

MEDITATIONS ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES.

(Continued from page 100.)

Ehud.

(iii. 12-30.)

Othniel dies; the children of Israel return to their evil ways, and forget the Lord. The same God who had strengthened Othniel against the enemy, now, in judgment, strengthens Eglon, king of Moab, against Israel. Eglon and his allies take possession of the city of palm trees (Comp. i. 16, Deut. xxxiv. 3), of Jericho, not in its character of the accursed city, but in that of blessing for Israel. And now Israel, in their fallen state, make use of the *very one*, whom God was about to employ for their deliverance, to carry a present to Eglon, ratifying thus their subjection to the world, whose favour they seek. How many *gifts* there are in the present day which become but willing instruments for keeping God's children under the dominion of the world. But Ehud is faithful—he makes himself a two-edged sword: his first act—his only resource. The Christian in the day of ruin has also his two-edged sword, the Word of God being his chief and only offensive weapon. (Heb. iv. 12; Rev. i. 16; xix. 15; Eph. vi. 17.) True, this sword was only a cubit in length; Ehud's weapon was short, but well suited to its work. It was a tried sword, capable of piercing