

He illustrated, as I remember, the following topics :—God's people are witnesses for his existence, for his moral government, for his revealed word, for the experimental influence of the Gospel upon the heart, for the consoling power of religion in affliction and death.

In the evening we had an opportunity of hearing Dr. Beecher, so celebrated throughout America, for his writings, his eloquence, and certain peculiar notions, of which the orthodoxy has been brought in question. I was not then acquainted with any of his publications, except his sermons on Temperance, and his Plea for the West, and I had but slightly adverted to the reports of his trial before the Church Courts, in the preceding year. I went, therefore, with no prepossessions, either for or against him, but with expectation of something above ordinary, from a minister of his high reputation. Were I to judge from this discourse, however, I should say that I can hardly conceive any one less entitled to the name of eloquent. His manner was tame and colloquial throughout. He seemed to have pretty full notes, with occasional extemporaneous enlargement. The discourse, half-read half-spoken, did not evince either careful preparation, or any profound original thought. Neither his voice, nor appearance, are commanding. The discourse, which was on the doctrine of faith, seemed to be an effort to convey, with the utmost clearness, his own ideas of a subject on which his views had been misapprehended. I believe many who heard him, were led to entertain more favourable sentiments respecting his orthodoxy. Our wish and prayer was, that such scriptural views of this fundamental article, might always be as faithfully preached in the American Church. If the Reverend Doctor be usually as intelligible and scriptural in

his teaching, we think it would not be easy to misapprehend him, and not possible to suspect his soundness in the faith, as defined by the standards of the Presbyterian Church.

On our return to the inn, we fell into conversation with Dr. W——, on what we had heard. He accompanied us by request to our chamber, when after some conversation on spiritual things, he consented to conduct our devotions. With deep and holy fervour did he give utterance to the desires of our hearts unto God, and, as a father, prayed with and for us, and then we parted. In the frame of his spirit, we had another evidence of the calmness and serenity of the true christian. His office was a conspicuous and difficult one—the Moderator of an Assembly, rent by conflicting parties, and about to enter on the discussion of questions, of which the issue could not be foreseen, but which, it was feared, would terminate in the dismemberment of the Presbyterian body. Yet in prayer, in the room of an inn, with three strangers whom he had never seen before, and may never see again, were all these solicitudes forgotten, while the apprehensions of God's unchangeable love and care over his Church, dispelled every fear, and diffused over the mind a sweet serenity. How vividly did this bring before us a truth which the world is too apt to overlook, the believer's peace in the midst of tribulation. Looking into the American Church collectively, one would think it in a very deplorable state ; and perhaps it is so : but its true spiritual members are safe, and though cast down they are not in despair. The tempest ruffles only the surface ; beneath, there lies a waveless sea, which it cannot reach ; and so, we doubt not, it is with the Church. A stranger coming into it might be tempted to say, behold how these Christians bite