

THE REST OF PARADISE.



"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."—*Heb. iv, 9.*

The rest, which the people of God enjoy here, or shall enjoy hereafter, advances through three successive stages to its news of blessing after the Resurrection in the Heavenly Zion.

1.—There is first the present rest which the people of God enjoy now in Christ Jesus :

The rest which our Saviour promised to give here and now to the weary and the burdened ones when He spake those "Comfortable Words" : "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me ; and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

2.—There is next, the present rest which the people of God enjoy now in Paradise :

The rest that is referred to in those well-known words of St. John : "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors."

3.—Finally, there is the future rest which all the people of God shall enjoy after the Resurrection in the perfect consummation and bliss of God's eternal and everlasting glory :

The rest which, I think, is referred to in those words of St. Paul in II Thess. i, 7. "To you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with the angels of His power."

The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews, (whoever he was,) is referring probably to both the intermediate rest of Paradise, and to the final and more perfect rest of Heaven. Of both, the rest of the earthly Canaan, of which he has just been speaking, was a type. "There remaineth therefore a rest (keeping of a Sabbath—in the