

THE CHURCH

The Channel of Personal Holiness.



ST. JOHN XIV. 18.—“*I will not leave you comfortless ; I will come to you.*”

My friends, this ought to be a very triumphant and joyous festival with us ; for it is the anniversary of that glorious day on which the promise of our text began to be fulfilled. We say *began* “to be fulfilled,” because it is an *abiding* promise, given in all its richness to the Church of every age, so long as time shall last.

When on the day of Pentecost this promise that the blessed Jesus would ever dwell with His people, first became “yea and amen” to the Church, by the miraculous pouring forth of the Holy Ghost—the Comforter, proceeding from the Father and Himself, then did those “last days” commence of which the Apostles say so much, and in which it is our high privilege to live. The provision which Christ made, before He ascended again to heaven, for causing the Holy Ghost continually to dwell in His faithful elect people, and for the continuance, as it were, of His bodily presence in his visible Church, are God’s last great gifts to His chosen. There is, we speak it with reverence, nothing more for God to give, until He remove us to His own immediate presence, He has truly emptied Himself of all but love, hence these are “the last days”—from Pentecost to Judgment is one—the dispensation of Christ and His Spirit.