

A SERMON.

Psalm xlviii. v. 12, 13, 14. Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof. Mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever.

Those who are as old as I am, may remember that once it was taken for granted, that the whole strength of the Church lay in its being an Established Church; a Church firmly bound to the State by golden fetters, of which St. Paul and St. Peter knew nothing.

In those halcyon days, there were occasional meetings on behalf of the society (as it was called) scantily attended. A safe, moderate and wealthy parson was usually invited to preach, and discoursed on the security of the Church of England, and the evils of dissent. At a small assemblage afterwards held, after a few well turned compliments to each other, and a brief glance at foreign lands, which no one had any intention of visiting, and of which few knew anything, the meeting separated in the full spirit of Mons. de Talleyrand's direction, "above all, sir, no zeal." It was taken for granted that Christianity and the Establishment were synonymous terms. One can scarcely think it possible, that in one man's lifetime the aspect of things in the Church should have so completely changed. Hundreds of parishes in those days had only one service on Sunday; and thousands found the church doors closed against them all the week. It seemed that man was made to worship his Creator one day in seven, more than this would be fatal to the Protestant religion.