

pably evident that the communion of the Book is greatly superior to the close-ites or the open-ites; and that what we teach from the divine oracles will eventually prove effectual to the uprooting of both extremes.

Oct. 20th, 1850.

D. OLIPHANT.

CHARACTER TESTED BY CHRISTIANITY.

[The subjoined comes to the "Witness" from afar—written by an esteemed brother, A. R. Benton, Principal of a High School in Fairview, State of Indiana. Being always gratified and encouraged by the introduction of new witnesses for the truth on our pages, more especially when personal acquaintance enables us to have the 'full assurance of faith' that their heart participates in what they declare, it would be superfluous to say that we take pleasure in submitting the following for the perusal of our reading friends:—D. O.]

There is a point of view, in which christianity appears of priceless worth, viz: as a test of character.

In all the transactions of life, there is some standard of weight or measure, by which every thing may be proved, and its deficiency, excess, or exactness of measure be verified. So also is there a "balance of the sanctuary" in which every one may be weighed and learn his real value in the sight of heaven. "The mind may be the measure of the man" among men, but with God the character—the stamp of the soul—is alone of value; and so the word of his grace is the discerners of the thoughts and intentions of the HEART. When our Saviour was first taken to the temple, his Father's house, the Holy Spirit then and there declared him to be set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and that the thoughts of many hearts be revealed. Christianity, then personified by the Saviour, was both to elevate and cast down, to cause to rise and cause to fall, those to whom it would be submitted. Facts in the personal history of the Saviour prove the verification of the prophesy, and events in the history of the church, show that christianity is the touchstone by which moral character is discovered.

A remarkable passage in Tacitus, a historian of universal credit, shows the true condition of the Jews in the times of the Messiah. "The mass of the people entertained a strong persuasion, that it was mentioned in the writings of the priests, that at that very time the East should prevail, and some one from India obtain the empire of the world. These ambiguities predicted Vespasian and Titus, but the common people according to the influence of human passions, having once appropriated to themselves this destined greatness, could not be brought to understand their true meaning by all their adversities."