

**MEDITATIONS ON
SCRIPTURAL
SUBJECTS**

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Meditations on Scriptural Subjects by Henry Cresswell

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HENRY CRESSWELL

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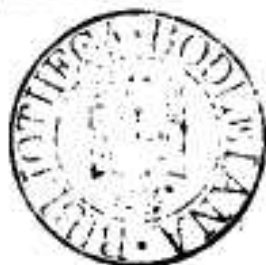
MEDITATIONS

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BY

REV. HENRY CRESSWELL.



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THE PLANT OF RENOWN.

THIS plant is Christ ; a plant renowned for its eternal existence, its heavenly descent, its unparalleled beauty, its delightful fragrancy, its amazing extent, its refreshing shade, its exclusive rarity, its healing virtue, its abundant fruitfulness. There are many plants in the garden of God, angelic plants and redeemed plants ; but these although immortal, are not eternal, as is the Plant of Renown. This plant, descended from heaven, possesses all the beauty of heaven ; and its heavenly fragrancy is diffused through the pages of revelation, the ordinances of the

sanctuary, the truths of the gospel, the graces of the Christian, the soul of the believer, the garden of the church, the ranks of angels, the paradise of God; and, as to its rarity, where, in the illimitable dominions of Jehovah, can we find another such plant as this? Could we wing our rapid flight through infinite space, could we explore the regions of a boundless universe; amid all its fountains, we should find only one fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness, and amid all its suns we should find but one Sun of Righteousness, and amid all its plants, we should find but one Plant of Renown, which partakes the nature, shares the glory, adorns the bosom, and flourishes on the throne of God. After this plant had been raised up in fulfilment of the divine promise, and in the predictions of prophets, and in the songs of angels, it was raised up on a cross; and there it was cut down by the sword of

divine justice; and there it withered, and drooped, and died; and then it was deposited in a tomb, and its leaves appeared covered with the dust of the grave. But there is hope of a tree, though it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. This hope was fully realized as it regards this Plant of Renown. On the third day after it had been cut down, resuscitated life was diffused through all its branches; and, scattering the dust of the grave from its beauteous leaves, it arose in all the vigour of its strength, in all the freshness of its verdure, in all the perfection of its fragrancy, and in all the loveliness of its beauty, again to be planted in the paradise of God, where, at an infinite remove from all the blighting influence of a terrestrial atmosphere, it will flourish in everlasting spring, unwithering beauty, and unfading glory, for ever and ever.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

Of all the subjects, presented to our contemplation in the sacred volume, we can think of no subject of higher importance, or more replete with interest, or more worthy of thought and meditation, adoration and praise, than the love of Christ. It shines with unborrowed brightness, and possesses a glory all its own. Where is the language in the universe which can adequately describe it, or the conception of what created mind in the universe can rise to the elevation of its sublime and towering and majestic height? How directly calculated is it to affect our heart, quicken our affections, inspire our hope, awaken our joy, animate our soul. As it regards a perfect comprehension of it, however, we shall for ever be constrained to admit, such knowledge is too wonderful for us—it is high, we cannot attain unto it. Compre-

hend it? that is an utter impossibility. Were all the talents and all the piety of all the ministers of Christ, and of all the people of God, concentrated in one individual, and were that individual to meditate with deep attention, and intense feeling and habitual constancy on the love of Christ; notwithstanding all his talents, and piety, and study, he would be no more able to comprehend it, or to present us with an adequate description of it, than he would be able to retain the winds of heaven in the hollow of his hand, calm the tempestuous waves of a raging ocean, stop the sun in his course of radiance and majesty across the heavens, or uphold by his feeble arm, the universe of Jehovah's power. Were the strong intellectual and immortal powers of all the angelic and redeemed intelligences in glory, united in one bright archangel, and had he been contemplating this subject ever since the period of his creation, even he

would be constrained to acknowledge, that this subject was too grand and too glorious for him to comprehend. Oh, believer! a period will arrive, when you shall have been in heaven, meditating on this love, and enjoying its brightest manifestations, for millions and millions of years, and for myriads and myriads of ages; and yet, when that period shall arrive, you will feel that, comparatively speaking, you know nothing of this love, and that you have not come even to the threshold of its glories. The love of Christ will shine brighter and brighter, for ever and ever.

THE GOD AND FATHER OF JESUS CHRIST.

The book of God is not only inspired by his Spirit, enstamped with his name, and proclaimed by his authority; but with what attributes it invests Him, with what glories it encircles Him, under what aspects it pre-