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“THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD”—Prov xix. 1.

PROVIDENTIAL DISPENSATIONS THE INSTRUMENTS OF
SPIRITUAL GOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

A Sermon,

PREACHED IN PRINCE STREET CHURCH, PICTOU, SABBATH, NOVEMBER
27TH, 1859, BY THE REV. THOMAS DOWNIE, ANTIGONISH.

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“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

To the eye of sense there frequently seems little difference in point of privilege, between the followers of Christ and the men of the world. Those who live only for time and have no concern about the eternity that lies before them, see in the pilgrims that are journeying to another and better country, little to mark them out as possessed of any advantages over the rest of their fellow men. The varied circumstances of life are seen to fall out alike to the enemy and the friend of God. The sun of prosperity shines upon the one as well as upon the other, and they seem alike to share in the calamities and misfortunes incident to the sublunary state in which they live. Both seem to pass through a similar round of joys and sorrows—both taste of the sweets of society and friendship, or experience the bitterness of desertion and neglect. And then when the period of this earthly sojourn draws to a close, they pass alike off life's stage; and when a few years have run their course they become forgotten and unknown.

But though the worldling may discern nothing in the condition of God's people, to distinguish them from the rest of mankind, in a very different light is their position viewed by those who take the page of

* It may be proper to state that this discourse was not only preached in Pictou, where the desire for its publication originated. The author, in his travels through the Province during the last few months, found the houses of many of God's heritage rendered desolate by the prevalence of a malady which has consigned many of the rising generation to the tomb; and this circumstance suggested the delivery of the Sermon in several churches.—Perhaps no doctrine of scripture is better fitted to impart comfort to God's people under affliction, than the one which the text unfolds.