

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

MAY, 1856.

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" THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—PROV. XIX. 2.  
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FOR THE CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

PRAY FOR OUR STUDENTS.

SUCH seems to be the constitution of the human mind, that though mankind in general perfectly well know their duty, yet they need to be often stirred up by way of remembrance to its performance. It is this consideration that induces me to remind my readers of the necessity of earnest, believing prayer, on behalf of those who are preparing for the work of the ministry. That this duty is imperatively binding upon all those interested in the promotion of Christ's kingdom few, if any, will deny; and yet, alas! perhaps, there is no recognized duty to which the church collectively and individually exhibits more seeming disregard, if not real, manifest indifference. How seldom are our students made the subject of our public prayers! How seldom are they the subject of earnest supplication in the social meeting! How seldom do we wrestle with God for them in private! It is not because the duty of prayer for our students is not fully acknowledged, that it is not more generally performed; but it is because its importance is not at all times *fully realized*. This is the great cause of all neglect of duty on the part of those who know their Master's will but do it not.

Whenever any subject begins to occupy less of our attention, or we more seldom meditate upon it, just in that proportion do we cease to realize its importance; and whenever we fail to realize this, our duty with respect to it fails to be rightly performed. Is not this the case with the subject under consideration? The duty of prayer for our students is too much neglected, because we too seldom stir ourselves up to its performance by considering its binding and important character. Such is the apathy of the human heart to the ways of God, that we need line upon line and precept upon precept to urge us to the performance of our duty. Were it not for the frequency of the appeals which we have made to us from various sources, we would soon exhibit the same indifference towards many other important duties, which we now do with regard to prayer for our students. By way then of calling attention to this subject, I may be permitted to offer a few brief remarks for the consideration of my readers, exhibiting the importance and necessity of the duty.