

land to declare that there were duties to his Maker which he did not intend, nor was he required to discharge, till he had openly allowed them; and the son, after having taken such an oath, might talk as consistently about his *new* obligations, as might the Christian, after the promise was passed, about his. They were both of them born with obligations, which neither of them can dismiss nor change; they might as well dismiss the air which they inhaled with their first breath, and throw off the atmosphere which envelopes the world.

THE CHURCH.

BY REV. S. JUDD.

THE primary meaning of the word *church* is assembly, congregation, any collection of people. Its particular meaning is an assembly or congregation of people united to Christ. It is *par excellence* the assembly, the congregation, as the Bible is The Book. Churches are assemblies or congregations, or numbers of Christian people. This institution called the Church is of great account in the Bible. Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it; he cherisheth and nourisheth it; he designed it for a glorious Church.

But there is something extant in our day, calling itself the Church,—as the Greek, or Latin, or English, or Baptist, or Methodist Church,—about which even good men are suspicious. We find some most excellent men outside of it. They leave the Church, they disown it, they will have nothing to do with it. We find other excellent people whom you could no more persuade to join