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

C. H. SPURGEON.

NO. I.

IN the last two numbers of the *Instructor* there has appeared an account of the life and labours of the Rev William Jay, of Bath, in England. He was a burning and a shining light, and for upwards of fifty years the Evangelical Churches of Britain, as well as his own congregation in Bath, willingly and gladly rejoiced in his light. And being dead he yet speaketh. The works he has left, the Churches will not willingly let die. So long as practical godliness, quickened into life and energy from the cross of Christ, distinguishes the genuine christian from the mere formalist, and so long as Divine truth, clothed in the dress of simple yet impassioned eloquence, can charm the intellect and melt and sway the heart of man, so long will his writings minister instruction and impart delight to all whose spiritual tastes have been trained to discern alike the true and the beautiful. The death of such a man is an event in the history of the universal Church of sufficient magnitude to command attention and awaken concern, and were it not that there is the assurance in the covenant that there shall never be wanting men to meet the need of the Church, and that the residue of the Spirit is with the Saviour for this end, among others, to qualify such men for her work, despondency would darken her prospects and despair break her heart, and the interests of truth and godliness would soon be overborne and undermined by the fell influence of the god of this world. Such a man has been raised up within these few years in the person whose name stands at the head of this article or else general opinion is mightily at fault. Living on this side of the Atlantic and depending for information respecting him from the critiques of the British press and from his published sermons, it is impossible to form such an estimate of him as is desirable, even with all the aids that are available, and which are increasing every day. It seems dutiful however to the readers of this journal as well as the Churches generally, and especially to the Churches in this Province who hold and acknowledge as their symbolical books the Westminster Standards, that as correct and impartial an account of this extraordinary man be given as is practicable in our circumstances.

Mr Spurgeon is known as yet chiefly as a preacher and as pastor of the Baptist Church assembling in Park Street Chapel, Southwark London.