

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

September, 1858.

“THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD.”—Prov. xix. 2.

SERMON

Preached at the opening of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, 16th June, 1858.

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2 Peter i. 12.—“*The present Truth.*”

(*Concluded.*)

IV. But fourthly, the present is an age in which the Roman Catholic controversy is revived.

“I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the False Prophet. For they are the spirits of Devils working miracles, which go forth unto the Kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”* The best expounders of prophecy refer this prediction to our own era, and when we look abroad upon the world we see every reason to believe the correctness of the application. Everywhere we see Rome putting forth extraordinary efforts, and that in her twofold form of the beast and the false prophet. Taking the beast to denote the Pope as the head of the ten kingdoms of Europe and of the Church of Rome as a politico-eccelesiastical system, we behold desperate efforts made to re-establish her influence over the Governments of the world. Concordats have been entered into not only with Austria, but with some of the minor Powers of Europe, by which in their civil administration, they are placed entirely at the disposal of the Church of Rome, and the power which she wielded in the dark ages is again in a large measure restored to her.—The same thing has been either attempted or actually accomplished in Mexico and South America. We do not say that in these countries the influence

* Rev. xvi. 13, 14.