HEAVENLY RECOGNITION AND OTHER SERMONS

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Heavenly recognition and other sermons by J. L. Campbell

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J. L. CAMPBELL

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BY

J. L. CAMPBELL, D.D.,

PASTOR OF THE LEXINGTON AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, NEW YORK CITY.

NEW YORK:
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47 LAFAYETTE PLACE.
1895.

To the memory of our beloved daughter, Maybell Bileen, whose consecrated and cultured young life passed away from earth, behind the veil, into the unseen glory, on April 16th, 1894, this book is most tenderly and affectionately dedicated, with the joyful assurance that we shall soon all meet again.

PREFACE.

These sermons were all preached in the usual way, and amid the pressing cares and claims of a large city church. They are published in response to many requests. They appear as a memorial to the precious loved one who so suddenly went home, and whose recognition beyond will be one of the great joys of Heaven. They might also appear as a thank-offering to God for His goodness in a pastorate which has been exceptionally happy. During six years conversions have taken place almost every week, and the waters of baptism have been troubled nearly every Sunday. To Him be all the praise.

Assurances have been received that each of these discourses has been helpful to a congregation which has grown dearer to me every day. Recognizing this in making the selection, they are laid as an humble offering at His feet, "whose I am and whom I serve," with the fervent prayer that in this new form they may be blessed to a wider circle. It is with this thought and desire alone that they are now put into the hands of the printer.

I. L. C.

NEW YORK CITY, April 16th, 1895,

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"For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face:
now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am
known."—I. CORINTHIANS xiii. 12.

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From this great text, I purpose considering some of the evidences we have that we shall meet our friends in heaven, and know them there. I am sure that your interested attention will at once be secured. Next to the underlying questions of future existence, and personal salvation, this consideration comes probably nearest to us.

It is true that death brings an appalling shock, and introduces the most startling changes. Even while we gaze upon the face of the one we loved, we are conscious that a solemn change has taken place. The soul which looked out from these eyes, which spoke with these lips, hearkened with these ears, walked with these feet, wrought with these hands, thought with this brain, loved with this busy, beating heart—this soul is here no more. We are simply looking at the shattered cage lying at our feet whence the singer has flown. Soon the precious form crumbles into dust. We sigh "for the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still," and we sigh and

long in vain. Our dear ones do not meet us here after this, and the world grows darker, and colder, and lonelier without them. From the present we turn anxiously to that future where hope of reunion is alone possible, and the heart-thrilling question rises to our lips: "Shall we know each other yonder?" In his King John, Shakespeare describes the passionate grief of Lady Constance over the approaching untimely death of her imprisoned son. In an agony of soul, she turns to Cardinal Pandulph, and exclaims: "I have heard you say that we shall see and know our friends in heaven. If that be true, I shall see my boy again." But great, anxious clouds of doubt gather over her troubled soul. Sorrow has chased away "the native beauty from his cheek." The ruthless ravages of suffering and disease have completely wasted and changed the fair young form.

"And so he'll die; and, rising so again,
When I shall meet him in the court of heaven
I shall not know him; therefore, never, never,
Shall I behold my pretty Arthur more."

It is the bare suggestion of this intolerable thought, the possibility that we shall never see our loved ones more, or, if we do, that they will be so completely changed we shall not recognize them, which makes the sting of death so keen and