

arising from that dependance, is Heaven; and those thus feel who are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple.

These contemplations, though referring to the Church of the first born in Heaven, have yet their correspondencies in the Church of God upon earth, and the believer must not tarry till death to experience their reality. The employments of the worshippers encircling the throne, differ only in their degree, not in their nature, from those of the worshipper upon earth. We have just recited the song of the redeemed. Listen now to the voice of saints hastening to join that blissful company, that you may know that they have drunk of one spirit, and serve the same Lord. "I am determined to know nothing among men, but Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I count all things but loss, that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings being made conformable unto his death;" and in the eucharistic remembrance of this death, an institute, perpetual until the consummation of all things, we repeat to the Church and the world—"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? the bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? In it, the Church from one generation to another, shows forth the Lord's death till he come again. For in this we seek deliverance from guilt; in this we seek the sanctification of our nature, in this we seek to wash *our robes*; that we may be prepared to stand before the throne of God, and to serve him day and night in his temple."

True it is, Brethren, the temple in which we have this day assembled, is not to be compared to theirs; they are before the throne of God and of the Lamb; they behold innumerable tro-

phies of divine mercy around them; a clearer knowledge, and a deeper sense of obligation prompt their rapturous hallelujahs. But we are distant from these scenes of blissful vision; no throne is visible in our sanctuary, the Saviour adored by us is not seen; in the eucharistic commemoration of his death, Christ Jesus is indeed set forth crucified before us, but the eye of sense sees nought, save the instituted emblems. Yet, may the heart of the sincere worshipper among us, more nearly resemble that of the worshipper in the heavenly temple, than the great dissimilarity of our outward circumstances would seem to indicate. We love the same Lord; we trust in the same atoning death; we seek in commemoration, as they in song, to perpetuate throughout all time this stupendous display of divine love; we seek to obtain, through the spirit of grace, the righteousness of the saints wherewith they are clothed; our hopes, too, humble but bright, find a resting place in that temple into which they are admitted; and feeling within us the swelling appetencies of a heaven born spirit, we earnestly groan for our tabernacle in the heavens. In the true believer, the life is begun that shall endure for ever; and its feeble beginnings nourished here in the house of prayer, shall grow, till he is qualified for a station in the heavenly temple.

One observation more and we have done. Preparation for the services of the heavenly temple, is sanctification completed; preparation for the services of the earthly, is sanctification begun. None can enter above on whom the stain of pollution rests. None can be accepted beneath who do not hate even the garment spotted by the flesh. In the temple above they are clothed with white robes; in the temple beneath we prepare them. And though the eye of