

S E R M O N I.

THE CHARACTER OF THE COMFORTER, AND THE UNSPEAKABLE BLESSEDNESS OF HIS MINISTRATION.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." John xiv. 16:

The hour had come when the son of man was to be glorified,—when he must leave his disciples, and return to his Father. His work of teaching was now almost completed, and he was about to enter upon his work of suffering and dying. This was his great work, the work peculiar to him as the Redeemer. A mere man might have been so inspired by God as to communicate all the truths, and utter all the predictions which our Saviour delivered; and so strengthened; and endowed, as to perform all the miracles which he wrought; but none but a being of independent existence, and omnipotent power, could have availed as the substitute of sinners, and made satisfaction for the sins of the guilty. This was his peculiar work,—the work, for the doing of which the Father prepared him a body, in reference to which he said, "Lo, I come to do thy will O God."

It was long before the apostles understood the import, or the necessity of his death; no wonder therefore that it was contemplated by them with horror, especially as it was so contrary to all their expectations. No wonder that their hearts were filled with sorrow, when he told them that he must leave them, and leave them, amidst circumstances of humiliation, and ignominy, and suffering. He had frequently hinted to them that he would be put to death by the Jews, and lately he had told them plainly that he must go up to Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders, and chief priests, and scribes, and be killed; and raised again the third day.

The thought of losing a beloved friend by death is