

## WHAT IS REVEALED IN THE GOSPEL?

Luke x.

THIS is unfolded with uncommon beauty and power, in the touching parable of "the good Samaritan." The lawyer, like all legalists, "willing to justify himself," sought to ascertain who was his neighbour; and in reply, our blessed Lord draws a picture in which is most vividly presented the true condition of every sinner, be he lawyer or else. "A certain man *went down* from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which *stripped* him of his raiment, and *wounded* him, and departed, leaving him *half dead*." What a picture of man's career and man's condition! "A certain man"—the writer or the reader of these lines, "*went down*." How true! Reader, is it not so? Has not thy course ever been a downward one? Hast thou ever, when left to thyself, taken a step upward—a step in the right direction? There is no use in generalizing, what we want is to bring the matter home to ourselves, and say, each for himself, "*I am the 'certain man' of this singularly beautiful parable; it is my own very figure that appears in the foreground of this masterly picture; my course has been a downward one; I have gone down from the innocence of childhood, to the folly of youth, and from the folly of youth to the matured wickedness of manhood, and here I am, 'stripped' of every shred in which I might wrap myself; 'wounded' in every region of my moral being; and having the painful consciousness that death has already begun its terrible work in me.*"