

THE next expression requiring explanation is—"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

By the phrase 'kingdom of heaven,' we cannot here understand the kingdom of glory, for of this we have several representations given to us ; and though of the salvation of Peter we do not entertain a doubt, yet his name enters into no description of heaven, no account of the solemnities of the day of judgment. We are indeed most expressly informed, that he who shall say "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord ;"* and "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ;"† that he who shall "take vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel,"‡ is none other than our Lord Jesus himself. It remains therefore that the allusion is to the kingdom of grace on earth. Now whatever is signified by the gift of the keys, it cannot be meant that Peter alone was authorized and assisted to lay down rules for

* Mat. 25—21.

† Mat. 25—34.

‡ 2 Thess. 1—7, 8.