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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning"—Psalm 137, 4-5.

The Work of Missions Essential to the life of the Church.

SERMON

BY REV. C. W. HODGE, D. D.

EPH. III, 6. *That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his body in Christ by the Gospel.*

(Continued from May No.)

4. The same truth is evidently displayed in the Mission of the Holy Ghost, and the establishment thereby of a Spiritual dispensation. During the presence of the Lord on earth, all eyes were directed to him and all hopes centered in his immediate presence. To be with him to follow him, to learn of him, was the earnest longing of his disciples. On this account, in large part, he told them that it was expedient for them that he should go away, that he might send the Comforter to them, to establish a union with him closer than that of sight and sense, so that the work of the spirit with all that it implies of enlightenment and guidance, might be no

longer embarrassed by local restrictions. So that those afar off might be as near to him as those nigh at hand. and thus their spiritual life might be exercised and strengthened by the immediate influence of the Spirit within them. In the very nature of spiritual influence lies the evidence that it can be subject to no restrictions. The Spirit does not deal with organizations, or with nations, or with classes of men primarily. He does not act through external means but immediately in the soul. He exerts a personal power upon individual men. Men are the subjects of his grace. And therefore no conditions external to individual men, can restrict his grace. No conditions of race, forms of organization, or of external privilege of any kind, can either procure or prevent his operations; but faith only, and obedience, which are personal to the believer. He is a grand distinction between the Old Dispensation and the New, that faith no longer rests on intermediate representations of the truth but upon Christ himself, and that