

full development. No spot, no imperfection, no maladjustment will he leave to disfigure the glorious edifice which he is rearing. The subjects of his charge are to be displayed as a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that they should show forth the praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvellous light.

That was a dazzling glory which lit up the wilderness, when, in the camp of Israel, amid its assembled tribes, the tabernacle stood forth in all its completeness and beauty; when Aaron and his sons, with solemnized and elevated minds, dressed in their priestly attire, had laid the wood and the sacrifice upon the altar, when "the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people, and there came a fire out from before the Lord, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat; which when all the people saw, they shouted and fell upon their faces." Still more resplendent was the scene at Jerusalem, when Solomon had finished that temple for which his father David had made such magnificent preparations, and on which he himself had lavished so much of the wealth with which God had blessed him. "The house," we are told, "when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron, heard in the house while it was in building." So skilfully have the various parts been prepared beforehand, that they take up their appropriate place without noise or violence. The ark of God, which had hitherto dwelt in curtains, is at length brought into his place, "into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims." "And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord." Yet even all this has no glory, by reason of the glory that excelleth. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth; and far more resplendent than what dazzled the eyes of the Israelites, is the glory that is lighted up in the soul of the sinner, when he responds to the call of him who says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock;" when the love of God is shed abroad in his heart, and when, in fulfilment of the promise of the heavenly stranger, "I will sup with him,