

ting sweetness, or be for a moment mingled with that dreadful cup of wrath. There, promises, royal glory in title, all was given up, to have them infallibly anew, received in glory, from the Father's hand, with a better and higher glory, which He had ever had, indeed, but now would enter into as man.

LUKE XV.

"This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them."—Luke xv. 2.

The Pharisee gives Him a feast inside the house, and the multitude give him respect and admiration outside; but He is rather grieved, or at the most unsatisfied. He passes on through all this, till publicans and sinners "draw near to hear Him." Then did He in spirit rejoice; His heart tasted the desired fruit of its journey, and was satisfied. Jesus had now travelled far,—far in spirit I mean. He had gone to, and through and from, the house of the Pharisee, and along the road with admiring crowds, but it was wearisome to Him. He found no rest, till now the poor sinner came to get from Him. For the joy that fills this chapter. The fold that had received the lost sheep, the house that had witnessed the recovered piece of money, and the home of the father that had entertained the returned prodigal, set off as in figures, the Saviour's joy now in the midst of publicans and sinners.

He had been charged by the Pharisees with receiving sinners, as though His ministry did not secure righteousness, but gave liberty to evil. Of