

**THE CAPTIVES' RETURN.**

Psalm cxxvi.

When the Lord shall free the captives,  
And their exile days are past,  
When their fetters shall be broken,  
And deliverance gained at last.

When they shall return to Zion,  
'Twill be like a pleasant dream,  
Heart and lips be overflowing,  
Like an overflowing stream.

When they reach the golden city,  
Tears and sorrows turn to joy!  
All life's bitterness be over,  
'Twill be bliss without alloy.

They shall come with great rejoicing,  
Bringing in their sheaves with song;  
Marching through the streets of Zion  
With the great celestial throng.

Singing praises, singing praises,  
To the Lamb who died for them;  
Dwell with Jesus, saints and angels,  
In the New Jerusalem. S. S.

**NO CHANGE.**

Look at the character of sin in the light of its treatment of the Divine Son of God. Such a character never appeared before nor since in human history, so perfect, so wise, so benevolent, so lofty and glorious. And yet, instigated by sin no other character was ever so hated by mankind, so vilified by the world, so despised and evil entreated. And were the Divine Jesus on earth to-day, he would receive no better treatment from the sinners of this generation. "Crush the wretch," was the war-cry of Voltaire. And the sneers and the scoffs of modern infidelity; the blasphemies of the Strausses, Renans and Ingersolls of the nineteenth century, are as bitter and devilish in spirit, in their essential malignity, as

was the cry of Voltaire; nay, as was the shout of the mob in the streets of Jerusalem eighteen centuries ago, when they cried, "Crucify Him, crucify Him." Luke 23: 21. "His blood be on us, and on our children." Matt. 27: 25.

In the midst of such a world, such a life, such an array of hostile forces, we are called to stand, to testify, to "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints," to push the battle even unto victory, or die in the conflict; to uphold the evangelical creed, and the spiritual life of the Church, "a life hid with Christ in God." In the nature of things the minister who faithfully represents the Cross, and Heaven, and Eternity in such circumstances, will often find himself alone, without sympathy or succor in the life around him—opposed, maligned, fighting single-handed against human wickedness and satanic wiles without, and formalism and deadness within the Church.

**DEW—THE WORD OF GOD.**

"My speech shall distil as the dew." Deut. 32. 2.

In the night, the dew descends from heaven and covers the face of the earth; silently, universally, the Word of God comes to all the earth, refreshing with its message the parched ground—Israel, and, as God's people, us typically. It unfolds to us "the precious things of heaven;" for the Spirit uses the Word, making it the living Word, He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto us.

"The clouds drop down the dew."