

Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.

These words point us not to any earthly scene but to a heavenly—to the ineffably joyous ceremony at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Among men, the honor of presenting the bride belongs to her nearest friend, but the Church has no friend but Christ who would do such a work. He looked upon her abject and forlorn state. He espouses her to Himself and fits her on earth for her high position above. He would look in vain at the marriage ceremony for any friend who would present her, so He Himself, no other one, presents her to Himself.

But how will this honorable bride be arrayed when she will be presented at the marriage of the King of Kings? She is described negatively and positively.

We are told what she will not have, or what she will be without.

*She Will be Without Spot.*

Here she has many spots that cause her to blush with shame and weep with grief—spots of darkness in the understanding, spots of rebellion in the will, spots of unfaithfulness and bondage in the conscience, spots of pride and ingratitude in the heart, spots of failure in the conduct, so that often she bitterly exclaims, "I am black." There, she will not have one single spot. No stain of sin will be left.

*She Will Have no Wrinkle.*

Wasting diseases as well as old age cause wrinkles on the brow. Spiritual diseases cause wrinkles on the Church. Backslidings provoke the Holy Spirit, who removes in some measure His refreshing influences, and wrinkles appear—signs of weakness, such as coldness in prayer and inactivity in service; but Christ says, "I will heal their backsliding." There, "the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick." Immortal youth and eternal life will deck the Church in glory. She will be without wrinkle.