

of life growing in the garden of God's Word, which the Christian may freely pluck and eat.

PRaise.—The deepest springs yield the sweetest waters : hearts most deeply sensible of God's love yield the sweetest praises.

MINISTERS are but stars to light others to Christ. The Spirit is the loadstone to draw them to him. If we would have the door of blessing opened to us through the ministry, we must unlock it with the key of prayer.

"*My burden is light,*" said the blessed Redeemer. A light burden, indeed, which carries him that bears it. I have looked through all nature for a resemblance of this, and I seem to find a shadow of it in the wings of a bird, which are indeed borne by the creature, and yet support her flight towards heaven.

CONSISTENCY.

Alas ! consistency is a rare jewel. The life of the professing Christian should be consistent with his profession. Thus will he be respected ; and thus will his influence be felt in the community. The inconsistencies of professing Christians are a stumbling-block in the way of the conversion of sinners. Who have a right to say so ? Who can consistently say so ? Can the man say so consistently who believeth the Calvinian doctrine of election ? Surely if a man believe that God, from all eternity, decreed to save a certain and definite number, which can neither be increased nor diminished, and that he passed by the rest of mankind, and made no provision for them, he cannot say consistently that the blemishes in the lives of Christian professors are a stumbling-block in the way of sinners coming to Jesus. Is it then a matter of pure indifference whether Christian professors are consistent or inconsistent ? By no means. One of the greatest barriers in the way of sinners coming to Jesus is the unchristian temper and conduct of many professors of religion. But the *Calvinist* is inconsistent in making such a statement. If his creed be true, God is from time to time saving all whom he has decreed to save. Few Calvinists have the moral courage to be consistent with their creed. They will hold on to their God-dishonouring creed, and at the same time utter sentiments that give the lie to it, that are consistent only with more enlightened and liberal views.