

CHAPTER XVII.

RELIGIOUS INTERESTS.

But as moral beings in a world of probation, we have still higher interests to promote. Our spiritual welfare is of paramount importance. And among the influences ordained to secure it, the Church holds a prominent place. The church edifice should therefore stand beside the school-house. For although it has at some periods been thought that science and religion should be divorced, and scholars and divines have been sometimes jealous of each other, yet all facts prove that their legitimate tendency is to aid each other. While the Bible is a storehouse of facts and of the best thoughts, and puts us upon the right track in all our investigations respecting subjects of vital-importance, all science contributes to establish its divine authority, and assists in explaining and enforcing it. The Church, therefore, with its ministry and Sabbath, and the various arrangements to carry out and accomplish its legitimate ends, cannot be over estimated.