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SERMON

Preached on the occasion of the autumn communion, Sept. 12th, 1886.

BY

REV. A. J. MOWATT.

TEXT,—"And this day shall be unto you for memorial."— Exodus XII. 14.

judgments.

This was to be done on the tenth of the they used to see and enjoy in other days be wrested from us by an enemy's hand. He is yonder for you and me, as our month. The lamb was to be a male of and other lands, and they never cease to the first year, and without blemish. hunger for them to come back again. This lamb was to be kept till the evening Shortly after I came here I was of the fourteenth, when it was to be hurriedly sent for to see an old man who killed. Every family was to have a was dying. He was almost too far gone lamb, but two small families might have to say much, but in low and broken roasted whole; not a bone of it was to be fro in this new land, but in his last member of the household taking a bit, and he felt that Jesus was still his, and cakes and bitter herbs. They were to land was still his, and so he fell asleep

By and by the memorable fourteenth great of the old past. came, and the people did as they were

for a memorial."

scenes. God's people are getting ready munions those were out on the hills or that same blood flows in our veins. to leave Egypt. They had stayed there in the deep retired glens of the dear old too long for their good. They had worn out their welcome. They had stayed on churches, consecrated cathedrals; but itself, when the eld battles that were ing one so good to death, why it is they are putting one so good to death, who are putting one so good to death, and on till they were crushed under the those old communion resorts were indeed fought out on the sacred hills of our hate him with so cruel a hatred. Ah! heel of a terrible despotism. But the sacred places, hallowed by holy memories, fatherland may have to be fought out on the truth is, men then did not underday of their deliverance is at hand, and not a few of them made sacred by the our own hills. This liberty that we stand Him, and they do not understand the Lord is preparing them for their blood that was shed in the old covenant- have in Jesus to-day may be stolen from him yet, and so He died, and still dies glorious exodus. The event is to be ing days in the cause of truth and right. us while we sleep. We may be saying over and over again. forever memorable—memorable to them I do not wonder that the old people, to ourselves in these careless times, But His death is not a mere martyr of mercies, memorable to their tyrants of who have outlived generation, think our "Peace! peace!" when for us is being death. To look at it thus is to look at it communions are tame, uninteresting, forged and furbished a sharp sword wrongly. He is the Son of God dying He directs them to select a lamb. almost irreverent, compared to those wherewith our blood-bought rights may for human sin, dying to take it away.

lamb was to dashed on the two side history, and with a kindling up for the memorial." posts and lintel of the door of the house moment of the old fire he told me of the where the family, or families, were communions in other days he had gathered. This was to be most particu- attended. Of course he had drifted far larly attended to. The lamb was to be away from them in his tossings to and broken. It was then to be eaten, every hours they seemed to come back to him, It was to be eaten along with unleavened the faith of his fathers and his fathereat, prepared for their journey, their thus hoping and trusting; and, I felt, effects all packed up, their shoes on, that after the rude buffetings of hard their loins girded, their staffs in their experiences he had come to the rest of hands. They were to be ready to start God, the feast of everlasting love, around history to write, our destiny to make, our you see, it was not so much men's at a moment's notice.

You see, it was not so much men's own battles to fight, what have we to do hate as it was God's love, that set up the

to make it sacred and memorable for all of any kind for them. They behold the for us to remember. But we will not face of the Lord; they dwell in the forget it. We are here to remember it Now, brethren, we are gathered here presence of the King. You remember in the way the Lord Himself wants us to-day, around the sacred table, for the Lord's servants who ministered at to remember it. memorial purposes. If the Jews had the altar in other days, and their sweet The simple elements that are soon to their memorial day, a day they were to tender messages come back to you to-day be on the table before us, the bread and keep most sacredly, a day that was to like good news from a far off land. You the wine, are emblematic of the body and remind them of the great salvation their remember, too, the old elders who blood of the Lord. The broken bread. God had wrought out for them; is it not reverently served at the tables, carrying in its own simple mute way, tells us of most fitting for us to have our memorial in their hands the sacred elements from the broken body of Him who suffered day, a day that tells us what God has pew to pew, and they seemed then to and died on the cross, and the red wine done for us, for He has done as much for you so worthy to be what they were, and in the cup tells us of the red blood shed us as for them, and more? Yes. I they seem to you yet so good. Oh the to wash away sin. We look, and across think I hear the Lord saying to us memories that come rushing, the sweet the wide years we see a scene that to-day, gathered here, what He said to and hallowed associations linked with shudders the soul. But it is wise to the slaves of Egypt in the long long this service! Thus this is indeed a look, and think, and feel, for it is one ago: "And this day shall be unto you memorial day to you. "And this day that means so much to us. It is a oftshall be unto you for a memorial."

