

THE MISSIONARY RECORD

OF THE

Free Church of Nova Scotia.

VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL, 1851.

No. 4.

WHERE SHALL WISDOM BE FOUND?

JOB xxviii., 12—28. "Where shall wisdom be found, and where is the place of understanding?" &c.

This is undoubtedly a question of superior interest and moment. To know where true wisdom is, or in other words what it is, and to follow its directions or counsels; this is undoubtedly the chief concern and duty of man. This inquiry will occupy his rational and immortal part. There are many other inquiries that may be interesting, but are not in the same degree useful. But this is at once useful and interesting. And the advantage connected with the proposal of the question is, that it is not only propounded, but answered: We are first told where wisdom is not; then where it is, or in what it consists; and we have also the value of it set forth; we invite attention to the first two of these topics.

We are first given to understand where wisdom is not to be found: "The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me" "it is hid from the eyes of all living;" or as the 13th verse expresses it, "it is not found in the land of the living;" and "it is kept close from the fowls of the air."

"The depth saith, it is not in me." The deep places of the Earth, its hidden recesses, contain many precious things, as jewels, and gold, and silver; aye, and minerals which are more valuable to man than any gems, or than gold, or silver. "There is a vein for the silver, and a place for the gold where they fine it." These very provinces, we believe, are among the most favoured for those minerals which are useful to the arts and economy of life. Other lauds contain

the more precious metals, and may be distinguished for the gems which are valued so highly for their beauty or their rarity. But where there is a vein for the silver, there is none for wisdom: where there is a place for the gold where they fine it, wisdom is not found in the land of the living. We may ransack the bowels of the Earth: We may rifle its treasures: We may dig into its deepest mines, but we would not find wisdom. We have heard of the mines of Peru and the caves of Golconda, where they find gold like stones, and jewels are cast up like the most common things; but these do not contain, they do not yield wisdom. With all their treasures they possess not this: man may dig and search for ever, but he would never fall upon this treasure. He may meet with every kind of mineral, discover every kind of gem or precious stone, and yet not find wisdom. Nay in his very search for these precious productions, man misses wisdom; he forgets to look for it; he becomes foolish in the pursuit, and vain in the possession, of what may enrich, but does not truly benefit him.

Or the expression: "The Depth saith it is not in me," may mean, that wisdom does not consist in the sciences of nature. It does not consist in the knowledge of the structure of the earth, however profound, or however extensive; in the knowledge of its composition, the different order, of its strata, the different laws of these orders, the natural history of the world, how long it has existed, what changes it has passed through, the process and progress of its present formation: no, true wisdom does not consist in the knowledge of all these: we may know all these and yet be destitute of true