

NOT A WILDERNESS STATE.

THERE are very erroneous views prevalent in regard to Justification. There are those who are disposed to draw an analogy between the state of the Jews in the wilderness and Christians in a state of justification. Such representations are very wrong and misleading.

The Jews in the wilderness were full of unbelief, murmurers against God and against Moses, and guilty of the foulest idolatry. God had to inflict upon them sore judgments, and the great mass of them failed to enter Canaan—their bones were left to bleach in the wilderness, a fearful example of God's indignation against unbelievers.

How different the state of the justified Christian under the light and influence of the New Testament dispensation! He is a true believer, having appropriated to himself the infinite merit of the atoning blood. All his past transgressions are freely and fully forgiven. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath God removed his transgressions from him. Hence, all guilt arising from the acts of personal rebellion is removed, and he is accounted righteous before God, just as much as though he had never sinned. Guilt being removed, there is no sense of condemnation remaining; but on the contrary, a comfortable assurance of God's favour. This change of spiritual relation is a witnessed one. The spirit of adoption is given, whereby the individual cries "*Abba, Father!*" He is now a child and an heir of God, and a joint heir with Jesus Christ—heir to all that God *is* in Himself, and to all that He *has*, in the length and breadth of His kingdom. Moreover, in connection with this pardon of sin, and the adoption into the Divine family, there is the work of *moral regeneration*, so that he is renewed in the spirit of his mind, all his powers being set heavenward instead of earthward. He has within him the principle of *spiritual life*, and the graces of true holiness are all implanted in infantile degree, so that all such are called "*saints*." This is no *wilderness state*—it is glorious, and there is only one step from this to entire sanctification.—*Guide to Holiness.*

WHEN endless day dispels the strife
Which blinds and darkens now,
Perchance the brightest crown of life
Shall deck some lowly brow.
Then learn, despite thy boding fears,
From seed with sorrow sown,
In lone obscurity and tears,
The richest sheaves are grown.