

THE
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THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH ON
EARTH.

The ancient prophets spake of the sufferings of Christ, and of the glory which should follow. But between the sufferings and the glory, there is a long period in the Church's history, of trial and of grace—an intervening dispensation, which seems in a great measure to have been hidden from the sight of the ancient seers. As our Lord's ministry upon the earth drew near its close, he more and more clearly unfolded to his disciples the nature of that kingdom which he was about to set up, and which, after a period of manifold persecutions, conflicts and trials, was to result in that eternal kingdom and glory of which the prophets had spoken. One of the characteristics of the Church in its present state, of which He frequently spake, is, that it is a visible kingdom with an invisible Head. "I," your king, "go away." "Yet a little while and ye shall not see me, because I go to my Father."

The Church of Christ is a kingdom. True, it is divided—sadly divided into sects and parties, yet all owning a common allegiance to the King and His Laws. Like the Provinces of an Empire, with all their provincial distinctions and peculiarities, yet all uniting in their loyalty and allegiance to the throne. But what is there to bind this spiritual kingdom into one? There is no visible throne, or crown, or sceptre. On the contrary, wherever the Church has maintained its purity, any visible or earthly head, has been indignantly disowned. The Church's entire spiritual independence of earthly power and control, is a truth for which, in these last days, we have been called especially to contend. What is there then to bind the church into one? Where is our King? We answer, invisible; for the heavens have received Him till the times of the restitution of all things. The calling of the Church is to walk by faith and not by sight. She looks at "things not seen," and with the eye of faith, she sees a "Priest upon His throne." Faith rejoices through clouds and darkness to see the King in His glory. Jesus hath entered within the veil and hath sat down on His Father's throne. But we know, too, that he intercedes and reigns, exer-