First, then, this day is memorial to us Again, the occasion that has brought story, some would say, but that can because of all its hallowed associations us together to-day may well be memorial never be so long as there is a soul to be and personal reminiscenses and experitous for this other reason, that it is saved, a human life to be helped and fitted to call to mind the struggles and blessed. We need to have the story The Communion Sabbath has always battles of bygone years, to secure for us told over and over again, for it is only been a high day with us, and I hope it such a sweet and hallowed privilege as thus we can take in the fullness of its will continue so. In other days it was this. There are still in our mode of meaning, the sublimity and grandeur even more so than it is now. What observing the communion a few things, of its teachings. Come with me, then, Easter is to the Episcopal and Romish such as the token for example, that are and let us together wonder and adore, churches, the communion used to be, held on to for the purpose of reminding as through our tears, we gaze once more and is yet, to the Scottish churches. us of the intolerance and persecutions upon the tragedy of the cross. The week preceding was observed as a of past times. There was a time when You see yonder a young man, not yet sort of holy week, special religious we could not thus meet. There was a thirty-five, driven before a howling mob services being held almost every day. time when the state stepped in and through the streets of Jerusalem to the The Thursday was the fast-day, or day interfered with church discipline, granted place called Calvary. He labors under for humiliation and prayer. It was the privileges of membership to those a heavy cross, the oldtime instrument kept like a Sabbath. No work was the church deemed unworthy. There of death for criminals, that crushes him done. The shops were shut. The was a time when the church was driven under its cruel weight. It is found that churches were thronged with devout to the wilderness, and when the wine of it is too much for him, and a black man worshippers. Then Friday was called her festival was sometimes mingled with coming into the city at the time is pressthe question day. The people met to her own blood. Happily for us those ganged into service as his assistant, and discuss such questions as perplexed bitter times have passed away. In bears it after him and with him- It was intending communicants. Then the other days the battles of religious intended for dishonor, but no greater Saturday was the preparation day, and Monday the Thanksgiving day. Thus the most of a week, and sometimes more, were taken up in the services connected daring to make us afraid. We are glad, men used to deeds of blood, rudely strip with the communion. Ministers of we ought to be glad, that the lines have him, and then with mallet and spikes note as preachers would be invited to fallen to us in pleasant places, in happier they nailed Him to the cross. This assist, and they would preach their best times, that we have so good a heritage. done, the cross, with the victim nailed sermons, put forth their greatest efforts. It is not good nor wise perhaps to be to it, is lifted up and firmly planted in The people came from far and near, fighting the old battles over again, to be its place, amid the jeers and yells of an immense crowds that no church could harping on the wrongs of bygone ages, to inturiated populace. And thus he dies. accommodate, and so the services were be opening up the old sores and causing You ask what it all means—what he usually out-doors, a little booth being them to bleed afresh. "Let bygones be has done that He should thus die, die in errected for the comfort and convenience bygones; let the past be forgotten," it the midst of criminals, and you learn of the preacher. Then the communion is said. And I would say it too. But that he has done only good. The sick tables were real tables, placed in broad still, there are memories that come up are there that He has healed. The aisles of the church, or perhaps out-doors, to-day we ought not to forget. We lepers are there He has cleansed. The covered with white cloths, around which would be utterly unworthy of the blind are there whose eyes He has openrelays of communicants reverently hallowed privileges we enjoy, it we ed. Perhaps the dead even are there gathered, singing as they came and should ever forget, or underestimate, whom His voice of power and love has went. The services were long, lasting what they cost our fathers in the olden raised up to life. And letter than all from ten in the morning till five in the time. If we have a feast to-day, it is that, men and women are there who can The text carries us back to the olden evening, and yet they could hardly be to their precious blood in a very im- tell what He has done for their souls. time with its striking events and tragic said to be wearisome. Oh what com- portant sense we owe it, and some of They can tell how He found them bad,

our duty, to forget, and so we are here blood flow. Ah! that blood flows to Received by Recent Arrivals. to-day to remember. The old past is to wash away my sins and yours. We teach the young future lessons of wisdom. say it was men's hate that nailed Him It is out of its mistakes we are to learn to the tree, and we denounce Judas, and how best to do the good to come. "And Caiaphas, and Pilate and the brutal a lamb between them. The blood of the words he told me somewhat of his this day shall be unto you for a Roman soldiery, and the unfeeling mob.

