

Earnest Christianity.

VOL. 3.
NO. 7.]

JULY, 1875.

[NEW
SERIES.

OLD TESTAMENT HOLINESS.

A WELL-KNOWN work has been written by Dr. (now Bishop) Peck of the United States, entitled, "The Central Idea of Christianity," in which the proposition that the production of holiness in man is that idea, is demonstrated and unfolded with great power of argument and forcefulness of diction. If the previous dispensation was to the Christian as morning twilight is to noonday glory, or as the undeveloped bud to the perfect flower, then we may expect to find an identity of spirit and aim in the two dispensations, differing only in the relative clearness and fullness with which that spirit is embodied, and that aim defined and made evident. And if Dr. Peck's argument be valid, we may expect to find his "central idea" in the dispensations prior to Christ's advent, as it is largely evident in the institutions and teaching of the dispensation which bears his name.

We think this idea is emphatically asserted in that unique and remarkable composition, the 119th Psalm. For our present purpose it matters not whether David or Ezra is the author; it is enough that it is amongst the number of those writings that are "given by inspiration of God." The whole psalm is occupied in extolling the word of God. By ten separate terms, if not more, is it described and specified. They are: Law, Statutes, Precepts, Commandments, Testimonies, Judgments, Truth, Word, Way, Righteousness,—words ever recurring throughout the whole composition, and ever in connection with some expression of praise, or indication of the psalmist's estimate of their supreme excellence. But in our opinion the promi-