

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

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

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RICHARD CUMBERLAND

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Engraved by James Boker, A.R.S.

J. Kemble's Poem
J. D. Willis

CALVARY;
OR,
THE DEATH OF CHRIST.
A POEM,
IN EIGHT BOOKS.

BY RICHARD CUMBERLAND.

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1810.

CALVARY;

OR,

THE DEATH OF CHRIST.



BOOK I.

ARGUMENT.

After a short introduction, which states the miraculous acts of CHRIST, and serves to mark the period at which the Poem commences, SATAN goes forth by night into the wilderness, and finds himself in the very spot, where he had in vain practised his temptations upon CHRIST :.... Here he falls into meditation upon that unsuccessful interview, and vents himself in soliloquy :.... Indignant under disappointment and impatient to repair his defeat, he ascends to the summit of the mountain, from whence he had exhibited the kingdoms of the earth, and calls the Devils from all parts of the Heavens world :.... The whole host of Infernals assemble at his summons :.... The chief leaders are enumerated, their persons and attributes described :.... SATAN addresses them, and proposes the subject matter for their consultation, namely, By what means to counteract the power of CHRIST upon earth :.... BAAL delivers his sentiments by stating difficulties and objections without any decided opinion unless for seduction in the general :.... MOLOCH angrily resents what he considers as pointed at himself, and speaks disdainfully against the proposal of seduction, as not only desperate but disgraceful :.... BELIAL replies, and after much circumlocution suggests a temptation to be set on foot by MAMMON :.... He is interrupted by SATAN, who reproves him for certain digressions in his speech, but adopts his hint of employing MAMMON, and calls upon that evil spirit to attempt the fidelity of JUDAS ISCARIOT, whom he points out to him as the only one of the Disciples open to seduction :.... MAMMON at first affects to excuse himself from the undertaking, but in conclusion accepts it, and taking wing in presence of the whole applauding host sets out upon his embassy, directing his course to the City of Jerusalem.

CALVARY.

BOOK I.

THE ASSEMBLING OF THE DEVILS.

HAIL, awful CALVARY! forsaking now
Aonian haunts and the unhallow'd Nine,
I visit thy sad mount, and thence invite
The mournful echoes to my deep-ton'd harp,
Hymning the whilst in solemn numbers praise 5
To God for mercies purchas'd by the death
Of that mysterious Being, virgin-born,
Savior of lost mankind, who on the cross,
Lord though he be of life and one with God,
In mortal pangs expir'd; there to atone 10
For a degenerate world, by his pure blood
To wash original corruption out,

And rising victor from the grave dispel
Sin and it's offspring Death, with all the train
Of idol gods, usurping earth and heav'n. 15

Now had the wond'rous acts by JESUS wrought
Spread wide his fame thro' all Judaea's realm ;
The leper cleans'd, the blind to sight restor'd,
The sick to health and ev'n the dead to life,
Tho' warn'd to silence, for his modest ear 20
Sought not the praise of men, so much the more
Publish'd his mercies ; Dæmons at his call
With horrid shrieks, that testified his power,
Came forth from men possess'd and fled ; his voice 24
Rebuk'd the seas and winds ; vast was the throng
That follow'd where he led, and thousands found
In the waste wilderness mirac'lous food :
They saw, they marvel'd, and of force confest
Messias in his power, not so in form ;
For there no comeliness, no outward grace, 30
No princely state appear'd : Slow to renounce

Illusion:

Illusions long indulg'd, their wavering minds
'Twixt two opinions halted, while in place
Of these bright visions they beheld a man
Lowly and meek, a houseless wanderer, 35
That had not where on earth to lay his head:—
Such can our Israel's great Restorer be,
Such our Messiah?—Thus their troubled thoughts
Like meeting currents clash'd; when as he spake
Truth flow'd resistless from his lips, his eyes 40
Beam'd mercy, and his Father's glory shone
Effulgent in his face; then every tongue
Was hush'd to silence, every doubt dispell'd,
And every heart confess'd him Lord and Christ.
'Twas night, when SATAN, prince of darkness call'd,
And fitly call'd, for evil hates the day, 46
Walk'd forth on hellish meditation bent,
Prowling the wilderness: Where'er he trode,
Earth quak'd beneath his foot; before him roll'd
Thick cloud and vapour, making night's dark shade