

commencement of it which can bear application to Solomon, or the government of any earthly kingdom, and which might be advocated as terminating in him. But taking the whole Psalm together, it seems to be a prophetic delineation of the surpassing greatness and glory of the Messiah, and also of his kingdom, and government and work, the elevated inspiration of a soul thoroughly in union with the purposes of God as to the triumphant progress and the perpetuity of the Church of Christ. Splendid and imposing as Jerusalem, the city of the great king became during the reign of Solomon ; great and decisive as were the victories with which his arms were crowned ; extensive and enriching as were the conquests which he made, and largely as the nation flourished in all the arts of peace during the greater part of his reign, after the days of battle were over ; the language of the Psalm would be nothing but exaggerated and out of place, when understood to apply to anything of worldly grandeur or fame, anything merely human, which had ever appeared upon the earth. As we begin, and proceed with the reading of the Psalm, our thoughts are irresistibly drawn to Him to whom all the law and the prophets bear witness, even the branch from the stem of Jesse, growing out of his place to build the temple of the Lord, the King reigning in righteousness, coming to judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth, of the increase of whose government and peace there shall be no end ; and then, when we read that his subjects shall be as the grass upon the ground for multitude, that all the nations shall be blessed in Him, and come to the concluding