
THE

CHRISTIAN BANNER.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."
"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

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NATURE OF PUNISHMENT.

THE caption heading these articles may be an unfortunate one, especially now that we are all learning to reject from our religion all philosophy and to be content with simple fact and faith. All that is meant, however, by the expression is, to indicate that the principles of religion are all in harmony with those found in nature and sound reason, and that christianity is capable of being *illustrated* by admitted facts in the world around us. This method of instruction was a favorite one with the Great Teacher himself as shown by all his parables. The remote reasons of things, why anything is as it is, we can afford to leave to those who are fond of speculative philosophy. But it should be regarded as a matter of some importance, now-a-days, to show, particularly in respect to sin and its punishment, that there are analogies in nature and admitted principles in human society, that bear out the bible, in the face of infidels and half-instructed believers, in all its terrible denunciations against transgressors.

In No. 2, we spoke of the many distorted views of the nature of future punishment held by many a well-wisher for the truth, and of their ill effects upon community. Not a few seem to regard punishment as an unnecessary, angry infliction of pain, because the Almighty feels