

a connexion between the spiritual progress of the people and the fulness of the ministerial reward? It would seem to be the doctrine of the Bible that there are degrees of recompense, and official as well as individual approval. Hence we read of a "prophet's reward," and of a "righteous man's reward,"—of the starry lustre of winners of souls, of the runner's prize, and of the apostle's crown. In this respect there is something almost melancholy in the aged apostle, the best loved of the Master, condescending to an entreaty like this. Paul, on the verge of the dark river, throbs with holy triumph, hesitates with imperial indifference between longer life and heaven, and speaks exultingly of the fruits of his ministry as his "hope and joy and crown of rejoicing." John, latest of the band to linger, still breathing the love which he had caught on the Master's bosom—longing, one would think, for a renewal of that intercourse which had once made Galilee a heaven, seems to stop upon the threshold to make sure that by the apathy or treason of his spiritual children he may not be robbed of one jewel from his crown. Oh, if there be but a possibility of this; if the fulness of minis-

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