

CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

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“THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD”—Prov, xix.

“NOT AS THE WORLD GIVETH.”

“Having loved his own that were in the world, he loved them to the end.” As that end drew near, the last hours were employed in administering comfort to his weeping followers, “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” Any man would have been engrossed by his own cares and sorrows. Any other heart would have been so fully occupied with its own approaching conflict that no place could have been found in it for anything besides. But this DIVINE MAN, though about to be baptized, with that awful baptism, in view of which he had been “straitened” so long, seems to forget his own grief in his tender sympathy with his sorrowing disciples—so that this fourteenth chapter of John, so richly tender with words of precious comfort for God’s suffering people, is all the dearer to their hearts, because these words were spoken under the very shadow of the cross. They are the “last words” of a dying friend—mementoes of love stronger than death—a rich, glorious legacy bequeathed to believers. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you.”

Not looking just now specially at the blessing bestowed, let us contemplate for a little, the particular aspect in which we are taught to regard the manner of its bestowment, and this as an indication of the way in which Christ gives us “all things richly to enjoy”

Not as the world giveth.—The world gives *stintedly*. Its promise is often large and loud—the performance meagre and mean. The stream of its benevolence is a narrow rill—not a broad, flowing river. It cannot rise beyond its source—and its source is essentially low. In the world’s gifts there is no true generosity, even when it bestows most profusely—when it seems to pour into the lap its most coveted possessions as riches, honour, power, pleasure—the channels of its bounty are narrow at the best, and they are soon dried up. The world gives very little, for the world has very little to give.

But think of the fulness that is treasured up in Christ. Out of that fulness he gives *abundantly*. He opens his hand *liberally*. He gives not by measure, or if by measure it is a measure full—pressed