

STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

No. 129

RELATIVE to our own efforts—as a writer—we dare say but little ! We know not what effect our hastily written articles have had upon our readers ; but we are certain that we have published articles from an abler pen, worth more to every one of our readers than twice his subscription. No one who has given the articles on the “ Study of the New Testament ” a careful reading, but has been put in possession of intelligence worth more to him in the study of the last will and testament of Jesus Christ, than all the expositions of the book extant—at least all that have come under our observation. Instead of an interpretation of every word and sentence, plain common-sense principles are placed before the reader ; so clear and obvious that we are surprised that they did not before occur to us. The difference between studying the Word of God under such directions, and that of having every word and sentence explained, “ doctrinally, practically and experimentally,” is the same, and produces an effect upon the mind similar to that of having on the one hand every question in arithmetic and every problem in mathematics solved and explained, and the other, of having before us such principles and rules, which when thoroughly studied, applied, and carried out, will give the desired result. One will become a man in science and in the knowledge of the Word of God : the other ever learning, and never coming to a knowledge of the truth. We say, therefore, we hope that our readers will place a due estimate on those chapters having the caption of this article : they are completed in this number. It would be well for those who have only hastily read them to look up their scattered “ Christians,” and give them a careful and thorough perusal. The rule by which we judge of the value of a human production on religious subjects is this :—If it increases our confidence in the divine record—if it gives us a keener appetite for the oracles of God—prize the book ; read and re-read it, so long as this effect is produced. If, however, on the contrary it turns your attention from the word of God, and makes its study a task instead of a pleasure and delight, shut it instantly—banish it from your presence ! We have, during the last sixteen years, often read the articles under consideration, and they not only aided us in our researches, but they always increased our affection for the Christian Scriptures.—We have published those articles, and we issue *The Christian* in hopes that the same effects may be produced on other minds : if so, we shall rejoice. Were we suspicious that the reading of our humble sheet produced different effects, and the Bible was neglected for it, not another number should tempt our readers to substitute any thing for that volume given to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths. W. W. E.

PREFATORY HINTS TO THE OTHER EPISTLES.

BY A. CAMPBELL.

JAMES.

JAMES the Apostle addresses this letter to the twelve tribes dispersed, to those of them who professed faith in the Messiah. It is evident from the contents of it, that at the time it was written the brethren were suf-