

XXVII.

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH EXPECTED
BY ST. PAUL.

PREACHED IN TORONTO, AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

EPHESIANS IV. 11, 12, 13.

And he gave some, apostles : and some, prophets : and some evangelists : and some pastors and teachers, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ : till we all come, in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

THERE are two books given to men to study, both coming from the same divine hand, the Book of Nature and the Book of Scripture. From the patient study of the former, there is ever resulting the discovery of new truths, truths unknown before even to the wisest ; and neither the number nor the greatness of the truths which have already been discovered affords any reason for doubting that more unspeakably shall yet be attained. Science, with all its past triumphs, is but in the beginning of its career, and it is reasonable to believe, they are only the first fruits which have yet been reaped of that magnificent harvest, which shall finally reward the application of human genius to the study of the works of God.

Now some such discovery and development of truth, new and before unknown truth, there are who expect also and equally to find in the study of the Book of Scripture. There are analogies doubtless, points of resemblance, between these two great books of God— analogies such as were to be expected in works coming

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