

glorified ; but, as the Lord immediately adds, " Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone : but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John xii. 1-24).

It was as risen that Christ was to enter into the possession of the inheritance with the Church—the ear, sprung from that grain of wheat cast into the tomb—with the Church henceforth perfectly justified. (Rom. iv. 25.) Thus Christ inherits the promises, not as having come in the flesh on earth, but as risen. He inherits them, after having done all that was necessary for the redemption of the Church, and in the power of that life which He has taken again, of which He makes His bride to partake. The result of this union is, that the souls which form the Church, when they are born of the Holy Ghost, are considered as risen with Him. In a word, Christ is Heir, in His character of risen Man—of risen Head of the Church.

Paul, in Galations iii. 17, speaks of the confirmation of the promise, made to Christ, and what he says perfectly agrees with what we have just been saying. Moreover, the apostle is quoting Genesis xxii. 18, " And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed ; because thou hast obeyed my voice." In these words we find indeed that the promise, made to Abraham in chap. xii., and referring to the blessing of the nations, is confirmed to the seed of the patriarch, after that seed had been restored to him in a figure of resurrection. (Heb. xi. 19.)