

Church—been more extensively read—or exercised a more powerful influence for good. Next to the Bible, we know of no book better calculated to awaken and foster a fervent, active, generous piety, than a well written memoir of a pure and useful Christian. The life of a truly good man exhibits the beautiful foliage and rich fruit which the “seed of the kingdom” is capable of producing. Thus does it demonstrate the truth, purity and power of the Word of God. It presents to us the marble of human nature in the rude, unsightly block, and then the Divine artist in the use of Gospel instruments shaping it, till at length it assumes the fair proportions, graceful contour, and lovely features of the Divine ideal. It exhibits to us the Christian, as a babe, taking his first tottering steps in the way of life ; and then, in maturer years, with head erect, robust frame and vigorous limb, climbing life’s rugged heights, battling successfully with his foes, and pressing forward, with light heart and lion courage, towards the house of many mansions—the home of his Father, God. It shows us the Christian passing through the process of purification—the gold having much alloy put into the furnace ; subjected to the influence of disappointment, loss, suffering and sorrow—the fuel which the Divine spirit usually employs to refine the ransomed spirit, and fit it for the highest service of the heavenly world. We see how well the true gold of Christian faith and patience stands the fiery ordeal, and then the tried ones come forth as gold seven times purified.

Christian biography exposes to view the moral weak-