

"OUR CHURCH LIFE IN 1892."

"The Lord hath been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the House of Israel; He will bless the House of Aaron; He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children. Ye are blessed of the Lord which made heaven and earth."

PSALM 115, 12-15.

This is a psalm of restored Jerusalem. It is a Temple song. The scene is the holy place and the people are assembled for public worship. The congregation of grateful and devout worshippers, begin the service of praise, as is most meet, with strains of thankfulness to supreme Jehovah for all they have, and for all they are, in that happy restoration era. Then they proceed with jubilant heart and lusty voice, to inspire one another to higher strains still of devout hallelujah. This brings us to verse 11. Then a break occurs in the congregational song, to allow the high priest, who is presiding, to interpose with his blessing in the name of Jehovah. He responds to the people's thanksgiving and praise in these sublimely simple and beautiful words:—"The Lord hath been mindful of us; He will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron; He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children. Ye are blessed of the Lord who made heaven and earth." Again the people take up the pious strain, and, their spirits fired by the helpful and assuring words of the priest, they shout out rapturously the praises of Jehovah, till the courts and corridors of the temple resound with exulting praise. And as the echoes die away among the distant hills, this one note lingers still on every pious lip