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THE RULE FOR A CHRISTIAN LIFE.

A SERMON

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"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good : and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." Micah. vi. : 8.

IN the previous verses of this chapter God is represented as having a controversy with his people. God vindicates the justice of his dealings with them, and, as a consequence, the children of Israel are shown to be guilty of negligence and hypocrisy. The prophet shows that they had not been left in darkness, but had been dealt with graciously, and made acquainted with God's will. But notwithstanding these warnings that they had received, they continued to rebel. Throughout their wanderings in the wilderness, the Lord revealed himself to them. He guided them by day, and when Israel encamped, the Lord encamped round about them. The law had been given unto Moses for their guidance, and they had the influence of conscience to direct them. By various rites and ceremonies God had sought to come nearer unto them. By their numerous sacrifices He endeavored to point them forward to the time when Christ would make a full atonement for their sins. And, although Israel did not always discern the deeper and more spiritual meaning in these lessons, yet God, all the while, was striving to make himself more fully known to them : to come nearer to their hearts, and effect a more intimate union between them and Himself. The prophet could, therefore, truly say, that they had not been