

cies concerning Christianity we turn, whether of Hosea, or Joel, or Zephaniah, or Zechariah, or Malachi, the last of "the glorious company" of Inspiration, we find these figures—"Dew unto Israel"—the growth of the lily†—the luxuriance of Lebanon‡—pastures in the wilderness§—the blooming fig-tree and vine||—the singing of the daughter of Zion, the shouting of Israel, the glad rejoicing of the daughter of Jerusalem¶—the rising of the Sun of Righteousness with healing in his wings**—employed to describe at once the nature of the Religion of the Gospel, and its effects, wherever, as we have said, it should meet with an hearty and a faithful reception.

From this brief summary of Prophecy it will be observed, that the great blessing promised to mankind in the gift of Christianity, and ensured to them by its establishment, is Peace.

Now, upon an interesting occasion like the present, when, in a community, where no such thing has previously had existence, since the garden was redeemed from the forest, and the habitation of the beasts of the field made the dwelling-place of civilized and Christian man, a building is for the first time dedicated to the public service of the Almighty, for the ministration of His holy word and sacraments to all ranks and ages; and, (what is no unimportant—no insignificant, part of the public service due to God from every Christian, who is better equipped than his brethren with learning and wealth) for the education of the younger branches of the poor amongst us in Scriptural knowledge—upon such an occasion, which, to a certain extent, may be termed the establishment of Christianity in this Settlement—leaving the explanation of the circumstances, connected with the getting up of this Building, to others, whose proper province that becomes from their active and generous exertions in the cause—it may not be an unprofitable exercise for us, to consider, with some attention, this Peace, which

* Hosea xiv., 5; also, Mic. v., 7.

† Hos. xiv., 5. See also Cant. ii., 2. ‡ Hosea xiv., 5, 6, 7.

§ Joel ii., 22. || Joel ii., 22.

¶ Zephaniah iii., 14. Zechariah ii., 10, ix., 9.

** Malachi iv., 2.