

THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

Church of Scotland

IN

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOL. XXII.

APRIL, 1876.

NO 4.

"IF I FORGOT THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING." Ps. 137, 4, 5.

THE MULTITUDE OF THE RE-DEEMED.

SERMON.

BY REV A. J. MACKICHAN, BARNEY'S RIVER.

"After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, etc.—Rev. 7 : 9-10.

Meditation upon the glory and blessedness of Heaven is at all times a seasonable and profitable exercise to believers. And what should be a more interesting and delightful subject of contemplation than the nature and employment of that better land to which many of our relatives and acquaintances have gone, and at which we ourselves hope one day to arrive. There are some parts of the world, of which we know almost nothing, and concerning which we feel little anxiety to know more. But surely if there was any place on the face of the earth, at a great distance from us, and little known to us, but to which many of our dearest friends had gone, and in which we ourselves expected some time to settle; and if any one came from it with information, would we not joyfully hail his arrival, and instantly hasten to meet him and eagerly enquire about the land he left and its inhabitants? Yes, our eager curiosity would be quickly excited to learn all the particulars. And if any one comes to instruct us concerning Heaven—that far distant land to which we all profess to be journeying—shall we feel no anxiety to be made acquainted with its nature, its enjoyments, its exercises and laws; and how it fares with our departed friends who have taken up their final and everlasting abode there. Though careful and troubled about many things which relate to the present life, let us not be unconcerned about the world to come. Our time here will soon be at an end; and as it is both our duty and interest to be preparing for

Heaven, we ought often to meditate upon it; so that we may be animated and encouraged in our progress towards it, and induced to bear in mind that here we have no continuing city or fixed place of abode, and that we are only strangers, and pilgrims, and sojourners on the earth, as all our fathers were before us.

In that description of the Heavenly world which we find in the words of our text, there are many particulars suggested for our consideration. We shall attend to a few of them. And may the Lord fill our minds with the holy ambition of obtaining a place in the new Jerusalem, among the pure and spotless angels, and all the wise and excellent ones that have been redeemed from the earth—that we may now run with patience the race set before us, and be followers of them who "through faith inherit the promises."

I. The first thing that requires our attention is, the *vast multitude of the Redeemed* which the Apostle, in Apocalyptic vision, saw in Heaven. This multitude of ransomed souls was exceedingly great "I beheld," says he, "and lo, a great multitude which no man could number, stood before the throne and before the Lamb." And if those of our race who shall be admitted into the beatific presence of God in Heaven exceed the power of human reckoning, how prodigiously numerous must they be. We are capable of summing up the units of a mighty assembly. Beyond a certain point, however, we are utterly incapable of forming an adequate idea of the value of figures. We may go on for a time adding millions, but we soon become bewildered in the very immensity of our calculations. And vast surely must be the number of the redeemed of mankind, if no human being can count them or form an intelligent conception of them. And this description of the multitude of the ransomed ones which is given in our text, is in no way inconsistent with those passages of Scripture which intimate that only