

THE MARRIAGE FEAST.

(Matt. xxii.)

“**T**HEN saith he to his servants : The wedding is ready ; but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.”

There is the indiscriminate dealing with any and every soul under the gospel. “So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all, as many as they found, both bad and good : and the wedding was furnished with guests.”

The gospel goes out to men as they are and produces by grace, wherever received, that which is according to God, instead of demanding it. Hence all are welcome, bad and good, a dying thief, or a woman that was a sinner, a Lydia or a Cornelius. The question was not their character, but the feast for the king's son ; and to this they were freely called. Grace, far from asking or finding, gives fitness to stand before Him in peace.

Yes, there is produced a necessary indispensable fitness. A wedding-garment is due to the wedding-feast. This the king, of his own magnificent bounty, provided, and it was for each guest to wear it. Who that honored the king and the occasion, would not ? The servants did not look for such garments outside ; they were not worn on the highways, but within at the wedding. Nor was it the point for the guests to appear in *their* best. It was the king's affair to