

rises slowly through the centuries. There were, as might be expected certain features of resemblance between these three. Thus (e. g.) there was silence in the building of the first temple, when without sound of axe or hammer, stone was laid on stone so that "like some tall palm the noiseless fabric grew." In the silence of growth Christ's human frame was upbuilt when he increased in wisdom and stature.' And silently rises the Church of Christ; "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation" no sound is heard when souls are converted, and so become set as living stones in the walls of God's great temple. There was brightness about the temple of Solomon as it gleamed with golden lustre in the sunlight; a far comlier beauty dwelt in the spotless person of our Redeemer; and a radiance of purity and righteousness shall be seen—and even now by eyes that can detect it, is seen—in the temple of the ransomed Church. The praise of the Most High rang through the arches of the Jewish temple; unbroken praise, the melody of a perfect life, rose up from the temple of Christ's flesh; while from the temple of the church there is rising, and shall forever rise, that new song which we, the ransomed of mankind can sing. Sacrifice was almost constantly seen in the first temple; Christ rendered the sacrifice of a holy life, and his death completed the atonement; while the third temple derives its lustre from the blood of the Lamb, and each christian, being a lively stone in that temple, is a living sacrifice unto Christ. The first and second of these temples have passed away. Nothing save the situation now remains of that temple towards which the heart and eyes of every Jew once turned in devotion and delight. In bodily presence our Redeemer is seen no more among us, for "it was expedient that He should go away," but the temple of Christ's ransomed Church shall never wax old nor pass away; built on the sure foundation of Christ and the Apostles it rises slowly but steadily; each believer built into the temple by the hand of God becomes the instrument for upbuilding others; and at last the whole fabric shall be presented to the Father, and disclosed to the universe, perfect and glorious from corner to coping stone. Now ye are this temple of God, all who have

been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and have been made members of Christ's mystical body. On through the centuries has extended and shall extend the glorious succession of believers, and ye are part of that living line. Upward through the ages is reared this everlasting temple, and ye are living stones in its walls, for as saith the Apostle elsewhere, "Ye are built upon the foundation of the Apostle and the Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone, in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (2) Consider the glory of the Church as here expressed. "The Spirit of God dwelleth in you." The supreme moment in the history of the temple was when at its dedication, the glory of God filled the house, when he who in mercy to Human weakness had given to Israel of old the pillar of cloud and of fire as the outward proof of his guidance, now gave them in the clouds of glory that filled the house a visible token of his presence. And the temple could not be God's true habitation. "Behold" said Solomon "the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee: how much less the house that I have built." "Yea, saith the High and lofty One that inhabited eternity, "I dwell with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit." Greater than the grandest earthly temple, greater even than the material world which supplies the elements for their construction, is the human soul; the spirit of a little child may be a more wondrous and appropriate dwelling place for God than even the splendours of revolving suns and systems. Now believers are God's habitations: the Spirit of God dwelleth in them. That most blessed truth has been abused by deluded and deceiving fanatics: it has been treated by many with ridicule and scorn; but the noblest of our race, those who have done most for the world's welfare, have clung to it, as certain of it as of any other fact in their existence, and by the inspiration of that Spirit have led lives of unequalled usefulness and heroism. Take from our holy religion the presence and power of that spirit and you leave it marrowless. Christian precepts would remain to us, but they would remain impossible of fulfilment. Christ's example