

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

APRIL, 1857.

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" THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—PROV. XIX. 2.  
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" THE SABBATH A DELIGHT."

AMONG the multitude of sins by which Israel provoked God to anger, the profanation of the Sabbath was one of the most flagrant. In the catalogue furnished by Ezekiel of the transgressions of his people, this is prominently put forward, "Thou hast despised my holy things," says God, "and *profaned my Sabbaths.*" Of the honor due to his holy day God has always been most jealous. Against the desecration of it he denounces the severest judgments, whilst to the right observance of it he has annexed "blessings the most precious"—"If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure upon my holy day, and call *the Sabbath a delight*, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words, **THEN** shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

I. The Sabbath is a delight to the "true Israelite *when he remembers the past which it commemorates.* Many pious individuals too much overlook—almost despise the beauties and wonders of creation. They see little to admire in earth's fairest flowers, or in heaven's shining firmament. Thus they lose many a valuable lesson of God's greatness and wisdom and goodness. They profess to be taught exclusively by the inspired record. But that record itself should show them their error. It should teach them to consider with David the heavens the work of God's fingers the moon and the stars which he has ordained." And as they looked they might see as the Psalmist saw, a striking illustration at once of human littleness, and the greatness and condescension of God—"What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou visitest him. No! The Bible does not shut out creation. The only true coherent account of creation the Bible furnishes. It tells how God made the world—how out of nothing he produced all things. He stretched forth the heavens like a curtain. He laid the foundations of the earth. He appointed to the sun his place, and projected the planets into their orbits. He studied the firmament with stars, and strewed our world with beauty, until in the view of so much glory the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Now, "from the be-