

THE GOOD NEWS.

A SEMI-MONTHLY PERIODICAL:

DEVOTED to the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION of the OLD AND YOUNG.

GOD'S LOVE GIFT TO THE WORLD.

BY RICHARD WEAVER.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—John iii. 16.

You cannot find a more precious text than that; as long as that verse remains in the Bible, there is hope for every one. I have come from Lancashire to tell you that God is love, that is my mission: and if I leave off at the text, and do not speak another word, it is enough to induce you all to come to Christ to-night. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Recollect that these are Christ's words, and not Paul's, or Peter's, or John's; they are the words spoken by the Lord Jesus himself; and I would sooner take his words than any one's else. He is not a man that he should lie, or the son of man that he should repent. He was God as well as man, the true and faithful witness; he always spoke the truth. He knew that God had employed other and severer methods with erring, sinful man; he knew that the wrath of the living God had been poured out upon the antediluvian world. God had tried what floods of water and flames of fire would do with disobedient and ungodly sinners, and how they had failed in making them repent. In spite of all these judgments, there were but a very few that would be led to repentance by these means. So the holy and righteous God took Counsel with his only begotten Son, and said, "We have tried what fire and floods of wrath will do, and how they have failed in winning back men

to God; now we will try what the mission of love will do. We will make a full display of the strongest, the tenderest, and altogether undeserved love, to those hard-hearted, sin-blighted wretches, and whosoever believes in this manifestation of my love, shall have everlasting life." Thank God, the blessed Saviour has brought love down to us.

"'Twas love that did the world redeem.
No other help was found."

I have spoken to you about the difference between love and hatred. You know when a man is loving toward you, and when there is rankling and backbiting, and defrauding around you. Thank God we have a father in heaven, whose name is Jehovah, whose heart is full of love. If I were to try and fathom the depths of redeeming love, I should find it impossible. There has never been a servant of God, from the beginning of the world, that could fathom it. It is not in the mind of mortal man to describe how much there is contained in that little word "so." Thank God, though I cannot understand it, my heart can bow to it, and say, "God so loved the world."

You might read Adam Clarke, that learned expositor who has written commentaries on many texts which nobody could fathom beside himself; but when he comes to this, he is obliged to leave it as it is, and to say, "God so loved the world."