

Thus we have seen how the Scripture establishes, under divers aspects, this blessed truth, that the Church is redeemed to be united to Jesus, in order that, when He takes possession of His inheritance, He may have a companion meet for Him, to be associated with Him in all things, and perfectly like unto her glorified Bridegroom.

For the complete fulfilment of these things, it was necessary, not only that the Church should be redeemed, but also that Christ should go to prepare a place for her.

CHRIST EXALTED IN THE HEAVENS PREPARES A PLACE FOR THE CHURCH, AND CAN FULFIL THE PROMISES MADE TO ISRAEL—MEANWHILE THE CHURCH IS CALLED.

The resurrection of the Saviour had the double result of accomplishing the redemption of the Church, and of putting Christ in a place where He could secure the sure mercies of David (Acts xiii. 34), that is to say, confirm in His own name all the promises made to Israel. Moreover, it was needful also that He should take possession of the heavenly places, in order to establish the kingdom of heaven and to fill all things (Eph. iv. 10; cf John xx. 17); as well as to associate the Church with that glory—new, and yet eternal—prepared before the foundation of the world, and yet hidden from the former ages, but the manifestation of which had been determined according to the wis-