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“ PROVE ALL THINGS, HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.”

PREFATORY REMARKS.

ON the subject of Religion, it would have been well for the world, had nothing but the inspired scriptures been ever published. On all sciences and arts merely human, and pertaining to the things of this life, author may succeed author, and volume may be added to volume, keeping pace with the expansion of human intellect, and the accumulation of human experience; for this very evident reason, that no human author is infallible, no volume, science, or art, has arrived at absolute perfection. But as God is the Author of the Sacred Volume—is the infallible teacher, that science or that art which He teaches, is incapable of any improvement from human intellect. The Bible contains this perfect teaching to man, the art of living well in relation to all his high ends and destinies, and the teaching it contains is exhibited in the same perfection in which its Author exhibits all his works.—From all this it may be justly inferred that the contradictory variety of opinions, the endless mass of treatises, commentaries and systems of religion, tend as much to impeach the wisdom and benevolence of the one inspired volume, as they have always tended to perplex and divide Christians.

It is not easy to conceive or express the advantages which the world would this day have enjoyed, had no other volume, no other standard or rule in religion, ever have been announced to mankind, save the unadulterated Word of God. How inconsistent then, it may be objected, is it to adopt this sentiment, and to write another sentence, to publish another volume, on the subject of religion. Taking into consideration the avowed object and obvious intention of the writer, and the circumstances of the case, this objection becomes a mere cavil. Were it the fact, that Christians were making the word of God their only creed or rule of faith and practice, and in their union, only for its truth's sake were exemplifying its sanctifying influence; there would be indeed no occasion to plead the cause of the Bible, or to argue its superiority over every human expedient, for the conversion of the world, the union and sanctification of believers. But when so many systems, other than God's own revelation of truth, and so many rules besides his, have appeared—to call men from these, and to advocate the only one system, the one only rule which can boast an in-