CALVARY, OR, THE DEATH OF CHRIST: A POEM IN EIGHT BOOKS. VOL. II

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Calvary, or, The death of Christ: a poem in eight books. Vol. II by Richard Cumberland

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RICHARD CUMBERLAND

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CALVARY;

OR,

THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

A POEM,

IN EIGHT BOOKS.

BY RICHARD CUMBERLAND.

SEVENTH EDITION.

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CALVARY;

on,

THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

BOOK V.

ARGUMENT.

This Book, proposing to treat of the trial and condemnation of CHRIST, opens with an invocation to the Evangelists, the sacred historians of that event Christ, brought before the priests and elders in council, accused by the witnesses, interrogated by CAIAPHAS, persists in keeping silence, till being solemnly called upon to declare himself, he answers by an affirmation of the truth....Instantly all voices are let loose upon him, accusing him of blasphemy and pronouncing him worthy of death He is delivered over to mockery and insult The Jews resolve to arraign him before PILATE on the following morning He turns and looks upon Peter, who according to prediction had three several times denied him The sorrow and contrition of that Disciple is described; be retires apart to bewail his crime and supplicate forgiveness His prayer and confession in the temple-perch The council of the Jews resort to PILATE next morning and appeal against CHRIST :.... He informs them that by the Roman law no judgment can be given till the accessed is confronted with his accusers, and heard in his defence.....Now commences the trial of Charsy before Pilaye, who, finding nothing worthy of death in that just Person, refers him to Henop. as belonging to his jurisdiction HEROD, after mocking him, arrays him in a gorgeous robe, and in that apparel sends him back to Pilate.....He again appears in the judgment-hall before PILATE, who after many fruitless efforts to save him, the Jews still orging him by their clamorous importunity to crucify him, finding no other way to prevent a tunnit of the people, after declaring himself innocent of the blood of Jesus by the ceremony of washing his hands before the multitude, delivers him to be emeined.

CALVARY.

BOOK V.

THE CONDEMNATION OF CHRIST.

YE sacred Guides, whose plain unvarnish'd page,
Penn'd by the hand of Truth, records the scene,
Where Christ before the bar of impious men,
Patient of all their scorn, arraign'd, betray'd
And of his own abandon'd, silent stands,
You I invoke; so from the same pure source,
Whence my faith flows, shall also flow my song,
Not idly babbling, like that shallow rill
Trickling at foot of the Parnassian Mount,
But deep, serene, to hallow'd airs attun'd:
10
Aid me from Heav'n, where now before God's throne
In evangelic attributes ye stand

Six.

Six-wing'd and thick bespangled o'er with eyes, Ranging all points before you and behind, Seraphic minstrels, chanting day and night 15 Your ceaseless hallelujahs to the name Of Him, who was and is and is to come. Led by your hand with trembling step I press The sacred ground, which my Redeemer trode, Now like a lamb to slaughter led, and now 20 Pendent, Oh horror! on the bloody tree; And whilst to tell his sacrifice of love, His soul-dissolving agonies I strive, My heart melts into sorrows deep as those, When the sad daughters of Jerusalem 25 Water'd his passage to the cross with tears. Musing my pious theme, as fits a bard Far onward in the wint'ry track of age, I shun the Muses haunts, nor dalliance hold

With fancy by the way, but travel on

My mournful road, a pilgrim grey with years;

One

30

One that finds little favor with the world, Yet thankful for its least benevolence And patient of its taunts; for never yet Lur'd I the popu'lar ear with gibing tales, 35 Or sacrific'd the modesty of song, Harping lewd madrigals at drunken feasts To make the vulgar sport and win their shout. Me rather the still voice delights, the praise Whisper'd, not publish'd by fame's braying trump: Be thou my herald, Nature! Let me please 41 The sacred few, let my remembrance live Embosom'd by the virtuous and the wise; Make me, O Heav'n! by those, who love thee, lov'd: So when the widow's and the children's tears Shall sprinkle the cold dust, in which I sleep Pompless and from a scornful world withdrawn, The laurel, which its malice rent, shall shoot So water'd into life, and mantling throw Its verdant honors o'er my grassy tomb. 50

Here