

royal, let your demeanour be such as to stamp you with the character once ascribed to Gideon's brethren, of whom it was said that "each one resembled the children of a king!"

We are trespassing not upon the region of imagination when, in depicting the spiritual architecture and appointments of the Father's house, we refer to the PICTURE-GALLERY as constituting one of its most appropriate and attractive mansions. It is not materializing heaven to transfer to its spiritual descriptions the expressive imagery of the material. In so doing we but imitate the Holy Ghost, who, in all His spiritual delineations of glory, hesitates not to dip His divine pencil in the bright, gorgeous colours with which God has tinted and enamelled this beautiful world. Painting, as a historic art, is universally and practically acknowledged. As the handmaid to history, her aid and achievements have won the gratitude and admiration of ages. Transfer the illustration to heaven. Upon the walls of that magnificent gallery, depicted in colours of living light, will be seen all the marvellous events of God's moral and providential government in the history of the universe, separately, visibly, and eternally traced. Nor this only. What will be our astonishment and marvel, when we gaze upon the walls of that gallery, to behold our individual history, from our entrance into this world of woe to our entrance into the world of glory—each event, each epoch, each step delineated with a life-like truthfulness, a depth of tint and a transparency of colour which shall reveal all the past with startling vividness, overpowering the mind with wonder, and expanding the heart with praise! Incidents which we had failed to note, events which we had totally forgotten, providences which we had blindly seen, and circumstances which we had strangely misunderstood, will then form a series of pictures, presenting a complete and perfect history of our individual life, illustrating the infinite wisdom, goodness, faithfulness, and love of our Father throughout the whole. It is recorded of Queen Elizabeth, that, ignorant of the laws of painting, she commanded her portrait to be taken without a shadow upon the canvas. With an ignorance of the laws of moral painting

equally as profound, and infinitely more serious, how often would we have obliterated from our history those sombre pencillings of life's picture—the dark background and blended shadows—which the Divine Artist knew to be essential to the fidelity, harmony, and perfection of the whole! We would have life without its moral discipline. We would efface from the portrait all the shadings of sorrow and sickness, suffering, poverty, and bereavement—leaving nothing but the bright and sunny hues of unmingled, unclouded happiness! But when we wander through the interminable picture-gallery of our Father's house, and gaze upon the carvings, the paintings, and frescos of our whole life, each epoch, event, and incident—the lights and shadows beautifully and exquisitely blended—looking down upon us with startling fidelity from its Jasper walls,—we shall then see the infinite rectitude of our heavenly Father in all His present dealings with us, both of sorrow and of joy. With what vividness shall we then see the necessity, as much for the cold, dark pencillings, as for the warm, roseate tints of the picture; and for both the lights and shadows, the joys and sorrows of life, we shall laud and adore His great and glorious name!

Among the many mansions, there will not be wanting one which will especially recognize heaven as a place of study. What a LIBRARY of knowledge, therefore, awaits us in our Father's house! Heaven is a place of thought, of expanded intellect, of matured and ever-enlarging and enriching mind. Our minds are but in the infancy of their being; and the themes of reflection and subjects of research which they grasp are necessarily graduated to our present infantine and limited powers. What an infinite sea of knowledge, upon whose shores we now but stand, is reserved for our higher life in glory! The Library of Heaven! How vast! how rich! What volumes for study will be the histories of the universe—of our world—of men—of redemption—of our individual life! What exalted and sublime themes of thought—the being and character of God—the love, grace, and glory of Christ—the work, power, and gentleness of the Holy Ghost! In a word, what volumes for our study and