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The Christian Soldier.

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MR. *W E S T*'s
ARTILLERY ELECTION
S E R M O N.

1794

The Christian Soldier.

A
S E R M O N,
PREACHED BEFORE
THE
ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE
ARTILLERY COMPANY,
ON MONDAY, JUNE 2d, 1794;
BEING THE
ANNIVERSARY
OF THEIR
ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

BY SAMUEL WEST, A. M.

PASTOR OF THE SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON.

B O S T O N :
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A

S E R M O N.



TO describe the character of the good **SOLDIER**, as formed upon the principles and influenced by the spirit of Christianity, will perfectly suit the present occasion; this, therefore, shall be attempted in the following Discourse, founded on those words of St. Paul, *2 Timothy*, chapter ii. and the latter part of the second verse——

“ A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST.”

CHRISTIANITY has an excellent effect on the characters of men, in all the relations which they sustain in life. It renders them useful to society, as well as happy in themselves. It leads the soldier in particular to true glory in the path of virtue, and by giving him a just sense of his relation and obligations to his Maker, qualifies him for the service of his country.

It is highly pleasing to contemplate the benevolent design of the gospel institution. By subduing the passions of men, those sources of contention, and reforming the heart, this divine religion shall ultimately exclude war from the face of the earth; and by diffusing universal charity, produce universal peace. But this great event can only be considered as the subject of prophecy, the accomplishment of which, though certain, is probably far distant in futurity.

It adds a grandeur to scripture prophecy, when we consider it as directing its eye through such long extended periods of time as astonish the minds of mortals; though they sink to nothing in the sight of Him whose existence is eternal, and with whom a thousand years are as one day, and one day as a thousand years.

CHRISTIANITY is emphatically the work of God. Introduced and established by the exercise of miraculous powers, it made surprising progress, so long as it was supported and confirmed by *that* incontestible evidence of its divine original; since which its prevalence has been very unequal, slow at the best, and on the whole extremely short of what its early success seemed to indicate. The re-appearance of its divine Author, attended with the same miraculous powers, an event plainly predicted, will go far towards effecting his gracious purpose. But nothing short of repeated appearances of this nature, or successive dispensations

