

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

May, 1858.

“THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD.”—Prov. xix. 2.

C. H. SPURGEON.

NO. II.

In the March No. of the *Instructor* the popularity of Mr. Spurgeon was the subject of the first article, and it may be as well that that article be read in connection with, or rather as an introduction to the present theme—which has for its object to account for such extraordinary powers in so unlikely a person—unlikely in the mere preparatory training under which he had been placed.

According to the old Roman Song, and the song is imbued with sound philosophy, as truly as with genuine poetry,

“*Poeta nascitur, non fit,*”

But with equal truth it may be asserted,

“*Orator nascitur, non fit.*”

The Orator is born, not manufactured—and so the Preacher is born, not manufactured. There behoves to be the original inherent elements which constitute the commanding and successful public speaker, whatever these elements be. No mere code of rules can be substituted for these elements. The application of these rules where the elements are wanting, resembles the effects of machinery on an automaton, or of galvanism on a body from which the spark of life has just fled. All that Rhetoric can do, and all that should ever be sought from it, is simply to keep each in its own place, and to manifest each in its due power and proportion, those several qualities which, taken together, go to make up the true and acknowledged master of eloquence.

Mr. Spurgeon is gifted with these qualities in an uncommon degree, and had they been otherwise disciplined, or at any rate had a little more care been taken in their education,—extraordinary as he is, and wonderful as are the results of his preaching, it is certain that he would have commanded a still larger measure of admiration from all competent judges; the occasions for snarling and ribaldry in which his slanderers have been wantoning,