

THE

CHRISTIAN SUN.

"The Lord God is a Sun and Shield."

VOL. I.

HILLSBOROUGH, N. C. OCTOBER, 1844.

NO. 10.

From Romaine's Life of Faith.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.

With what rich and copious matter does this Scripture abound, tending to show the absolute safety of resting upon God's promises! How strong are the arguments, to persuade the heirs of promise to put their whole trust and confidence in the faithfulness of their God! who having provided an infinitely glorious and everlasting inheritance for them, was willing to make it over to them in the strongest manner of conveyance, and therefore, he has given the promise and the oath of God, which cannot possibly change or alter, that their faith might never doubt or waver, and their hope might at all times be sure and steadfast; and until he bring them to the inheritance itself, he has given them many sweet and blessed promises of all things needful for their temporal and spiritual estate, upon which he would have them not only to live comfortably at present, but also to receive them, as a part of the inheritance, allowed them for their maintenance, till they come to age, and enter upon the possession of the whole. And what God intended in his promise and oath, has its effects in a good degree among those, who have the word of good abiding in them. They cast their anchor where he commands them, and they are not only safe, but also, in time of the greatest troubles and temptations, have strong consolation. When enemies come, corruptions arise, and difficulties are in the way, they have a promise and a promise-keeping God to depend upon. Whatever straits they are in, the word abiding in them brings some promise of support and deliverance; the promise shows what God has engaged to do, and faith receives the fulfilling of his engagements; when they draw nigh to God in duties, in ordinances, they know what he has promised to them that wait upon

him, and they judge him faithful who hath promised; and lo, he is present with them. In short, while they live like themselves, as the heirs of promise, they are preserved from all evil, and want no manner of thing that is good. This is their happy case, thrice happy, because the means used to deprive them of their happiness are overruled of God for the establishing it; the enemy rages against them, but in vain; he was a liar from the beginning; the word is truth, and he abode not in it; therefore he hates it, and with a greater hatred, because the Lord has made it the means of strengthening those believers. He knows that all his temptations will be fruitless while the word abideth in them; he fears no weapon formed against him, like the sword of the Spirit; he has felt its sharpness and its power; with it the Captain of our salvation cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon; with it all his good soldiers resist the devil, and make him flee from them. For these reasons he has great variety of temptations to weaken the believer's trust in the word, and his reliance upon the promises of God.

Sometimes he attacks them in a matter where his hopes are founded in their ignorance; he is cunning to spy out the particular way in which they have been led, and their readiness to maintain their ground, by making use of the promises suited to that way; he resolves, therefore, upon some new temptation, with which they have not been exercised; and he watches the favorable opportunity to inject it with all his strength. Upon his doing it, the soul is put into a great hurry, because it has no promise ready to apply to the present case: for want of which the understanding is confused, faith wavers, doubt enters, and Satan carries his point. This demonstrates the necessity of searching the Scriptures, and meditating upon them night and day: in them God has