

THE ATONEMENT.

There is, in John iii., a two-fold aspect of Christ presented to us, as the object of faith ; through which we do not perish, but have everlasting life. As Son of man, He *must* be lifted up (verses 14, 15) ; as only-begotten Son of God, He is given by the *infinite love* of God (ver. 16).

Many souls stop at the first, the Son of man's meeting the necessity in which men stood as sinners before God, and do not look on to that infinite love of God which gave His only-begotten Son—the love which provided the needed Lamb, the true source of all this work of grace, which stamps on it its true character and effect, and without which it could not be.

Hence such souls have not true peace and liberty with God. Practically for them the love is only in Christ, and God remains a just and unbending Judge. They do not really know Him, the God of love, our Saviour.

Others, alas ! will make of it fatal error ; false as to their own state and God's holiness ; with no true or adequate sense of sin, they reject all true propitiation. The "must be lifted up" has no moral place for them, nothing that the conscience, with a true sense of sin, needs.

The former was one great defect of the Reformation, the other comes of modern infidelity, for such it really is. Alas ! that defect of the Refor-