

the glory of the Lord ; but in a far superior manner in the life to come. So heavenly, exalted, and glorified will man become, that angels, as of old, will gladly mingle with him, and become his companion and fellow worshipper.

They will have bodies adapted to this place of existence : no longer animal, but spiritual and glorious. Bodies freed from all defects and impediments—equal to the angels ; minds also equally improved and enlarged, so as to be enchanted with the most enravishing ideas, which every thing, and every circumstance will pour upon them.

The new heavens and new earth mentioned by Isaiah, (chap. lxxv. 17,) is a blessed state of things, but it is not that state which is intended here. Isaiah refers to times when men will be very holy and happy ; will live long ; and will have every comfort and felicity. But it is a state in which they will build houses, and inhabit them ; and plant vineyards, and eat of the fruit of them ; when there will be births and deaths ; and when sinners will yet live as probationers. This cannot apply to the earth after the judgment. It is most probable that Isaiah's description belongs to the full development of the Gospel system, or in other words to the millennial state.

But the new heavens and earth mentioned by St. John are those which will be called into existence after the judgment. There through all eternity he will display his love in redemption. "That in *the ages to come* he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." (Eph. ii. 7.)

Let it not be thought that this is unduly materializing the abode of man in his future felicity. There must be some locality assigned as the abode of finite creatures ; and some material position which they must occupy. This present earth, purified, refined,