

## S E R M O N .

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"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours ; and their works do follow them." *Revelations* xiv. 13.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." What words of Holy Scripture are more fit to be uttered in the Cathedral of a Christian Bishop, draped as this is with the emblems of mourning ? Words which change the curse of death into a blessing ; words which lighten the mourner's heart, and are balm to the wounded spirit. Scarcely one short week since, and they comforted the heart of a son, standing by the freshly made grave of a venerated father ; and to-day they give abiding consolation to a whole diocese, stricken and mourning the loss of its Right Reverend Father in God. Let us first ponder the words themselves, and then consider our great sorrow which it is intended to sanctify.

"I heard a voice from heaven," saith St. John. 'Twas not the voice of an angel ; 'twas not the voice of an archangel, but the same voice which he had before heard on the Mount of Transfiguration—the voice of God the Father. And to this august voice the Holy Ghost responds : "Yea," saith the Spirit. The text challenges our faith on the testimony of two witnesses—God the Father and God the Holy Ghost. Mark the manner in which it is given : "Write," saith the Father ; "Yea," saith the Spirit. Leave it forever on record ; give enduring, unchangeable immortality to the testimony of these divine witnesses. Write—commit it to no vain, uncertain