brought us together here to-day is to higher and grander viewpoint, the remember the sufferings and death of our viewpoint of the Divine love. It does Lord. "This do," He says, "in renot, of course, lesson the crime of His membrance of me." And the whole murderers, but it sets the matter before services is such as to set before us in a love-light that is transcendantly way that is fitted to strike and impress sweet to behold. This is the way He

the tragedy of the cross. one time of no little importance, that it begotten Son, that whosoever believeth is just as well to forget, and better per- in him should not perish, but have haps. In this new land, with our everlasting life.' with the strifes and struggles of other cross, and there is something there we Now, here to-day you cannot help but days and other lands with regard to mere had better look at. Here is a lost instructed. So that as we know the go back to the past, especially the older speculative questions, doctrinal or world, men perishing. Perishinginstructions is twere most fully members. There come to you here ecclesiastical differences, matters of what a word! You can hear the hiss of carried out, and i is evident, I think, unbidden, yea in spite of you, other opinion? I hold the fewer we import of the great serpent in it, the sweep and Egyptians even, scenes, other days, other faces, memories these old vexed questions the better. surge of the waves of the lake of fire, the perhaps those more especially who were that you cannot let go, and would not if We will have vexed questions enough awful plunge of a lost soul as with a connected with the Israelites by inter- you could, for there is a sweet sad by and by. It is a solemn duty to forget shriek it shoots straight to its own place, marriages, observed the passover, and solemnity about them to you. You as well as remember, to forget everywere thus saved from the terrible judgrecall your first communion, and all the thing of the past that is of no manner of the damned. God silk. Hard and soft Hats, Straw Hat ment that fell upon their countrymen. doubts and misgivings you had in coming use to us, and that would be likely to cannot bear to hear that word, and to That night the first-born in the land of forward. But the Lord helped you create trouble where there need be none. save men from it, He sets up the cross, Egypt were all slain, and the Lord's then, and He has helped you ever since. But then, on the other hand, there are and give His own Son to hang on people were allowed to go, the Egyptians and you feel now how good it was for events, that the world cannot afford to Jesus dies on the cross because God helping them all they could to get away, you to have come then. You remember forget, events that lie at the root of all loves us. The cross is yonder with its giving them whatever they asked, and too, so well, some of those who came the good there is, events that constitute tears and blood because God pities us, even pressing things upon them, so eager were they to be rid of them.

Thus, what a memorable day that Thus, what a memorable day that the course perhaps, and are the good there is, events that constitute tears and because ded perhaps the good there is, events that constitute tears and because ded perhaps and wants to keep us, save us, and there is noother way but that one way in think of them to-day. They have finished their course perhaps, and are the good there is, events that constitute tears and because ded perhaps and wants to keep us, save us, and there is noother way but that one way in which it can be done. The cross is not the constitute tears and because ded perhaps and wants to keep us, save us, and there is noother way but that one way in which it can be done. The cross is not was. It was a day that never could be now where there are no more tears to them, is the tragedy of Calvary. We a terrible biunder, one of the many

told story, the crucifixion, a threadbare

worthless, hopeless, and saved them-And another thing, the day may come made them good, useful. happy, holy.

Thus, it is not in our interests, nor sacrifice, our substitute. You see His wash away my sins and yours. We say it was men's hate that nailed Him to the tree, and we denounce Judas, and ow best to do the good to come. "And his day shall be unto you for a nemorial."

But again, the great purpose that has rought, us together here to day is to held a creater with the cost, a very much binder to day is to held a creater with the cost, a very much binder to day is to held a creater with the cost, a very much binder and single, and the cross, a very much binder and single, and the cross, a very much binder and single, and the cross, a very much binder and single, and the cross can be creater with the cross can be creater that the cross can be creater to the tree, and we denounce Judas, and to the tree, and the brutal Roman soldiery, and the unfeeling mob. But there is another viewpoint, from which to look at the cross, a very much binder to day is to the tree, and we denounce Judas, and to the tree, and the brutal Roman soldiery, and the unfeeling mob. But there is another viewpoint, from which to look at the cross, a very much be calculated to the tree, and we denounce Judas, and to the tree, and the brutal Roman soldiery, and the unfeeling mob. But there is another viewpoint, from which to look at the cross, a very much be calculated to the tree, and we denounce Judas, and to the tree, and the brutal Roman soldiery. Himself accounts for His death : "God There are occurrences and events, at so loved the world that he gave his only

forgotten in the history of God's people. weep, no more trials to endure, no more are not to forget that. To forget that things that need not have been Everything was done that could be done temptations to withstand, no more evils would be to forget what it is all-estential at all, if men had only known better.



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