

## PHILOSOPHY.

Philosophy ! It is love of wisdom ; not knowledge simply or abstractedly, but only as a means of gaining wisdom. The man of knowledge is not always the man of wisdom.

“ Knowledge and wisdom, far from being one,  
Have oftentimes no connection. Knowledge dwells  
In heads replete with thoughts of other men ;  
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.  
Knowledge is proud that he has learnt so much :  
Wisdom is humble that he knows no more.”

You may know pretty nearly all a vain world can teach you, and yet live and die a very fool. What creature, human or angelic, knows more than the fallen angel Satan ? But is the devil, are his angels, wise ? The truly wise man, the real philosopher, is the sincere doer and devoted follower of the only wise God, our Saviour—the true believer in that crucified Saviour whom we preach as Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Philosophy ! It is that fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom. Philosophy ! It is the love of Christ shed abroad in the heart by the power of the Spirit ! Philosophy ! It is the assurance of pardon through the blood of the Cross, and the enjoyment of a good hope through grace. Philosophy ! It is to be enabled to say with the Apostle, “ Of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom—wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption.” Again : “ When I am weak, then am I strong ; I am become a fool in glorying.” And once more : “ For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Yes, the true believer is the true philosopher. Who so wise as he who makes time a preparation for eternity, the world a stepping-stone to heaven, so that all things work together for his good ? Who so wise as he who is able to affirm—“ All things are mine, things present and things to come, life and death, all are mine ; for I am Christ's, and Christ is mine ?” Who so wise, whatever his circumstances in this world, whether rich or poor, young or old, learned or unlearned, as he who at the last can triumphantly exclaim, “ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith ?” And who so great a fool as he who lives and dies forgetful of our Lord's own question, “ What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul ?” How is it with you ? Is yours the folly of the sinner, or is yours the wisdom of the saint ? Are you one of those fools who despise wisdom and instruction, or a philosopher of the highest style in whose estimation Divine “ wisdom is the principal thing ?” Go home and ponder these questions ; the Lord bless them to your eternal good. And as you retire forget not that “ Wisdom crieth without ; she uttereth her voice in the streets ; she crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates, in the city she uttereth her words, saying : How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity, and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge ? Turn you at my reproof : behold, I will pour out my spirit upon you ; I will make known my words unto you.”

A preacher who had been a printer, said in one of his sermons, that youth was like a comma, manhood like a semi-colon, old age like a colon, to which death puts a period.