

MUSINGS ON PSALM CXIX

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Musings on Psalm CXIX by R. S. H.

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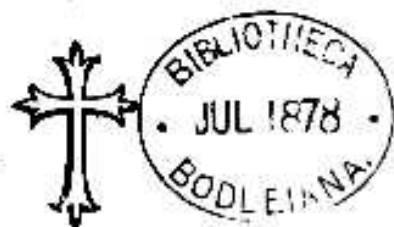
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**MUSINGS ON
PSALM CXIX**

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ON
PSALM CXIX.

"THE PSALM OF DIVINE ASPIRATIONS."



Oxford and London:
JAMES PARKER AND CO.

1878.

135. L. 430.



TO THE
REVERED MEMORY OF
ALEXANDER PENROSE FORBES,
BISHOP OF BRECHIN,
WHO ON OCT. 8, 1875,
AFTER A GRAND EPISCOPATE
OF 28 YEARS,
FELL ASLEEP IN HIM IN WHOM
HE TRUSTED.

PREFACE.

SOME, who saw this little book in manuscript, found it helpful to their souls; it is published in the hope that, through God's mercy, it may prove helpful to others.

R. S. H.

MARKHEECH VICARAGE,
EDEN BRIDGE,
The Epiphany, 1878.

MUSINGS ON PSALM CXIX.

I Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way : and walk in the law of the Lord.

“Blessed,” the very first word in this long Psalm, as it is also of the Sermon on the Mount : it shews the longing of Thy Soul, O God my Saviour : and so, according to this beginning, dost Thou “prevent us” in our infancy with the blessing of the New Birth.

“Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way,” that is, in Thyself, who art “the Way,” as well as “the Truth,” and “the Life :” Blessed are those who, having been brought into Thee, keep themselves, by Thy grace, pure and stedfast in Thee.

Thus Thou tellest me who are blessed : Thou dost more, Thou tellest me how I, even I, may yet be among Thy blessed ones,

by "walking in the law of the Lord," that law which, being Thine, is "holy, and just, and good."

And by the word "walk" Thou tellest of progressing. The Christian life is ever advancing "from strength to strength," ever onwards, ever higher, ever nearer Thee, "shining more and more unto the perfect day."

2 Blessed are they that keep His testimonies : and seek Him with their whole heart.

God's "testimonies : " the word may mean, 1. His commandments ; 2. The witness He has borne to Himself, the truths concerning His nature which He has made known : then ; "keep" will mean, keep in mind and in heart, much the same as "hold fast the form of sound words."

"With their whole heart seek Him," as the One Object worth seeking for, the One Pearl of great price, the One Who alone can satisfy the soul. Nowhere, O Lord, dost Thou ask for a part of my heart : Thou desirest to have my whole self, that Thou

mayest give Thy whole Self to me. "Whom have I in heaven but Thee?"

Blessed indeed are they who so seek, for they shall find, yea, and be found.

Keeping His testimonies is seeking Him.

3 For they who do no wickedness : walk in His ways.

"No wickedness," for all Thy ways, O Lord my God, are perfect truth, and charity, and holiness.

"No wickedness," the meaning may be "no wilful wickedness," yet even so I, "if I say that I have no sin, deceive myself, and the truth is not in me."

The verse is,—

1. An acknowledgment of the perfection of God and His ways.

2. A pattern of what the life of God's children should be.

3. A leading us to Thee, O Lord Jesu, that we may be found in Thee, partakers of Thy righteousness, the righteousness which being Thine, has in it "no wickedness."

4 Thou hast charged : that we shall diligently keep Thy commandments.

Thou, Who hast a right to command us, by creation, by redemption, by the sancti-