

that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired ; but he delivered Jesus to *their will*" (Luke xxiii.).

The words of our Lord may fitly close this bird's-eye view of existing alliances and ripening confederations : " I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not ; if *another* shall come in his own name, him ye will receive " (John v.). Barabbas instead of Jesus ; the dragon instead of God ; the antichrist instead of Christ ; the false prophet instead of the true one ; the beast instead of the Lamb slain ; are become the authorities and names by which the devil is suffered to wind up this world's history, and by which he fatally plunges those who are " led captive by him at his will " into the last scenes of the apocalyptic judgments of God. The earth clears itself, by such means, of those who have corrupted it, whether by Satanic or human energies ; yet only that hell may open its mouth to receive them. The earth thus cleanses itself from its pollutions by destroying them that destroyed it, " and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever " (Rev. xx.).

What an unspeakable comfort for our souls, and what a mercy, that we can turn away from the consideration of such fellowships as these, and their issues (and invite others to do so) to speak of another which God has formed for all who are Christ's, and into which He leads us by the Holy Ghost.