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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning."—Ps. 137, v. 5.

THANKSGIVING SERMON,

BY REV. W. M. PHILIP,

Minister of St. Paul's Church, Truro. N. S.

*Preached on Tuesday, 8th December, 1863,
being the day appointed by the Government
for a Thanksgiving for the Harvest and
for the blessings of Peace.*

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord"—PSALM XCII. 1.

It has pleased our gracious Queen to issue a proclamation asking her subjects to offer up, with one consent, thanksgiving to Almighty God for the abundant harvest with which He has crowned the year, and for the happy exemption from the horrors of war, which, through His good providence, we have enjoyed. The day for our celebrating this sacred service has been nominated for us by the provincial government. If it is our duty as a people to engage in such an exercise, it is seemly and proper that the first step should be taken by our legal and representative Head. Let us be grateful to God that He has set over us an earthly sovereign who is so anxious to signify her sense of the responsibilities of her great office, and to show to her people an example of humility and piety. On such a day as this, she desires to descend from her throne, to lay aside her crown, and prostrate herself at the footstool of a greater throne; and she asks her people to kneel with her and acknowledge the goodness and the mercy of Him who is the absolute proprietor and sovereign ruler of all the ends of the earth.—And it is only by acts of this

kind that a sovereign can fully identify herself with her people. On such an occasion as this, our Sovereign declares herself on a level with the humblest of her subjects, and the humblest of her subjects may feel themselves on a level with her. Ofte awful and august presence which annihilates every earthly distinction, bends over us all.

May our hearts be united this day in one common sentiment of grateful devotion!

"It is a good thing," says the Psalmist, "to give thanks unto the Lord"—that is, it is not only good to feel thanks, but it is good to give thanks—to express our gratitude to God—in a direct, solemn and public manner. We are enjoined by God to come forth before his altar from time to time, and offer up there the sacrifice of praise and of prayer. "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him also will I confess before my Father which is in heaven." Every man will probably admit, that, as the head of a family, it is his duty to encompass the altar of God daily, and, in name and behalf of all those who constitute his household, to make mention of the loving-kindness and tender mercy of God—to offer up thanks for blessings bestowed and danger averted—and to solicit guidance and support for the time to come. This will be acknowledged by every man to be a personal, private duty. And he who attends to this duty will, so far, be obeying the commandment of God. But his view of the Divine goodness must not be limited by his own personal and private interests. In the fuel that brings summer to his fireside while winter freezes without in the long dark nights—in the clothes that cover, and the