

THE PULPIT.

THE ROCK IN HOREB.

"And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the Lord, and pitched in Rephidim; and there was no water for the people to drink. And Moses said unto him, Why chide ye with me? Wherefore do ye tempt the Lord? And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is it that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us, or not?"—*Exodus XVII.: 1-8.*

The children of Israel were now in the wilderness on the way to Canaan. They came to a place where they could find no water. As was *their* custom, they murmured against Moses. As was *his* custom, Moses cried unto God. In answer to prayer, a rock was showed him, which he was commanded to smite with his wonder working rod. He did so, and abundant waters gushed out for the refreshment of the many thousands of Israel. In that miraculous interposition of the God of Israel, to supply His thirsty people with water in the wilderness, there is strikingly symbolized that wonderful provision of Heaven's mercy, by which souls are saved from eternal death. That the spiritually minded Israelites viewed it in that light, and that when they partook of the water flowing from the smitten rock, their souls drank by faith of the water of everlasting life, flowing from the pierced side of Immanuel, is evident from the apostolic testimony: "They drank of that spiritual rock that followed them: and that rock was Christ." Let us notice:—

I.—THE ROCK.

"Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the *rock* in Horeb." What a lively symbol of Christ is a rock! How suggestive it is of what He is *in Himself!* What durability and strength characterize Him who is "the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever," and who will never fail those who build on Him as the rock of their salvation. How suggestive, moreover, is a rock, of what the Redeemer is to *His people*. He is the *foundation* of all their hopes. "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation." Those who build their hope of eternal life on any other foundation, are on the sand. They who build on Christ, the per-