THE SUN OF THE CHRISTIAN SYSTEM.—It is difficult to determine by the eye the precise moment of daybreak: but the light advances from early dawn, and the sun rises at the appointed hour.

Such is the progress of divine light in the mind ; the first streaks of the dawn are seldom perceived ; but by degrees objects till then unthought of are disclosed.

The evil of sin, the danger of the soul, the reality and importance of eternal things are apprehended, and a hope of mercy through a Saviour is discovered, which prevents the sinner from falling into absolute despair ; but for a time all is indistinct and confused.

In this state of mind many things are anxiously sought for as pre-requisites to believing, but they are sought in vain, for it is only by believing that they can be obtained.

But the light increases, the sun arises, the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ shines in upon the soul.

As the sun can only be seen by its own light, and diffuses that light by which other objects are clearly perceived ; so Christ crucified is the sun in the system of revealed truth, and the right knowledge of the doctrine of his cross satisfies the inquiring mind, proves itself to be the one thing needful, and the only thing necessary to silence the objections of unbelief and pride, and to afford a sure ground for solid and abiding hope.—*John Newton.*

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"I CAN DO ALL THINGS"—YET DOING NOTHING.—Paul says, in the name of all Christians, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I say not in Paul's name only, but in the name of my Lord and Master Jesus Christ, *How is it then that some of you are doing nothing?* If you could do nothing you might be excused for not attempting it; but if you put in the slightest pretence to my text, you must allow my right to put this question to you. You say, "I can do all things;" in the name of reason I ask why are you doing nothing? Look what multitudes of Christians there are in the world ; do you believe if they were all what they profess to be, and all to work for Christ, there would long be the degrading poverty, the ignorance, the heathenism, which is to be found in this city? What cannot one individual accomplish? What could not be done therefore by the tens of thousands of our churches?

Ah, professors! you will have much to answer for with regard to the souls of your fellow-men. You are sent by God's providence to be as lights in this world ; but you are rather dark lanterns than lights. How often are you in company, and you never avail yourself of an opportunity of saying a word for Christ? How many times are you thrown into such a position that you have an excellent opportunity for rebuking sin, or for teaching holiness, and how seldom do you accomplish it?                                                              ●

"Am I my brother's keeper?" was the language of Cain. Cain hath many children even at this day. Ye *are* your brother's keeper. If you have grace in your heart, you are called to do good to others. Take care lest your garments be stained and sprinkled with the blood of your fellow-men. Mind, Christians, mind, lest that village in which you have found a quiet retreat from the cares of business, should rise up in judgment against you, to condemn you, because, having means and opportunity, you use the village for rest, but never seek to do any good in it. Take care, masters and mistresses, lest your servants' souls be required of you at the last great day. "I worked for my master ; he paid me my wages, but he had no respect to his greater Master, and never spoke to me, though he heard me swear, and saw me going on in my sins." Mind, I speak, sirs, to some of you.

Why, sirs, what has God made you for? What has he sent you here for? Did he make stars that should not shine, and suns that should give no light, and moons that should not cheer the darkness? Hath he made rivers that should not be filled with water, and mountains that shall not stay the clouds? Hath he made even the forests which shall not give a habitation to the birds ; or hath he made the prairie which shall not feed the wild flocks? And hath he made thee