

the precious ores, seldom lies near the surface, but must often be elicited by long, patient and deep investigation, and its attainment by the reward of persevering and strenuous efforts. "Our holy religion," says Dr. Barrow, "ordinarily doth refuse a sudden and precipitate assent, admitting no man capable of judging and choosing for himself to the participation of it, or to the name and privileges of a worthy believer, until after a competent time and opportunities of instruction, he can approve himself to understand it well, and doth avow himself to be cordially persuaded of its truth." See Barrow's Sermon on Faith.—But, if there were no other text in the sacred volume, the passage taken as the subject of this Discourse would be amply sufficient to substantiate this great truth. I need not inform many who hear me this day, that the original word here rendered to try, denotes that process by which metals are examined by fire, in order that the pure ore may be separated from the dross. Many texts might be brought from the old Testament to prove this, but time will only permit me to cite a very few. Jer. 9th c. 7th v. Therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts, behold I will melt them and try them, for how shall I do for the daughter of my people. And Prov. 8th c. 10th v. Receive my instruction and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold. And 17th c. 3rd v. of the same book, The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tryeth the hearts. And in the New Testament, 1st Peter, 1st c. 7th v. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Our Saviour, although he had the testimony of John the Baptist, and although he spake as never man spake, and his captious and prejudiced countrymen could not resist the wisdom with which he addressed them, did nevertheless appeal to miracles as the only rational test of the truth of his divine mission. John 5th c. 36th v. But I (says he) have greater witness than that of John, for the work which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And in the 15th c. 24th v. of the same Evangelist, If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin, viz. the great national sin of rejecting the Messiah. Thus we see that our holy religion, so far from inculcating implicit faith and prostration of the understanding, commands it as a duty, to make the best use of

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