

THE
LIBERAL CHRISTIAN.

VOL. II.

OCTOBER, 1855.

No. 10.

COMPENSATIONS OF SORROW.

BY REV. W. G. ELIOT, D.D.

THE best part of our experience is not enjoyment but suffering. Our highest happiness comes not with laughter, but through tears. There are those who live only on the surface of life, whose hearts strike no roots deeper than the thin surface-soil which every passing storm washes or drives away, and leaves an unfruitful earthy clay beneath; and such persons, who live to eat and drink and be merry, may have no knowledge, and may desire no knowledge, of what we are now saying. To them the house of mourning is the house of mourning and nothing else. They shun it as a pestilence, and have nothing to learn there which their selfish and worldly nature is capable of learning. Pleasure and happiness are to them words of the same meaning; suffering and evil are but the same idea. It is not for them, nor to them, that we speak. We speak to those who have gone down into the depth of sorrow, but even there have been able to cry out unto the living God. We speak to those who are at