

all with Christ. But there is a preliminary event necessary to take place before this can be accomplished. "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord," (1 Thess. iv. 16, 17.) Thus, when all the saints have been caught up to meet the Lord, and to be forever with Him, *then* God can bring them all *with* Him, as His co-heirs, to enter upon their inheritance, and fill their predestined place in the kingdom and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Such was the hope and such was the state of the Church when it was in the freshness of first love; but

"THE BRIDEGROOM TARRIED."

More than eighteen hundred years have passed since He said to His disciples, "Watch." Why has He tarried so long? Is it because He is *slack* concerning His promise? Oh, how could any one think this of Jesus, who died upon the cross in self-sacrificing love, that He might be "the Amen"—the verifier of all God's promises? "The Lord is *not* slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is *long-suffering* to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter iii. 9.) Ah! this is the wondrous secret of His having tarried so long. God is gathering a heavenly bride for Christ, and