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Cogitations of a Pilgrim No. 3, February 27, 1834

Mary Easton Sibley

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COMMUNICATIONS.

For the Observer.

COGITATIONS OF A PILGRIM.

No. III.

In the course of my pilgrimage, I have frequently remarked the great difference there is, between those Christians who study the Bible closely and prayerfully, and those who merely read it as a matter of course, because it is their duty to do so. The former are devotedly pious people and happy in their religious experiences. There is an elevation of thought and character about them, which is peculiarly attractive, and when it is our happiness to associate with them, our hearts are lifted up above the petty cares of life, and our imaginations revel on the pleasing anticipations of an eternity of felicity, where we shall behold those glorious exhibitions of the Divine character, which we so faintly appreciate here. The people of the world often accuse us of idolizing our ministers, and of placing an undue confidence in their advice and observations. It is true, when a minister of the gospel, is what he ought to be, we cannot help loving him; for we must love whatever resembles in any degree, the character of our Lord and Master. But I have thought the reason, why ministers of the gospel, generally, attain to a higher degree of holiness, and in consequence possess characters which command the affections of their friends, is owing to the circumstance of their vocation being of such a nature, as to make it absolutely necessary they should study the Word of God more attentively than other Christians. As far as my experience goes, this remark has been verified. I have the pleasure of numbering among my friends a few preachers of the gospel, who are eminent pilgrims, full of love to God and man; but I likewise have among my friends, a layman who exceeds them all in having attained "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," simply because he has a more perfect knowledge of the revealed will of Jehovah. This revered friend has with deep reverence and humility, made the Bible his study for many years, and he has collected in the process of time many remarks which throw light upon obscure passages of Scripture. He has permitted me to make some extracts from his numerous writings, which I propose to offer to the Christian world, in numbers, for the "Observer." M.