

THE CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

June, 1858.

"THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—Prov. xix. 2.

SERMON

BY REV. DANIEL M'CURDY.

AMOS VII. 2—"By whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small."

THE Church of the living God contains, within herself, the elements of vitality, strength and extension. "God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." She is founded on a rock. "That rock is Christ." She has the promise of Him who is at once the foundation and the founder, that the gates of hell shall not prevail against her. Around this wonderful structure a "wall of fire" has been erected.—Jehovah is that wall; and he is also the "glory in the midst." The faith and patience of God's people are sometimes severely tested; but they come from the furnace as silver refined, and like the gold of the sanctuary seven times purified. From their whole history all the world may know that nothing can harm them who are followers of that which is good.

Yet there are times when the best of them are deeply distressed with the wide-spread and long-standing desolations of Zion. It is truly distressing to the Christian to see many of the professed children of Zion at ease under her calamities; but it is cheering to discover some, however few, who are "grieved for the afflictions of Joseph." The scattered, peeled and forlorn condition of poor "worm Jacob" is often such, as to fill the mind of the pious and prayerful with desponding thoughts; but their "hope deferred" is more than relieved when even a few grains of "the salt of the earth" are found amidst abounding corruptions. It is for the defence and glory of the Church that there are those who sigh and cry for her deliverance in troublous times, and give God no rest in their intercessions until he make her the praise and joy of the earth.

The prophet Amos appears to have been one of this class, raised up and commissioned expressly for his time. He lived in evil days and had to do with a perverse generation. It was in the time of Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam, son of Joash, king of Israel, that he was called to the exercise of his prophetic office. It was not in the regular schools of the prophets,