172 ST. MATTHEW. XXV.   
   
 y,%,, to meet \* the bridegroom. 2» And five of them were \* wise,   
 : 8 sThey that were foolish took their   
 and five were \* foolish. with them: \* but the wise took oil   
 in their vessels with their lamps.   
 5 While the bridegroom   
 o1 Thee. ¢ tarried, ° they all slumbered and slept. ® And at midnight   
 there \* was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom [¥ cometh] ;   
   
 go ye out to meet him. 7Then all those virgins arose,   
   
 ? in the ancient authorities words are transposed.   
 ® read, For the foolish, when they took their lamps.   
 t render, delayed. 2 see note, Y omit.   
 in ‘iage see aleo xix. The lamps being the hearts lit with the   
 18. to meet the bridegroom] It flame of VVeavenly love patience,   
 would appear that these virgins had left lied with the of the Spirit,—now comes   
 their own homes, and were waiting some- in the between the wise fool-   
 where for the brid to come,—pro- ish:—the one made no ision for   
 bably at the house of the bride; for the supply of this—the others did. How so?   
 object of the marriage procession was to The wise ones gave all diligence to   
 Setch the bride to bridegroom's house. their calling election (2 Pet. 10   
 Meyer however supposes that in this and 5—8), making their bodies, and   
 the wedding was to be held in the bride’s spirits vessels, 2 Cor. 7) 8 means   
 house, on account the thing signifled— of supplyi iritual food for the light   
 the coming of the Lord to His Church ;— Bei in the appointed meatal   
 but it is better take the ordinary cus- of grace, more and more of God’s Holy   
 tom, and interpret accordingly, we Spirit. The others not thie—but trust-   
 can. In both the wedding parables (see ing that the light, once burning, wonld   
 ch. xxii.) bride does not appear for ever burn, le no provision for the   
 she, being Church, is in the strengthening of the inner by watch.   
 gate of the guests the one case, and of falness and prayer. 5—7) delayed :   
 the companions in the other. We may compere ch. xxiv. 48, where the Greek   
 ps say that she is here, in strict verb rendered delayeth is the The   
 interpretation, the Jewish Church, and same English rendering ought to have   
 these tenevirgins congregations ac- been kept here. But the thought of the   
 companying her. This went forth is not foolish virgins very different that   
 their final out in ver. for only half of the wicked servant: his—‘ there be   
 of them did so,—but their leaving their plenty of time, Lord tarrieth ;'—theirs,   
 own homes: compare took, in vv. 8, 4 “surely He will soon be here, there no   
 The interpretation are souls need of a store oil.’ This may serve to   
 out from the world into the Church, and shew how altogether diverse is ground   
 there waiting for coming of the Lord— of the two parables. they all slum-   
 not hypocrites, but souls, bearing bered and slept] I no more is   
 their lampe (their own lamps; 50, lite- here than that all, weak by nature,   
 rally : compare 1 Thess. iv. inner ve way to drowsiness: indeed the wake-   
 spiritual life with the oil God’s Spirit ness of the holiest compared   
 (see Zech. iv. 2—12: Acts x. 38: Heb. i. with what it should be, is sort of slum-   
 9). All views of this which ber :—but, the while, much difference   
 sent the foolish virgins as having only was there between them! Some understand   
 dead faith, only the lamp without the this verse of in death. But, not to   
 light, the body without the &., are mention that this not fit machinery   
 quite beside the ;—the lamps (see of the parable below on ver. it would   
 ver. 8) were all burning first, for a assume (they all) none of the faithfal   
 certain time. Whether the equal par- would be living on earth when the Lord   
 tition of wise and foolish have any deep comes. a cry }] See Isa. Ixii.   
 meaning we cannot say; it may be s0. 5—7: and the porter’s duty, Mark xi   
 , 4.] These were not torches, This warning cry is the coming:   
 wicks fastened on staves, as some have see ver. 10. The exact rendering is pre-   
 supposed, but properly lamps : the oil sent, frphically setting the reality   
 vessels (which is most important to the us: there a cry. all) Al2   
 parable) were separate from the lamps. now seem alike—all wanted their ps