

**TREATISE ON THE
LXXXIV PSALM**

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Treatise on the lxxxiv Psalm by M. Howard

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PREFACE.



THE following Essay having been placed in the hands of the Editor, he immediately recommended the publication of it in the *Christian's Miscellany*: and he feels sure that it will commend itself to the attention of the earnest-minded reader, by the just and deep appreciation of Scriptural imagery, the moral criticism, and the devotional sentiment chastened by deference to the authority of the Church, which the author invariably exhibits.

The general view taken of the Psalm appears to the Editor to be correct and discriminating, and the Author's mind is evidently fitted to pursue the analogies of Scripture, and to elicit a truly spiritual ap-

plication from attention to those matters, which are too commonly regarded as only subordinate and external. There are in it the marks of an original mind, which has poured itself out from its abundance: the author has not assumed a task and executed it with talent, but has been evidently courted by the subject, and has written from the fulness of the heart. Such a work is always valuable, and this will be regarded as such even by many who may not assent to every position, or acquiesce in all the conclusions which the author has assumed or deduced.

W. F. HOOK.



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HIS Psalm, which is perhaps one of the most striking passages in the inspired volume, for beauty of composition, and fervency of devotion, is supposed by some, to have been written by David, at the time he was driven from Jerusalem, by his rebellious son, Absalom. It carries in itself evidences of having been penned by one who was enduring a temporary separation from the courts of the LORD's House, a separation however of body, not of spirit, a separation which

only served to bind the soul more closely to the spot, where it so fervently desired to be. The whole of this Psalm when attentively studied, will be found to contain a depth of feeling, very uncommon both in nature and degree, and which cannot be *truly* appreciated, (though it may be commented upon) except by those who have themselves advanced into the spiritual tabernacles, which the Psalmist pronounced to be "amiable."

1st. 2nd. "How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O LORD of Hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living GOD." What are these tabernacles, which called for such a rapturous exclamation from the lips of the Psalmist? On this question depends the whole beauty of the Psalm before us. We may suppose the exclamation to be prompted by the temporary separation before alluded to, from the visible courts of the LORD'S HOUSE. One who like David had actually and really experienced the benefits resulting from the