

Another reason which our Saviour useth to comfort his Disciples against tribulations is, "I go to prepare a place for you," and therefore be of good hope. Moses, to stir up the people in times of their distress, speaks unto them after this manner: "The land you go to possess is not as Egypt, but a champion country, and goodly to enjoy, which the Lord visiteth with the early and latter rain." We have a promise of a better land than ever Moses promised: "In My Father's house are many mansions." The journey was long and wearisome for Jacob, a weak and feeble person as he was, yet by reason of inward joy he had conceived in his heart, he well endured it. "Be it," saith St. Austin, "that we have not temporal deliverance from troubles, this sheweth that we do not embrace the Christian religion for the commodities of this present world, but for the joys of a life to come, which will make amends for all." The benefit of a calm is best welcome after a storm; liberty is wont to be most pleasant after a time of bondage: "You shall sorrow," saith our Saviour, "but your sorrow shall be turned into joy," your sorrow, not every one's sorrow, but yours, who have abidden with Me in My temptations, therefore I appoint unto you a kingdom.

POETRY.

SUMMER HYMN.

Hark! earth begins her matin hymn;
 The wide expanse of hill and plain,
 The river, and the mountain breeze,
 Uniting swell the glad refrain.
 Day, throned upon the eastern heights,
 From herb and flower bids incense rise,
 To mingle in the azure heaven
 With nature's wordless harmonies.

All things—the insect world around,
 The squirrels peeping from the shade,
 The birds that warble on the boughs,
 The herds amid the sunshine laid;
 All living things, and all beside,
 Thy works, whate'er their form may be,
 Varied by Thy creating hand,
 Are one, O God, in praising Thee.

Nor Father! let Thy latest born,
 The chosen object of Thy care,
 Contemn the universal hymn
 That nature raises everywhere.
 For blessings of the opening year,
 For spring and summer's sunny days,
 And for the harvest's promised store,
 Accept, O Lord, our grateful praise.