

## SANCTIFICATION.

† THESSALONIANS V. 23.

Let us examine a little into that which this passage teaches us with regard to sanctification. It is connected indeed with a nature, but it is linked with an object ; and it depends for its realization on the operation of another, namely, of God Himself ; and it is founded on a perfect work of reconciliation with God already accomplished. Inasmuch as it is founded on an accomplished reconciliation, into which we enter by the reception of a new nature, the Scriptures consider Christians as already perfectly sanctified in Christ. It is practically carried out by the operation of the Holy Ghost, who in imparting this nature separates us—as thus born again—entirely from the world. It is important to maintain this truth, and to stand very clearly and distinctly on this ground, otherwise practical sanctification soon becomes detached from a new nature received, and is but the amelioration of the natural man ; and then it is quite legal, a return—after reconciliation—into doubt and uncertainty ; because, though justified, the man is not accounted meet for heaven—this depends on progress ; so that justification does not give peace with God. Scripture says, “ Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light ” ( 1 Col. i. 12 ). Progress there is, but it is not in Scripture connected with meetness. The thief was meet for Paradise and