

against sin and Satan, ever relying on his promised presence. She may enter more largely on Home missionary operations and send the Gospel to every nook and corner of the land, until the French speaking Canadian shall hear the story of the cross in his own tongue, and the wandering Indian shall be taught to know and love and obey the Great Good Spirit,—and the degraded African who has tossed his fetters from him when he landed on our shore and hugged freedom to his breast—a long sought boon, has heard his voice who maketh free indeed—and the hardy settler of the forest shall hear from the living voice the tidings of love and mercy. She may unfurl her banners, and send her missionaries to other lands and take her place with the other churches in forwarding the good tidings through all lands, until the whole earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. "Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

V. GOD'S PRESENCE A PLEDGE AND FORETASTE OF FUTURE REST.

And I will give thee rest. On this part of our subject we cannot enlarge; your time forbids me doing more than merely to indicate the train of thought we would have followed, had time permitted. In its primary application this promise may be understood as synchronous with the promise of his presence, when the church enjoys God's presence she at the very same time enjoys rest; happy is that people whose God is the Lord." Or this promise may refer to the termination of their journey and to the enjoyment that awaited them then. And the language of Joshua 1. 13, 16-21, 43, 44 would countenance this interpretation. But taking a more enlarged view of the subject, you will at once agree with me in saying, that this promise can only be regarded as receiving its grand fulfillment when the church militant becomes the church triumphant. Heaven is peculiarly a place of rest—rest from sin, and sorrow, from trouble and toil, from anxiety and distress—rest in the bosom of the beloved. Sweet is pleasure after pain. The presence of God with his people on earth is the greatest good they can enjoy here—but there is a greater good in Heaven; in thy presence is fullness of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for ever more. So that what is enjoyed below may be viewed

as a foretaste of the rest that remaineth for the people of God. It is also a pledge of it: when this pilot undertakes to steer the vessel, she will not split upon the rocks, nor run upon the sands, nor yield before the storm, he will see her safely into the haven of rest. God will bring his ransomed home. He will finish the good he has begun. Fear not little flock it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Goodness and mercy all my day,
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for ever more,
My dwelling place shall be.

In conclusion—fathers and brethren, the position we now occupy as a church is peculiarly interesting. We look back and from the small beginning we mark her onward progress to the present time. Surely God has fulfilled his promise, his presence has been with us.

We look back over the years of negotiation with the Sister Church and think of the difficulties that have been surmounted—the obstacles that have been removed—the heart-burnings and jealousies and strifes, that have been exchanged for mutual love and confidence. Surely God has fulfilled his promise, and his presence has been with us.

We look into the relationship so close and gratifying and helpful, that has subsisted between us and the mother church for over a quarter of a century, which will, to a certain extent, be broken up and we might regret the action that leads to this result, did we not feel assured that the Church in Scotland will heartily rejoice over the union and regard it, as another reward of her missionary enterprise.

And we look forward to the work still to be done in this country and note the hindrances in the way, arising from the carelessness and worldly-mindedness and skepticism of the age; and we cannot but rejoice at the prospect of having our hands greatly strengthened and our hearts encouraged and a new impetus given to ministerial and missionary zeal. O, for his presence to direct and animate us. Lord, send now prosperity.

O Saviour, let thy glory shine
And fill thy dwellings here,
Till life and love and joy divine
Make earth like Heaven appear.