

and he with me," he is made to feast on the fruits of divine love, and the Saviour himself rests in his love. While here, those who are to be living stones in the temple above require and receive that hewing and polishing which is to fit them for the honourable place which they are to occupy ; yet, although the discipline by which the character of God's people is to be formed is felt for the present to be not joyous but grievous, the power of divine grace sustains them, a sense of the divine presence comforts them, and the communications of divine love may be made to them in such abundance, as to fill them with a joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. But, if such a glory may at times illuminate this waste and howling wilderness, what heart can conceive the splendours of that more glorious scene, in preparation for which the zeal of Christ has been so earnestly directed, when the assembled multitudes whom he has washed from their sins in his own blood, whom he has adorned with the beauties of holiness with the working of his own spirit, shall, amid hosts of admiring angels, receive the welcome, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you?" The Captain of our salvation has fully acquitted himself of his wondrous undertaking, the palace of the Great King is now completed, and the Holy One himself says, "This is my rest for ever; here will I dwell; for I have desired it." "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."

II. In the second place, as to the instrumentality employed. It is the blood of Christ, offering himself as an atoning sacrifice, that has secured a title to the blessings which he thus dispenses to his people, and it is by the working of his Holy Spirit that these blessings are effectually applied. That all these blessings might, if it had so pleased God, have been made effectual without the intervention of human instrumentality, may be readily admitted. That to some they are made effectual without the use of what are called the ordinary means of grace, appears in the case of elect infants dying in infancy. The word of God, how-