

## THE SONG OF SOLOMON.

### II.

**I**N my last article, I gave a few brief arguments for the inspiration and spirituality of this portion of the Old Testament. My present purpose is to show the same thing by calling attention to the great Christian graces that permeate the entire Song. These are Joy, Peace and Love—the very qualities for which the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was given to establish in the human heart and in the world.

The last of these graces, I shall consider in a third article. The first two, I will now briefly present:—

(1) Joy stands in the foreground, because this is a *song*—yea, a *nuptial song*! From beginning to end, the poet's frenzy flows out upon the swelling tide of that ineffable delight which is inseparable from true courtship and holy wedlock. Laying hold on such human experiences, the poet conducts us, at once, to a contemplation of the higher matrimonial union of the soul with Jesus Christ; and, through the Holy Spirit's aid, to a participation in that joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.

This world was made for song, laughter and holy merriment. When the foundations of the earth were laid the morning stars sang together. As a sinless being, man had in his bosom a harp of a thousand chords, giving forth music without a discord. Paradise was a complete cadence. All was righteous, and righteousness is harmony, sweetness, joy. That this should always be was the divine purpose. God is not the author of dissonance. Tears and groans come not through the will of our Heavenly Father. It was sin that brought sorrow, by throwing out of harmony all the chords of the soul. True, there is joy in sin. But of what quality is it, and whither does such joy tend? Let the drunkard's home tell us the nature and destiny of the merriment of unrighteousness—let the infidel's studio speak—the gambler's haunt—the criminal's cell—the rogue's lurking place—the house of darkness—the sinner's deathbed—the lost soul's limbus! Where Satan is there can be no truly joyous heart; neither can there