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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ON RELIGIOUS CONVERSATION.

(continued from page 128.)

RELIGIOUS conversation is no less excellent from its great efficacy as the means of instruction.

Faith, says the Blessed Apostle Saint Paul, cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Here we find two instruments employed for the salvation of man; reading the Scriptures, and hearing them explained. But the explanation is not meant to be confined to sermons or to public worship—we are not to suppose that our religious duties are finished, when the service is concluded; or that we are to hear and learn nothing of religion except in the church. Private communication hath often been more efficacious than what we at present understand by preaching. For it is not merely, in the pulpit on the Lord's day, to illustrate some excellent doctrine—warn the people of the prevalence of sin—encourage the timid—rouse the indolent and threaten the wicked, that the usefulness of the Ministry is confined. They are equally so in catechising the children—sowing in their tender minds the elements of our holy faith—pointing out to them their duty to God, to their parents, and their fellow men. And it is owing as much, if not more, to particular instruction as to the public preaching of the word, that Christianity has so triumphantly prevailed. Our Blessed Saviour himself taught in this plain, easy, and familiar style. "Never man spake like this man" exclaimed the officers that went to seize him, when he was