

given by God to the people of her late husband, got her the great blessing of union with Boaz. A lesson this for seeking souls, not to be turned away from the Lord of the harvest by any of the gaities or vanities of youth, but humbly seeking the Redeemer's feet, and asking boldly in faith for the skirt to be spread over them, then rest assured in a ready, willing answer—"I will do to thee all that thou requirest". But there is a nearer kinsman whose claim must be satisfied first, so to avoid all 'appearance of evil' she rises up early, before it could be known that she had been with Boaz, and departs. But now she departs with a blessing of six measures of the winnowed barley. Note, however, that *six* is not the perfect number,—the *seventh* was as yet future; now she gets *six* given to her as the reward of earnest following after privileges so graciously offered.

*Verse 18* teaches patience: waiting for the witness of the Spirit in our hearts—the witness of our union with Christ. Having placed ourselves at the feet of Jesus the promise is sure: "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (*Philippians* i. 6; *Proverbs* viii. 34).

*Chapter iv.* The name of the near kinsman is not mentioned: there is a reason for this. We have here symbolized, in the nearer kinsman and the ten elders, the law and the ten commandments. This kinsman at once accepts to redeem the *land*; the law was holy, just, and good; excellent for the moral government of the earth, but immediately this