

THE CHRISTIAN GEM.

Importance of Periodical Literature.

Most of our friends will see the propriety of a few remarks on the subject indicated in the title of this paper, in connection with the commencement of an undertaking, novel in its character, but which, we cannot doubt, will prove the precursor of many similar publications.

Light is not of more importance to the physical world than is knowledge to the mind of man. It releases him from the fetters by which he is originally bound, it elevates him from his native degradation, and brings him into contact with all that is true and noble. On this account the wise man tells us "that for the soul to be without knowledge is not good."

But men, like infants, cannot at once be introduced into the full blaze of light. They need that portions should be gradually but frequently administered, "till their senses be fully exercised to discern good and evil." Hence in every civilized country, and especially in England, it has been found desirable at short and regular intervals to publish small books, which should at once create a relish for information, and partly gratify it, while it directs the attention of their readers to other and even more valuable sources where their thirst for information may be gratified.

No classes have felt more of the importance of this line of conduct than the religious portions of the community; here is the origin of the almost innumerable monthly magazines, denominational and general, suited to all ages and all stations,—to the publication of which may be clearly