

INTIMATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE KINGDOM AND
ITS REPRESENTATIVES.

That the earthly phase of the Kingdom will be on terms of intimate communion, fellowship and coöperation with the Kingdom proper, the spiritual rulers, is evident. They will be related to each other as father and children, and as coöperative departments of the same heavenly government: the heavenly being the legislative or law-giving department, and the earthly the executive or law-enforcing department. As it is written: "Out of Zion [the spiritual Kingdom] shall go forth the Law, and the Word of the Lord [the divine messages, through the "princes"] from Jerusalem."—Isa. 2:3.

SETTING UP THE KINGDOM.

"The Kingdom of God is preached, and every man [accepting the testimony as a message from God] presseth into it." (Luke 16:16.) For over eighteen centuries this message, this offer of the Kingdom, has been doing its intended work of selecting the "elect" "overcomers" from the world. During all this age these have waited the Father's time for their *setting up* or exaltation to power, as his Kings and priests, to rule and to teach the redeemed people of the earth, and thus bring to them the opportunity of everlasting life through faith and obedience. Yet during all this time this Kingdom class has suffered violence at the hands of the Ishmael and Esau class, and at the hands of Satan, the prince of this world, and his blinded servants. As our Lord expressed it,—“The Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” (Matt. 11:12.) Our Lord, the head of the Kingdom, suffered to the extent of death; and all of his followers have suffered something of earthly loss as a consequence of being trans-

lated out of the power of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear Son.—Col. 1:13.

This *submission* for over eighteen centuries to the violence of dominant evil has not been because of lack of power on the part of our risen, ascended and glorified Lord to protect his people; for after his resurrection he declared,—“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matt. 28:18.) The exercise of the power is delayed for a purpose. In the Father's plan there was a “due time” for the great sacrifice for sins to be given, and another due time for the Kingdom to be set up in power and great glory to rule and bless the world: and these were far enough apart to permit the calling and preparing of the “elect” Church to be joint-heirs of the Kingdom with Christ. The evil influences and opposition of sinners have been *permitted* for the purifying, testing and polishing of those “called” to be members of the Kingdom class. As with the Head, so with the body, it is God's design that each member shall as a new creature be “made perfect through suffering.”—Heb. 5:9.

But now we are in the end of this Gospel age, and the Kingdom is being established or set up. Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present, since October 1874, A. D., according to the testimony of the prophets, to those who have ears to hear it: and the formal inauguration of his kingly office dates from April 1878, A. D.: and the first work of the Kingdom, as shown by our Lord, in his parables and prophecy (the gathering of “his elect”), is now in progress. “The dead in Christ shall rise *first*,” explained the Lord through the Apostle; and the resurrection of the Church shall be in a moment.* Consequently the Kingdom, as represented in our Lord, and the sleeping saints already fitted and prepared and found worthy to be members of

* VOL. III. Chap. 6.