SIT. HEBREW 727   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 onld not be ¥ made perfect. wae   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION, XII. 1 Wherefore let us also, “""’\*   
 some better thing for us,|ter thing for us, laying they without \*(ii&,   
 that they without us should us   
 not be made perfect.   
 XIL. | Wherefore seeing   
 wealsoarecompassedatout havina: so great a cloud of witne   
 with so great a cloud of «, us,   
 tcitnesses, let us lay aside   
   
 God having provided (foreseen from 1 and perfect Diss; a erence which is   
 concerning us (viz. the Writer and his forced on us by. ma phiees i   
 readers, as belonging to the New Test. ipture. So that their perfection wi   
 church) something better (what is thi dependent on our perfection : their and   
 The Fathers generally interpret it of the onr perfection was all bronght in at the   
 ultimate state of glorious perfection, whic same time, when Christ “ty oxe offering   
 shall only then come in, when all the perfected for ever them that are sanc   
 number of the elect shall be accomplished. tified.” So that the result. with regwd   
 On this view, Delitzsch says, the some- to them is, their spirits, from the   
 thing better would co this, that time when Christ descended into Hades and   
 the history of mankind has not been ent ascended up into heaven, enjoy heavenly   
 short, as it would have been if the ancients blessedness, and are waiting, with all who   
 had reeeived the promise in this sense, but have followed their glorified High Vries   
 has been continued for us to partake of our within the veil, for the resurreetion thei   
 present privileges under the New Test. chapter). Regeneration, the renovation   
 But, he continues, this narrow accepta- of Cuar, things. This thonght naturally   
 tion of the promise, as referring to the leads on to the opening verses of the at all   
 last things only, has against it not only these witnesses, and looking also to Jesus,   
 what is said Abraham in ch, vi. 15, that who has come to glory through suffering,   
 he “ obtained the promise,” but also the uot to faint in the conflict sin; nor to   
 whole spirit of the Epistle, which regards Sorget the love of our Father, who visits us   
 final salvation as brought in with the with chastisement that we may bring forth   
 propitiation of Christ, and the “end of the fruit of righteousness. This exhorta   
 the days” as begun with His first Advent. tion was begun at ch. x. 19, and broken off   
 The Writer cannot be ignoring this all- by the insertion of all examples of the   
 inelusive beginning of the New Test. ful- nnture and trimmphs of faith, It is now   
 filment of the promises, in attributing to resumed, having, so to speak, accumulated   
 us something better than the Old Test. new momentum by the interruption, and   
 believers had. And consequently we must. is pressed home directly on the readers.   
 understand by the expression, something 1.] Wherefore (the word nsed is   
 better than they had, viz. the enjoyment, one of eftrnest and solemn inference ;—   
 here, of the fulfilment of the promise, “these things then being so. . .”) we   
 whieh they never had here, and only have also (as well as those just ennmerated),   
 there since Christ’s descent into Hadés having so great a cloud (sce below) of   
 and ascension into Heaven. It is that witnesses surrounding us (in order to   
 “ something better” for which the Lord understand this aright, we must bear in   
 felicitates his disciples, Matt. xiii. 17, inind both the similitude here uscd, and   
 the revelation of the Son of God, ch. i. 1, the eonnexion with the preceding chapter.   
 the “salvation” of ch. ii. 3), that they “This verse is altogether made up of words   
 should not apart from us be made perfect derived from the games,” says Hammond.   
 (the design of God in this provision of ‘And this being so, who can help referring   
 something better for us was, that they, the this clond of witnesses which surrounds   
 Old Test, saints, not be perfeeted us to the scene in the games which is   
 without us, i.e. of the New HBR depicted, and regarding them as lookers   
 Test. salvation of which we are partnkers,— on while our race is run? Whoever   
 ent off from Christ’s universal Chureh, of @enies such reference, misses, it seems to   
 which we are members. But we read, ch. xii me, the very point of the sense. But   
 23, of them as “made perfect” now. And even thus we have not exhausted the mean-   
 therefore the Writer implies, as indeed ch. ing of the word witnesses. It is im-   
 x. 14 seems to testify, that the Advent and   
 work of Christ has changed the estate of the   
 ‘Old Test. Fathers and saints into great