

reason for the establishment of Scripture, and for the establishment of faith. They make use of reason for the interpretation of Scripture, that they may ascertain what it teaches and what it does not teach.

WITHOUT CHRIST.

BY REV. W. MOUNTFORD.

WITHOUT Christ, we are without light ; without Christ's life, we are without the key to this world's meaning ; and without Christ in the flesh, our flesh is but a body of death.

Take from me a revealed, and leave me only a speculative God ; the seal on Christ's sepulchre, — suppose it had been eternal, and that Jesus had never risen ; and shut up the New Testament, with its doctrines concerning prayer to God and acceptance with him, this present life's purpose and immortality's certainty, and let all be as though the Gospel had never been ; and then what am I, and what has the world around me become ? Myself, I am the body of this death ; for I die daily then, and the powers of my nature are only those of hopeless corruption, every beating pulse hastening the hour when the heart shall stop and putrescence begin. And the arch of heaven above, — it then shuts in upon this earth like the vault of a living grave.

But this is not the worst of being without Christ ; — quite otherwise ; for if I have no Jesus to believe in, as a first-born brother, O, then, along with Job, I would gladly say “to corruption, Thou art my father ; to the worm,