

Earnest Christianity.

VOL. 3.]
NO. 6.]

JUNE, 1875.

[NEW
SERIES.

CLEARNESS AND MYSTERY.

“I BELIEVE nothing that I cannot understand,” is the declaration of many who call themselves philosophers, and who take great pride in their intellectual endowments. And yet if you ask one of these philosophers how he wags his little finger, he can tell you nothing about the matter. We can easily conceive the explanations he may give, but he must say “it is a mystery.” The *fact* he believes, he cannot deny, but the manner he cannot comprehend, and if we take our philosopher and examine with him the great book of Nature, we will find mysteries to the right of us, mysteries to the left of us, mysteries which these minds of ours cannot possibly understand. And yet our philosopher is compelled to believe the facts, although he cannot understand the manner of them. And so it is with the Bible. There are mysteries in that blessed volume which no finite mind can understand, and instead of rejecting the Bible because this is the case, we are thankful that it is so; for, were it otherwise, there would be those who would say it is not God’s book—it is not great, and grand, and sublime enough. But it is with the Bible as it is in Nature. In Nature heat, air, water, and light all abound, all are accessible; and so with those great truths necessary for salvation. All are so plain, so easy to be understood, that the wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein. Of all the books in the world there is none, perhaps, which is more plain and easy to be understood than the