

## SERMON.

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Gal. iv. 26 : "Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

THESE words refer to the Church,—to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. They are her royal charter, proclaiming her freedom, and our Divine authority for maintaining that freedom in the face of all opposition.

The Church is free from the law, free from man, free from bondage, and free from tyranny; that is, by the will of God. She is free by her existence, her power, and her ministrations; that is, as the appointment of God. She is free because she is God's, and His alone.

The Church is free, free to all, whether Jew or Gentile,—to all of every nation. Every one is free to share in her priceless blessings, and to all they are free "without money and without price." But not only is she thus free, she is also free "in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free."

To assure us of her freedom she is called "Jerusalem which is above." So if you would see what the Church is designed to be by God's will, you must look up to Heaven, to the glorious abode of "the High and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity," whose hand we can stay,—and see her picture there. Heaven is free from sin, and wrong, and cruelty. And as they are unknown there, they should likewise be unknown in the Church.

To enforce the truth of the Church's freedom upon us more deeply, we are shown, in the Epistle which has