

ancestors, had fought the good fight of faith and endured to the end and ; being at length delivered from their toils, had entered into the joy of their Lord promised to all his faithful servants. The plural in *ενεργ.* as Kuinoel observes,—‘is used because the promises in question were extended to the Patriarchs generally, and were given at various times and seasons (see Gen. xii, 3 ; xxii. 16 and 18 ; xxvi, 3 ; xxviii, 13) all, however, centering in the promise of salvation through a Redeemer.’”*

Thus the *obvious* reference in these expressions to the joy and felicity of departed saints, is sustained by the soundest principles of interpretation. And thus understood, how richly suggestive are they of just and elevated views of the heavenly state ! Our time will permit me to do little more than indicate those views ; but I trust you will expand them by your own meditation. In the word, *inherit*, there is a latent allusion—eminently apposite as addressed to Hebrew Christians—to Canaan, the standing type to the Church of God, of that sabbatic rest, the enjoyment of which awaits all the spiritual seed of the father of the faithful, after the weary pilgrimage of life. And oh ! how refreshing to look away from the waste and howling wilderness through which we are now passing to the land of perennial verdure and pure delight ; to solace ourselves amidst the harassings of our circuitous sojourn, with the thrilling thought that, if faithful, we shall soon, very soon, come, not in the anticipations of hope, but in the realizations of actual possession, to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem which is the mother, and destined inheritance of us all ! O come, consummation most blessed !

Jerusalem ! my happy home !
When shall I come to thee,
When shall my sorrows have an end,
Thy joys when shall I see ?

Another thought emanating from this pregnant expression, and corroborated by the congenial significance, in this connexion, of the associated word *promises*, is,—that heaven is not the

* Dr. Bloomfield's Greek Test., with English notes, in loc.