

all the printed Bibles; but the verses were only marked by the number, either in the margin or in the body of the matter; such minute subdivisions did not then seem fit to be made into distinct paragraphs. But the English translators, who had fled to Geneva during the persecution of Queen Mary, and who published there a new translation, famous afterwards under the name of the Geneva Bible, separated every one of the verses, making each into a distinct paragraph. This new contrivance was soon received with as much approbation as the preceding; and all Bibles, in all languages, began to be printed in the same manner, with the verses distinguished into paragraphs; and so the practice has continued to the present time. A singular destiny, to which no other book has been subjected! For in all other works, the index, or concordance, or whatever may be the subsidiary matter, is fashioned so as to be subordinate to the original work; but in the Bible alone, the text and substance of the work is disfigured in order to be adapted to the concordance that belongs to it; and the notion of its being perused is sacrificed to that of its being referred to. In consequence of this, the Bible is to the eye, upon the opening of it, rather as a book of reference than a book for perusal and study; and it is much to be feared, that this circumstance makes it more frequently used as such; it is referred to for verifying a quotation, and then returned to the shelf. What book can be fundamentally understood, if consulted only in such a desultory way! Those who extend their reading, but still regulate their efforts by the chapters, are not more likely to see the scriptural writings in the true view.

A Pious and Enlightened Ministry.

BY S. CLOUGH.

The Christian ministry is of Divine origin. It is the instrumentality by which the cause of truth, righteousness, and piety are maintained; the means ordained of God for the salvation of men. In the arrangements of Christ for the establishment of his kingdom on earth, the institution of the gospel ministry is very prominent. He selected the men, trained them for the great and arduous work under his own eye, sent them forth to preach the word of truth, and gave them directions for per-

petuating the holy order. The wisdom of this appointment has been demonstrated by the whole history of the gospel church. Every great interest needs special supervision; and the greater the interest, the more thorough and systematic should be the supervision by which its affairs are to be guarded and directed. And the guardian influence which is exerted by the ministry over the church, is clearly seen to be wisely adapted for the accomplishment of its great and momentous objects. It was designed of God to exert a great moral power over individuals and communities, for the advancement of the highest interests of mankind, both for time and for eternity. Hence, good men have always looked with anxious solicitude to the character and qualifications of the ministry. This solicitude is natural and right; for the state of public morals, and the prosperity of the church, depend, in a great degree, upon the piety, ability, and faithfulness of the gospel ministry. Both the state of the church, and the character of the times in which we live, require as devoted, as able, and as faithful a ministry as at any former period.

The first and most important characteristic of a gospel ministry, is *decided piety*. This qualification is indispensable; it is demanded both by the Scriptures and the nature of the ministerial office, and for the absence of which nothing can atone. Unsanctified learning and talent will rather obstruct than advance the Redeemer's kingdom; will rather tarnish than promote the glory of God among men. Every Christian teacher should be a truly converted man, and should possess the graces of the Spirit in a strong, vivid, and prominent exercise. He should be truly and eminently *a man of God; full of faith and the Holy Ghost; and should be rooted and grounded in love*. Without a decidedly pious ministry, no church can possibly, for any length of time, sustain a devotional and spiritual character. Her graces will languish, her energies will dry up, and her spiritual life will vanish away.

But while piety is indispensable, it should not be forgotten that there are other qualifications, which are also essential in rendering a minister of the gospel useful and successful as a public teacher. The great Head of the church would have