

**THE FACE OF THE KING;  
OR, SEEING JESUS, MAN'S  
GREATEST PLEASURE AND  
GRANDEST OCCUPATION**

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The Face of the King; Or, Seeing Jesus, Man's Greatest Pleasure and Grandest Occupation by J. Hiles Hitchens

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**J. HILES HITCHENS**

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BY

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AUTHOR OF "WORDS FROM THE WATCHTOWER," "NEAR THE CROSS,"  
"BEHOLD THE MAN," ETC.

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"Now, therefore, let me see the King's face."  
2 SAMUEL xiv. 32.

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**THE  
PRE-EMINENT OBJECT OF VISION IS  
JESUS.**

" O Love that burnest ever inextinguishable! O sweet Christ!  
O good Jesus! O Love, my God, kindle me entirely with Thy fire,  
with Thy love, with Thy sweetness, with Thy charity, with Thy  
joy and rejoicing, with Thy goodness and piety, with Thy pleasure,  
with desire of Thee which is holy and good, chaste and pure; that,  
being altogether full of the sweetness of Thy love, being kindled by  
the flame of Thy charity, I may love Thee, my most precious Lord,  
with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength, and with  
all my mind; with much contrition of heart, and with a fountain of  
tears, with much reverence and trembling, having Thee in my heart,  
and mouth, and before my eyes, always and everywhere, so that no  
room may be left for strange loves."

AUGUSTIN.

"That in all things he might have the pre-eminence."

PAUL.



# SEEING JESUS.



## CHAPTER I.

### THE PRE-EMINENT OBJECT OF VISION IS JESUS.

"Oh! then repeat the truth, that never tires :  
No God is like the God my soul desires ;  
He, at whose voice heaven trembles, even He,  
Great as He is, knows how to stoop to me.

"Vain pageantry and pomp of earth, adieu ! .  
I have no wish, no memory for you !  
Rich in God's love, I feel my noblest pride  
Spring from the sense of having nought beside."

MADAME GUYON.

"THE eye is not satisfied with seeing," says the royal preacher. Having fastened its full gaze on the beauties of nature and the wonders of art, it still "with thirst insatiate craves for more." Pains and expense are not spared to gratify its longings. Business is neglected, duty forsaken, sacrifices endured, the ocean's crested waves are ploughed, the snow-clad hills are climbed, the sterile desert is crossed,

dangers are encountered, and death dared, in order to supply that for which the eye yearns with unallayed avidity.

It not unfrequently happens, however, that disappointment succeeds the most strenuous efforts. Many hours, perhaps days, are expended in seeking that which appears desirable and joy-affording; but when the position is attained, the object secured, we are surprised by a non-fulfilment of our expectations, and a consequent vexation. Like travellers who have risen early and toiled hard to reach the summit of Helvellyn or Snowdon, only to find themselves enveloped in a mist, and the picturesque, attractive, awe-inspiring scenery concealed by cloud; or like those who, relying on exaggerated statements, and over-drawn landscape pictures, have found the reality far beneath their glowing anticipations. But, under the most favourable circumstances, the corporeal eye cannot afford satisfaction so profound, or interest so stupendous, as that which the mental vision contributes. Nor can we ever discover in this sublunary sphere objects so marvellous, majestic, matchless, as we may discern in the spiritual world.

There is one object of which no description can be extravagant—which no skilful limner can portray too brightly, and with which none, however familiar therewith, shall ever be dissatisfied. You may possess the most perfect taste for the sublime and beautiful; you may be familiar with the grandest panorama of nature; you may have frequented spots wealthy with hallowed and imperishable

memories; you may have deciphered God's initials on the giant mountain's brow—on the leaping, laughing rivulet winding its way between the emerald banks—on the deep, dark, disturbed bosom of the never-slumbering sea—on the meadows and valleys perfumed with the many-coloured flowers—on “the immeasurable azure which is overhead—everywhere brilliant with stars”—on the sun bedecking the eastern hills with arrowy streaks of amber, and diffusing over the western horizon a flood of gorgeous crimson—on “the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, or the precious things put forth by the moon, or the chief things of the ancient mountains, or the precious things of the lasting hills”—on all that has engaged the Omnipotent hand of the Creator, and courted the admiration of the creature, and yet to that pre-eminent object you may turn with feelings of intensest wonder, appreciation, and love. That object is the Being whom angelic intelligences gaze on with infinite pleasure, captivated by his charms—whose day holy patriarchs and prophets waited anxiously to behold—whom men and angels, accustomed to the noblest and most ravishing visions, have agreed to declare, “The chief among ten thousand and the altogether lovely.” No created object can vie with Christ. All things, even the loftiest idealisms of mortal minds, sink into inferiority when compared with Him, as the productions of man in juxtaposition with the perfect handiworks of God. He embodies all that