

of his Prophets, who lived in a degenerate age, who prophesied against the corruptions of his day, when he spoke of better times, of an age of union and communion, was commanded to say in the name of the Lord, "Then will I turn to the people a *pure language*, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him *with one consent*." Purity of speech is here declared to be prerequisite to serving the Lord with one consent.

The christian revelation is addressed to man as he is—not as he *has* been—nor as he *shall* be. It is addressed to man as an intellectual and moral being; and is adapted to the wants of his intellectual and moral condition. It contemplates him as fallen and degenerated from his primeval state, and proposes a remedy adequate to his moral disease in its most aggravated and chronic forms. But this remedy must be applied in the order of Heaven—according to the prescriptions and direction of the great Physician. All the symptoms must be attended to, and the remedies applied in the order laid down or prescribed. Reverse that order, or confound its parts, and death, or an aggravation of the disease, may be the consequence; mingle with these divine prescriptions those of human philosophy, and they become weak and inefficient.

Ministers cannot pray instead of their flock, and thus excuse the latter. Nor believe for them. Nor be benevolent for them. Nor do the works meet for repentance for them. And I really fear, that the mere fact of the existence of ministers of religion, is generally abused in this way. We would feign be religious *by proxy*.

If any divine, or even the Westminster divines, can speak more learnedly, more intelligibly, more definitely, than the inspired oracles of God's spirit, what is the value of inspiration? The less inspiration the better!

*Revelation is founded upon fact*, and therefore there is not in all its rich and varied contents one abstract proposition. Facts are stated; and these are left to speak for God. Thus God and man are both known by what they do and what they say: for, with us, *facts* are things done, whether done by the simple volition, the word, or the hand of an operator. By his works and by his word God is known.

The christian facts, found in the testimony concerning what Jesus did and said, are the basis of the christian religion. These facts, stated, proved and illustrated, is the whole business of preaching and teaching. 1 Cor. ii. 5, xv. 1, 2, 3, &c. Each of