

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

August, 1858.

“THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD.”—Prov. xix. 2.

SERMON

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2 Peter i. 12.—“*The present Truth.*”

THE great truths of the gospel are unchanged and unchangeable. This must be the case from the manner in which they have been made known to man. They are not the result of human speculation, and therefore cannot share the fate of such enquiries, where the conclusions of one age are overthrown or are superseded by the more matured investigations of its successor. They are not the result of human discovery, and no subsequent progress of man can render them obsolete, or unfold any other or more advanced system to take their place. On the contrary they come to us by the inspiration of the Most High,—and as no new revelation is promised, we are to expect during all this sublunary state of things no substitute for them.

Hence in every age and under all circumstances the same doctrines are to be proclaimed to men for their salvation and are blessed by God for that end. Christianity as a system of religious instruction is adapted to universal humanity. In its primal truths it reaches man in the lowest Barbarism or the highest civilization. The profoundest philosopher and the most illiterate peasant alike find rest and comfort in the Saviour which it proclaims. - And the lapse of time effects no change in its virtue. The same truths which the Apostles proclaimed when the throne of the Cæsars sat firm upon the seven-hilled city, were those by the proclamation of which the Reformers of the 16th century awoke the world from the slumber of ages. By the preaching of the same truths the Missionary brings savage tribes to the obedience of faith, and the ministry at home contends with the Materialistic spirit of the present age. And the same truths brought