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LIGHT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see——.” Matt. v. 16.

We are on the popular side in choosing a few words for a text. Short texts and long gowns, when sermonizing is on hand, are equally fashionable. In this, then, we may proceed without preface or apology.

The passage doubtless has a meaning, and this meaning is—what? Shall we put the text to the proof by theological scourging, and see if we cannot extract its import by the force of some of the racks and wheels usually employed in times of religious revolution and martyrdom!

‘Let your experience be so brilliant, that all may see that you are saved by faith alone’—will the passage bear this rendering? Could this meaning be justly extracted from the original, it would to many be acceptable in the first degree. Nevertheless, only one class of the religionists of Christendom would be grateful for this rendering. Shall we therefore make another attempt, and hence say it should read—

‘Let your knowledge be so orthodox, that others may see that your views are correct’—is this what the Saviour means by teaching us to let our light shine? If so, we find a number of devoted professors who are yielding strict obedience to the injunction. But the apostle Paul rebukes this interpretation, and says, “though I have all knowledge----- I am nothing.” “Knowledge puffs up.” We must then, have a new reading and rendering. Perhaps thus—