

tial in its influence ! How necessary to the improvement and elevation of character !

But what is it that gives this potency to faith ? Whence does it derive its wondrous power to change and elevate the human soul ? Why is it that, when a guilty creature simply believes that Christ is a mediator, standing between *him* and God, his load of accumulated guilt, the result of innumerable and unspeakably flagrant offences, falls in an instant from his heart ? Why is it that, when a spirit, conscious of its weakness and impurity, appropriates Christ to itself as its Saviour, by believing that his blood cleanseth from all sin, it rises at once to a sense of conscious purity, and into the possession of a power to control itself, hitherto unfelt ? Is it, as some teach, the mere effect of truth acting on the faculties ? Or is it because, in conjunction with the contemplation and reception of the truth, the Holy Spirit sheds a direct influence upon the mind ?