

THE CANADIAN  
CHRISTIAN EXAMINER,  
AND  
PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

NUMBER 3.

MAY, 1837.

VOLUME I.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATIONS ETC.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

ON THE SIMPLE, DECLARATIVE, MANNER  
OF APOSTOLIC TEACHING.

The Apostle Paul declares to the Corinthians that he came not among them with "excellency of speech or of wisdom;" that his preaching was not with the enticing "words of man's wisdom." The critical reader of the New Testament will at once perceive that he alludes in these expressions to the eloquence and argumentation, so much esteemed by the Greeks, and declares that he, as a Christian Teacher, abstained from the artifices of their sophists and orators, and adopted a manner at variance with the tastes and prejudices of his auditors. They were fond of the very things which he studiously avoided. Greek Philosophy and Literature, with the fine arts, flourished in so remarkable a degree at Corinth,

I.

that this city had obtained the appellation "the light of all Greece." And so numerous were the persons who had attained to the refinements of a Grecian education, that no teacher could hope for any success at Corinth, who did not adorn his discourse in the polished graces of their incomparable language, and argue and declaim in the manner of their philosophers. Now Paul, in opposition to the prevailing practice, used the greatest plainness and simplicity of speech; he paid little attention to the rounding of his periods; he entirely avoided the disputations of the learned: he came among them as a plain man to deliver a plain message—the divine sublimity and momentous importance of which, precluded, as unsuitable, every laboured decoration of style or eloquence.

• Totius Græciæ lumen.