

Divinity.

EXPOSITION OF 1 CORINTHIANS XIII, 9-13.

BY THE REV. WM. SCOTT.

"For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

Although there exists very general uniformity of interpretation on the contents of the impressive and important chapter from which the above words are selected, yet it may not be deemed presumptuous to offer a few remarks, with a view to present a different, and, we trust a more consistent exegesis. The faith of the Christian need not be shaken by the prevailing difference of opinion among commentators. "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." "The pillar and ground of the truth" is a rock that never can be moved.

The general views of commentators on the above passage may be given in brief extracts from a few, with whose works most of our readers are familiar.

Mr. Wesley, whose comment is extended by Mr. Benson, has these remarks on verses 9, 10, 11 :—

"The wisest of men have here but short, narrow, imperfect conceptions, even of the things round about them, and much more of the deep things of God. And even the prophecies which men deliver from God, are far from taking in the whole of future events, or of that wisdom and knowledge of God which is treasured up in the Scripture revelation. 10. *But when that which is perfect is come*,—at death and in the last day,—*That which is in part shall vanish away*. Both that poor, low, imperfect glimmering light, which is all the knowledge we can now attain to; and these slow and unsatisfactory methods of attaining, as well as imparting it to others. 11. In our present state we are mere infants in point of knowledge, compared to what we shall be hereafter."

Mr. Wesley's sermon, entitled "The imperfection of Human knowledge," has for its text, "We know in part."

For Dr. Clark's views we refer the reader to his commentary *in loco*; selecting only the following on verse 10 :—

"*But when that which is perfect*,—the state of eternal blessedness; *then that which is in part*,—that which is imperfect, shall be done away; the imperfect as well as the probationary state shall cease forever."

Mr. Watson has these observations in his sermon on "The Importance of Charity :"—

"Partial knowledge shall be hereafter done away, like twilight before day; like the elements of knowledge received in childhood; and obscure views, like objects seen through Roman glass, which was dim and cloudy, will be superseded by distinct perception and perfect certainty.—*Eng. ed.*, vol. iv, p. 392.