

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

JULY, 1859.

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

WESTMINSTER ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from June No.)

The Scottish divines in this Assembly were only four in number, but they were men of great learning, extraordinary talents and eminent piety. The power of their influence was felt not only in ecclesiastical matters, but also in the civil affairs of the nation.

Alexander Henderson was generally admitted to be the most eminent man of his time in Scotland. His learning was very extensive. His mind was of the highest order, yet clothed with that conscious humility which distinguishes the true Christian. He generally formed a comprehensive grasp of every subject submitted to his consideration. Statesmen frequently consulted him on political matters of the highest importance. But he seldom interfered with matters beyond the special limits of the church. His manner was calm and dignified, and his decisions firm and unhesitating.

George Gillespie was a young man, but one who possessed extraordinary talent and great learning. He was one of those intellectual meteors which we at times see shooting into a brilliant existence, for a moment commanding universal attention, and eliciting unqualified admiration, and then as suddenly disappearing behind the gloomy portals of death. In this Assembly, as a debater, he was matchless. He unhesitatingly encountered the most learned, a cute and profound antagonist, on his own grounds, and with his weapons, and invariably obtained a signal triumph. He died shortly after the dissolution of the Assembly.

Samuel Rutherford was an eminent controversialist. His learning was extensive and accurate; his intellect clear, and his devotional feelings lofty and spiritual. He is the author of the celebrated work entitled, "Lex Rex," which at the time contained the best exposition of the true nature of civil and religious liberty, and which even yet, on the subject may be consulted with great benefit. He is