

by such means they sought to undermine his influence, and lead away the Galatians from the purity of Christian doctrine as taught by him. In some way or other Paul would be informed that his beloved but "foolish" Galatians were departing from the simplicity of the truth as it is in Christ. Moved with compassion for them, and removed from them in bodily presence, he wrote to them this interesting and highly instructive epistle, in which historical facts, powerful arguments, faithful rebukes, and affectionate appeals are beautifully and skilfully intermingled. Blessed is he therefore, who reverently strives to master its contents. He shall be enriched for time and for eternity. For it is the rich and enriching production of a natively powerful and inspired mind, linked to a warm and royal heart, on the altar of which the passion-fire of love to Christ did brightly burn.

In the first part of his epistle, by an appeal to historical facts, Paul demonstratively proves, on the one hand, that his apostolical authority was genuine, having been called to office by Christ himself; and, on the other hand, that the gospel which he preached was taught to him "by the revelation of Jesus Christ." The false teachers seem to have averred that Paul had not the same authority as the other apostles; because they were called to office, and taught the gospel, by Christ himself, when upon earth; whereas Paul's conversion took place after Christ had ascended to glory, and, taught the gospel, by men—by the other apostles. If they reasoned thus, such reasoning would appear plausible to those who did not know or believe that Paul saw Christ "as one born out of due time." (I Cor. xv:8.) Such baseless insinuations are evidently referred to by the apostle in his first chapter, where he says—"Paul an apostle, not of men, neither by man; but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead."—"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." (ch. 1.11. 12.) By way of proof, he brings forward the facts of his conversion, and call to the apostolic office, when Jesus appears to him on the road to Damascus, as it is evident from the following verses: "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood; neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and re-