

# THE CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

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“TEAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD.”—Prov. xix. 2.

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## THE ROCK.

AN EXPOSITION OF MAT. XVI. 15-19.

THIS portion of Scripture is in itself interesting and important, but demands special attention from the position which it occupies in the controversy between Popery and Protestantism. The object of the present article is to present to the readers of the *Christian Instructor* in an abridged form, a very judicious exposition of the passage from the April No. of the *Journal of Sacred Literature*.

The first thing which attracts the attention of the reader is the remarkable confession of Peter respecting the character and claims of the Saviour. This confession was drawn out by questions put by our Lord to his disciples concerning himself. Mat. xvi. 13-16, “When Jesus came into the coasts of Cæsarea Philippi he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist, some Elias, and others Jeremias or one of the prophets. He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am?” In contrast with the previous inquiry respecting the opinion of others, the Saviour next puts the question in relation to their own views; and it was in reply to the question so put that we find the ever memorable confession of the son of Jonas, “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Let the reader here peruse the parallel passages in Mark viii. 29 and in Luke ix. 20. At this point both of these writers close their narratives of this conversation, the former adding, “And he charged them that they should tell no man of him,” and the latter, “And he straitly charged them and commanded them to tell no man that thing,” while, on the other hand, St Matthew adds after this confession, v. 17-19, “And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jonah; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed y