

"IT IS WELL."

2 KINGS iv. 20. "Is it well with the child?" and she answered, it is well."

THE attentive consideration of the dispensations of Divine Providence, is a duty incumbent upon us all; and an important means of promoting our moral and spiritual improvement. The scriptures denounce a heavy woe against those, who "regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hand;" while the intelligent christian, solicitous, not only to observe the doings of the Lord, but to apply it to those practical ends for which it was designed, is promised the blessing. "Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord."

But especially does it become the minister of religion, to observe carefully all the dealings of the Almighty's hand. And as he has the spiritual interest of others committed to his care, it becomes him, if he would act the part of a faithful shepherd, not only to endeavour to obtain spiritual benefit himself by the events that are passing over us, but also to embrace the opportunity of any striking dispensation of God's Providence of directing the attention of those committed to his care to those lessons of warning or reproof, of instruction or of consolation, which it is fitted and intended to teach.

When the hand of God has touched himself, he is called to "bear the rod and who hath appointed it." But such a dispensation is intended to have a wider influence. While, therefore, we approve not of giving unnecessary publicity to his private affairs, and his private sorrows especially naturally court retirement, yet to employ them for practical purposes, even from the pulpit, is only duty, the neglect of which would be sacrificing our