

a véry considerable degree, of the nerves and the senses. It seeks an atmosphere of calmness, of thought, of holy meditation.—U.

XI.

Our spiritual strength will be nearly in proportion to the absence of self-dependence and self-confidence. When we are weak in ourselves, we shall not fail, if we apply to the right source for help, to be found strong in the Lord. Madam Guyon, speaking of certain temptations to which she had been exposed, says, "I then comprehended what power a soul has which is entirely annihilated." This is strong language; but when it is properly understood, it conveys important truth. When we sink in ourselves we rise in God. When we have no strength in ourselves, we have divine power in him who can subdue all his adversaries. "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and high tower."—U.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP.—A preacher (rather eccentric) related to us the following incident. Having arrived at the time appointed for preaching, he found in the singing gallery a choir with a multitude of musical instruments. In his usual way he began by saying "Let us sing to the praise of God," such a hymn. They gave him a fine specimen of their musical skill; but he said there was too great a predominance of the fiddle to impress his mind with the spirit of singing praise to God. After prayer he stood up again to read another hymn, and said "Let us *fiddle* to the *praise of God* such a Hymn!!" The fiddles were to him unstrung, and the bows undrawn! Not a sound was uttered, and he had to do his own singing. The truth offended them. All churches that seek the aid of musical instruments, or ungodly young men and women to aid them in their devotions, cease to sing with the spirit and the understanding.

ESTIMATE OF THE WORKS WE READ.—In forming an estimate of the value of a book, a magazine, or a paper, we should observe the effects upon ourselves. With what feelings do we arise from the perusal? Has strength been added to our best resolves, and is the desire of benefiting our fellow creatures more intense. Are we encouraged to put forth our whole energies in the cause of suffering humanity, and add whatever influence we may possess in the scale of Christian principle. Have we been taught to love our Maker and our neighbours more, or has the mind been excited and our feelings been enlisted to no good purpose.

Let us beware of a waste of our affections, for there are scenes around us in the world needing and deserving their full exercise.

The above simple rule applied to many works would give us their real value.—*Christian Citizen*.

Brother TAYLOR did not get our note in time to prepare the article promised in the former number.