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A SERMON

PREACHED ON LORD'S DAY,

October 1st, A. D. 1812,

AT THE HIGH HILLS OF SANTEE,

BEFORE THE

Charleston Baptist Association

AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING,

AND

PUBLISHED AT THEIR REQUEST.

BY JONATHAN MAXCY, D. D.

President of the S. Carolina College.

CHARLESTON, S. C.

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1812.

A SERMON.

I COR. XV. 57.

“ Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

SIN is the only origin of all evil, natural and moral. It has divested man of his primitive glory, alienated him from God, and subjected him to suffering and death. The divine laws are all good, and in their nature calculated to promote and secure the highest happiness of all intelligent beings. Of course, these laws, if always and fully obeyed, would forever exclude from the universe, all sin and misery. Supreme love to God, is the essence of all true virtue; and the end of this, is happiness. The divine will or law, is therefore, the standard of virtue, and the rule of action for all rational, voluntary agents. These, therefore may with certainty calculate, that their ultimate happiness, will be exactly proportionate to their virtue in principle and practice. As conformity to the law of God, produces virtue and happiness, so disconformity to it, produces sin and misery. Hence, all evil has originated in the mutability and defection of the creature, and not in an insufficiency of divine benevolence; much less in a positive, divine influence. All evils, both moral and physical, are so many evidences of the sin and degradation of man. He is now in a state of exile; in a land of bondage; an enemy to God, and to himself. All the evils of his troublesome, evanescent life, are comprised in sin and pain. These he constantly feels. His soul is filled with unhallowed desires, and with ungovernable appetites, at war with his reason and conscience.

