

THE CHRISTIANITY OF DAILY LIFE.

BY REV. E. Q. SEWALL.

CHRISTIANITY is like its author. It inculcates all the domestic and social virtues with as much earnestness as the care of the spiritual nature and devotion towards God. That apostle whose spirituality was as eminent as any other quality of his mind, enjoins that we please not ourselves, but every one his neighbor for his good, adding as a motive, — “For even Christ pleased not himself.” He commands that we be not slothful in business ; and when, in allusion to his own case to be burdensome to no man, he says, “Ye yourselves know that these hands have ministered to my necessities and to them that were with me ;” he continues, “I have showed you how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak,” remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” More especially remarkable would, on this supposition, have been the inculcation of diligent exertion in common labors, by the very motives which are so efficacious upon the mass of mankind, as in these passages. “That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without ; — that ye may have lack of nothing ; — that ye may have to give him that needeth.” Nor could it have been less noticeable that, as if by anticipation of a common apology for excessive devotion to the pursuit of gain, the same apostle should have written, “If any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith.”

Language such as this cannot have been learned in the school of a mere ascetic, whose doctrine enforced a con-