

# *Earnest Christianity.*

---

VOL. 4.]  
NO. 4.]

APRIL, 1876.

[NEW  
SERIES.]

---

REV. W. J. SHREWSBURY.

---

THIS distinguished man belonged to the class whom the Church has always delighted to honour. As a missionary, his was no sinecure life. Dr. Punshon says "He was no ordinary man. His history is full of incident, and some of the chapters of his biography have all the inspiration of romance; the while they are the words of truth and soberness. Mr. Shrewsbury had the Apostle's zeal and the martyr's heart. He was at once modest, meritorious, severely true. He owned no leadership but that of conscience, and knew no hatred but that of sin.

Deal, in Kent, England was the place of his birth, and February 16th, 1795, was the day on which that event occurred. Like many others of his day, he had but few educational advantages, for we find him at the age of *ten* taken from school to learn the trade of his father, that he might assist the scanty income of the family.

Happily, though his parents were poor, they were God-fearing people, who sought to imbue the minds of their children with the truths of Christianity. The mother especially took great pains with her offspring, and such was the success of her pious endeavours, that William soon gave evidence of his desire to serve God. He became so accustomed to pray that his brothers complained that they were disturbed at nights by his devotions.

On hearing the Methodists preach, he was convinced of sin, but could not see how he must "look and live." He thus describes himself: "Thus was I several years from being first convinced,