

[From the Christian Visitor of the 28th March.]

Heaven's Welcome.

To whom ? To those who have fought their last battle, uttered their last sigh, endured their last pain, committed their last sin, shed their last tear, and yielded up their blood-washed souls into the hands of their divine Lord, in effect, saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." The irresistible fiat goes forth from the eternal throne, and the body sleeps in death ; but the soul, redeemed and sanctified, leaves its material tenement and is borne upon angelic wing to the heaven of heavens—the palace of the King of kings—the home of the Eternal. The gates of the celestial city open to let the heir of glory in, while a voice from the throne is heard, saying, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Blessed invitation, coming from the lips of him whose countenance, radiated with the brilliancy of infinite love, outshines ten thousand blazing suns. This gracious invitation fills the heaven-born soul with joy unutterable and full of glory. It is the moment not simply of release, of victory, of rest ; but of riches, honors, happiness and glory in limitless fullness.