

word ; its opinions, whether favorable or the reverse, are not regarded by the students of the Scripture. So that my standing upon a popular eminence, a position by the way of which I was not aware, will not in any way affect the truth of my statements.

If we are to judge of the seed sown by the fruits, then assuredly we will come to the conclusion that it has been the same in all ages.— That sown in the heart of Abraham produced a character worthy of being called the friend of God. Daniel, to whom it was promised that he would be present when the saints are put in possession of the kingdom, is called *greatly beloved*, an epithet which would not have been used had not his character warranted it. The apostles are called friends of Jesus, and those who keep his commandments are not only his friends but his brethren. Is not the same fruit the product of the same seed ? and is not that the incorruptible seed, the word of God which liveth and abideth forever ?

The attempt to prove the gospel preached to Abraham different from that preached by the Apostles to the Gentiles, will have little weight with those acquainted with the biography of the patriarch ; the statements made in reference to him being far from according with the facts as recorded in the Bible. You say the object of the preaching was something else than the salvation of Abraham, for before the gospel was preached to him he was the friend of God. Paul testifies that Abraham was justified by faith ; whatever ulterior designs then, there may have been, it is evident that his salvation was the result of the preaching of the gospel. Again, it is nowhere said that he was the friend of God while living with his father Terah, the worshipper of strange gods ; the first time that honorable title is given to him being after his justification, which was nearly ten years after he heard the gospel. Had the items of the promise made to Abraham been stated, it would have been found that for the most part they are still unfulfilled, and include all the future blessings promised in the gospel preached by the Apostles. That is a very unscriptural definition of the Gospel which would restrict it to mere facts. The faith accepted of God has more reference to the future, it is the confidence of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen ; a vague expectation is not such a faith. God promised to Abraham and his seed, that in them should all families of the earth be blessed ; and that they should inherit the land of Canaan for ever, which implies a resurrection from the dead and eternal life. The scriptures inform us that the seed of Abraham is