrinking womanhood, is this sustaining, and marvellous power of the Gospel everywhere and daily witnessed. And like the existing and predicted preservation of the Jews, God's ancient people, it is a standing miraole, and to every thinking mind, will furnish powerful internal evidence of the truth and divine origin of Christianity. We know that love of country, of honour, or of fame, or that mere animal courage will incite men to deeds of noble daring-to seek 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 every other conceivable worldly motive is wanting, and where, in their place, is substituted everything 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 cheerful, and triumphant, and with the enduring fortitude of a martyr, and the unconquerable courage of a here, to grapple with the last enemy, and to triumph over him, even in their fall! What, my brothren, 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 chamice of our worst epest poverty-in on-under the exlerings of painful uncing years, and l debility of frail s sustaining, and everywhere and ing and predicted ient people, it is a ing mind, will fure truth and divine at love of country, animal courage. ring-to seek the mouth---to brave ife of battle. But onceivable worldly ir place, is substiand dislicarten, with no hope of n the grave; and and very children, cheerful, and triitude of a martyr, a hero, to grapple over him, even in ut the Gospel of ved, and loved invisible Saviour, t for us, and His mess," can or will the dying cham-

ber of a good man which tells us of a truth that God is there !--- which brings home to our hearts an irresistible 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 unseen, continually to the view-making His merits, before . God, our satisfying plea-His righteousness, our own-His all-sufficient grace and almighty strength, our very present help in our hour of utmost need. 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 our Lord Jesus Christ." This, and this alone, will enable us to appropriate (as best descriptive of our own state and feelings) the words of Simeon to ourselves : "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

And now, my brethren, the general tenor of these reflections, together with these surrounding badges of mourning and mementões of respect for departed worth, will, doubtless, have led you to anticipate, in some degree, the remarks with which we close. And our reflections this day, have been; indeed, elicited; and these emblems of mourning and tokens of respect are exhibited for one, who well merits the latter, and who has exemplified the former 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, yet, 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 Franklin, 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, deeply regarded by that gallant hero in life, and specially mentioned in his posthumous memoirs-it is not as known, 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 HER case, they served but to clicit a beautiful trait in her character; and one of the many traits, assimilating her to the moral likeness of her Redeemer-viz: her deep humility-her perfect absence of all pride and of vain-glory-for the particulars we have mentioned, scarcely ever named, were certainly never dwell upon with any degree of complacency and exultation. No, my brethren, these were not the circum-

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stances which invested her with interest, and which have lastingly earned for her 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 meckness, and gentleness, and courtesy, which knew no respect of persons-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 because 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 was eyes to the blind, and feet 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.

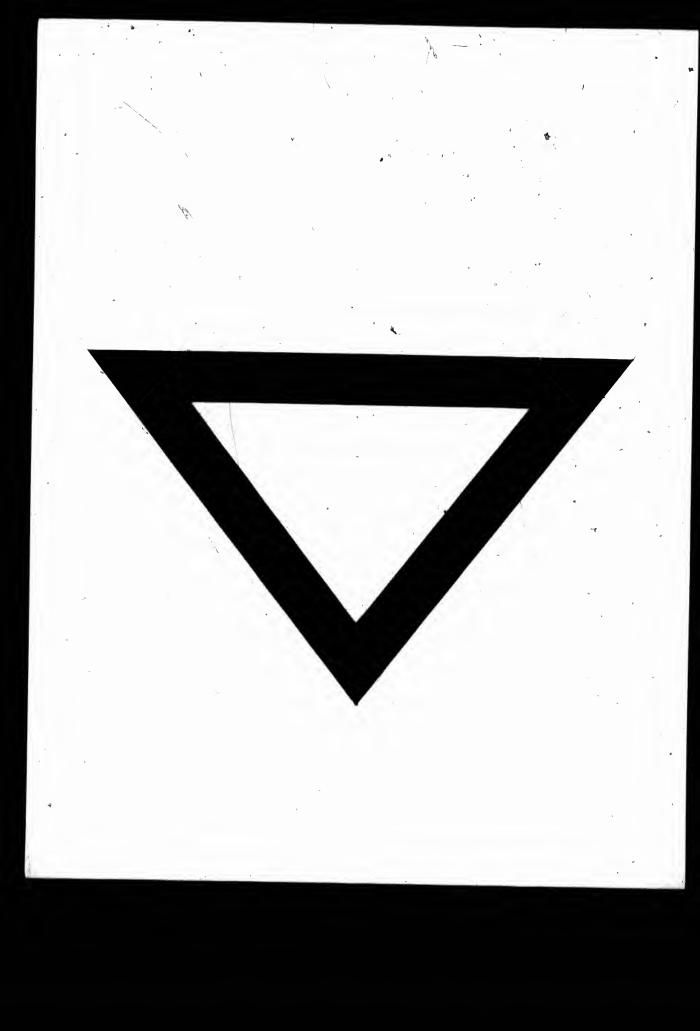
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, to the et more , sure I one eye oken or ier *life*, eeply of and had She had will of er to do lly ripe, s the son; and, ey, she t a fear, s of the of God, ished at er calm, 'hat Reto com-. fort of a ion with vely she i death's and the l (as we once for eople of leed, no ugh long h death !

But blessed be God, whilst with those that weep, we mingle our sympathies and heartfelt expressions 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 seal to us anew the assurance of a Saviour's undying faithfulness and love. We recognize 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 be, 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 Eternal 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 eyes have scen thy salvation."





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