

POETRY.

THE CHRISTIAN STAR.

Midst all the beauteous starry host
That heaven's high canopy adorn,
One star its loftier claim may boast,
The pure and holy star of morn.

Sweet harbinger of coming day,
Arise! on earth's cold climate shine;
Proclaim in every beaming ray,
"Behold a type of things divine."

For thus when night o'erspreads the heart,
The threefold night of innate sin,
Like thine, the beams of mercy dart,
The light that gladdens all within.

And hark! methinks I hear afar,
That voice whose accents never die,
"I am the bright and morning star,"
"I am the day-spring from on high."

Hail, Christian Star! O lead me home:
I'll follow close each heav'nly ray;
While still ordain'd on earth to roam,
Shine on my path, and cheer my way.

'T is only when this journey's o'er,
When streams of glory meet my sight,
I need thy guiding beam no more,
It fades before effulgent light.

(London) Cottager's Visitor.

GOD HATH A VOICE.

God hath a voice that ever is heard,
In the peal of the thunder, the chirp of the bird;
It comes in the torrent all rapid and strong,
In the streamlet's soft gush as it ripples along;
It breathes in the zephyr just kissing the bloom;
It lives in the rush of the sweeping simoom;
Let the hurricane whistle, or warblers rejoice,
What do they tell thee?—That God hath a voice.

God hath a presence, and that ye may see
In the fold of the flower, the leaf of the tree;
In the sun of the noon-day, the star of the night,
In the storm, cloud of darkness, the rainbow of light,
In the wave of the ocean, the furrow of land,
In the mountain of granite, the atom of sand;
Turn where ye may, from the sky to the sod,
Where can ye gaze that ye see not a God?

(London) Cottager's Visitor.

FRAGMENT ON THE BIBLE.

Extract for the Christian Witness from an English Periodical.

How precious is the book divine,
By inspiration given;
Bright as the light its pages shine,
To guide our souls to heaven.

In the Holy Scriptures the ignorant may learn all requisite knowledge, and the most knowing, says an old author, may learn to discern their ignorance. 'A wayfaring man, though a fool, shall not err therein.' All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

"This book can make the simple wise,
And show the wise the path to heaven."

It is said that Dr. Martin Luther wished all the books of devotion were burned, when he perceived that many who valued and were fond of them, neglected their Bibles. Believers in Jesus should not leave the fountain for the streams; it is unwise and unthankful to choose to read God's word, rather in any other book than his own; the entrance of his word giveth light. 'Search the Scriptures,' said the Saviour, 'they testify of me.' Reader, remember this declaration. The word of God is compared to seed; that deathless incorruptible seed, of which Peter speaks, by which we are 'born again.' The best and holiest of Christians have the greatest appetite, and keenest desires after this food of the soul; thus Job declared, even in his afflictions, 'I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.' David, in the same strain, affirms, 'how sweet are thy words unto my taste, yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.' 'I found thy words, and I did eat them, for they are the rejoicing of my heart.' 'Moreover, by them is thy servant warned, and in keeping of them there is great reward.' While the word of God is thus nourishing to the soul of the Christian, by the disuse or neglect of it, the most vigorous appetite is subject to faint and pine away. But as in bodily diseases, although from this cause there may be no relish for wholesome food, yet it will, nevertheless, when taken nourish and strengthen; so will the word of God really do us good, far more good and benefit than more high seasoned food, which while it pleases the palate, weakens and impoverishes the system it was taken to benefit. Dear reader, let the sober life giving, soul satisfying streams of divine truth be precious, and chosen by you, may you say with Dr. Watts,

"Should all the forms that men devise,
Assault my faith with traitorous art,
I'd call them vanity and lies,
And bind the Bible to my heart."

We may confidently expect God's blessing on his own institutions; and we cannot surely ask any thing more agreeable to his will, than a competent understanding of that book, in which he has made known his own will for our guidance and his glory.

St. Augustine used to say, 'I delight in the Holy Scriptures. I lay them up in my memory as a most valuable treasure, and by tasting and feeding upon those delicious descriptions of another world, I take off great part of the bitterness of this.' Many saints in modern times, like Augustine in old times, have found the same. 'The word of God hath been bread indeed to their souls, yea, the bread of life.' On it they have fed, and forgotten their cares, proving by sweet experience, 'Man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord.'

Good Tertulian, one of the fathers, used to say, 'We feed our faith, raise our hopes, and establish our reliance with the sacred word.' Truly the word of God is an anchor to the soul; sure and steadfast, it is perfect, it is tried, and proves a rock to all who delight therein. Oh, how blessed is the description given by David in the first Psalm, of such as meditate therein day and night. 'Whatsoever such an one doeth, shall prosper,' the word of God received into the heart aright, will be a fruitful source of glory to him, for its effects will be seen, and the Holy Spirit will make it a spring of holiness in us, then we shall not be forgetful hearers or readers of the word, but blessed in our deed; it will be evident, that the word hath a place in our hearts, which the temptations of Satan, the deceits of the world, or the trials of life, have neither been able to subdue nor stifle.

EARLY INSTRUCTION.

During the illness of a parishioner, says a clergyman, I had several opportunities of seeing her, and I visited her for the last time on the evening before her death; after some conversation I commenced reading to her as a prayer one of the Psalms, when she immediately exclaimed, 'Excuse my interrupting you, sir, that Psalm is the twenty-fifth.' I directed her attention for the present rather to the matter of the Psalm than its order; but before leaving her I inquired how it was she remembered so accurately that it was the twenty-fifth? She told me, in reply,

that many years ago she was obliged to learn Psalm with a few others before she could receive of the Bibles annually distributed in this parish some others in Buckinghamshire, as directed by late Philip, Lord Wharton. She lamented that memory was not now sufficiently retentive to her to meditate during the night on what she by day, but declared that she could readily recall to mind these lessons of her youth, and receive from them. Surely, the Spirit of God dwelt in the preacher 'with all wisdom,' when he 'In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand, for thou knowest not whether shall prosper this or that, or whether they shall be alike good.'—*Epis. Rec.*

CHRISTIAN CONVERSATION.

Archbishop Usher and Dr. Preston, two eminently pious and learned men, were very intimate, often met to converse on learning and general subjects; when it was very common with the archbishop to say, "Come, doctor, let us say something about Christ before we part."—*Epis. Rec.*

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