

saying, "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good" "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth, for thou didst it,"—and confessing the righteousness of all his procedure, "We know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou hast in faithfulness afflicted us."

The circumstances of the Church for some time render the dispensation more striking and impressive. For some months all God's dealings with us have been such as constantly to draw forth from us the exclamation, "The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad." Who could fail to mark the hand of God and his great mercy in the manner, in which the Union was brought about—who has forgotten the joyous scenes of the 4th October last, a day ever memorable in the history of the Church in this land. Since that time the Church seems to have been floating onward upon a full tide of joy and prosperity. Every difficulty we feared seemed to vanish out of sight, and the Lord seemed to smile upon all our undertakings, and to bless us in all the work of our hands. The Synod has come round, not without forebodings in the anticipation, but not only have all such fears been dissipated, every fondest hope has been realized. Not only did harmony and peace mark our proceedings, but there was the utmost unanimity of sentiment, cordiality of feeling and abundant joy. Even in the discussion of matters involving personal interests and likely to excite personal feeling all was forbearance, mutual confidence and brotherly love. All the schemes of the Church prospered. Our cup truly ran over. "We were like them that dream. Then were our mouths filled with laughter and our tongue with melody."

But in the arrangements of God's Providence it often happens, both in the experience of Churches and individual Christians, that seasons of highest enjoyment are followed by peculiar trials. It was immediately after our Saviour's Baptism, and those scenes of glory, by which on that occasion God gave testimony to his person and work, that he was led up into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil. And his servants generally may say,

We may expect some danger nigh,
When we possess delight.

The reason of this arrangement may be, that God foreseeing the trial has sent such scenes of joy to strengthen our hearts in view of them, as Elijah was fed with the food prepared by the angel for his journey through the wilderness, so that he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights. Or more frequently as Paul after being caught up into the third heavens, and hearing words which it is not lawful for man to utter, had given him a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet him, lest he should be exalted above measure with the abundance of his revelations; so severe trials follow hard upon our enjoyments, lest our hearts should be uplifted, and that we may learn how necessary it is that such creatures as we should be "clothed with humility." Churches cannot any more than individuals bear uninterrupted prosperity. In the present state of human nature, it is apt to beget self confidence; and, (strangest peculiarity of man in his fallen state,) that is the very season when he is most apt to forget the author of all his mercies, and affliction is the means which God finds necessary to employ to bring him to a proper sense of his dependence. In such cases the Church's experience is like that of David, who says, "In my prosperity I said I shall never be moved," but who was soon taught by the divine dispensations, whence came all his favours, and how speedily they might be removed. "Lord *by thy favour* thou hast made my mountain to stand strong, thou didst hide thy face and I was troubled."

Each of the bodies of which our Church is composed, have been highly honored of their master above all the Churches of our land in undeviating