THE PULPIT.

Sermon of Rev. John W. Nevin, D. D., Delivered at Ephrata Mountain.

[Special for The Press.]

In accordance with a regulation observed at the annual national retreat of having religious services at least once every Sunday, in one of the large saloons of the hotel, the Rev. J. W. Nevin, D. D., of Lancaster, one of the most eminent men in the German Reformed Church in this country, and formerly President of Franklin and Marshall College, delivered a discourse at that place on the morning of last Sunday week, from the following text of Scripture:

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."—John viii, 12.

The learned speaker opened by saying that it was generally supposed that our Lord had uttered these words in full view of the rising sun as it was ascending over Mount Olivet. There could, he added, be no doubt that they were at least spoken with some reference to the office of that luminary. To show the force and probability of such an inference, it was said that the power, for example, of the sun was irresistible. By its all forms of life were called into existence, and so became the natural symbol of all that was embraced in the idea of the quickening of the soul.

In entering upon such an analysis, whether of the natural or spiritual, it should steadily be borne in mind that there is a marked parallelism between them, and this it was that had undoubtedly been presented to the eye of our blessed Lord when He uttered the words of the text.

In entering upon this analysis, therefore, it was the speaker's design, in the *first* place, to consider in what sense our Saviour denominates Himself as "the light of the world;" *secondly*, what we are to understand by *following* Him, and lastly, what the promised reward of such obedience implied. In the first place, then, He was the light of the world, even as the Author of the natural light, for "God said, Let there be light, and there was light." It was by Him that the world was created, and by Him it is sustained. Without Him it would be darkness, but shall have the light of life."—John viii, 12.

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