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“ PROVE ALL THINGS, HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.”

PREFATORY REMARKS.

THE following Extracts are from an Address to the Public, by one of the ablest, most consistent, and practical advocates the age has produced, for the Bible—the Bible alone—for the faith and practice of Christians.

They appear so appropriate to the occasion—and so well suited to a volume of Gleanings (largely indebted to his own labors of faith and love to enrich its pages) advocating the same good cause—that they are here adopted as our Prefatory Remarks.

‘ We now commence a periodical paper pledged to no religious sect in christendom, the express and avowed object of which is the eviction of truth and the exposure of error, as stated in the *Prospectus*.’

‘ We have often heard the leaders of devotion in popular assemblies confessing their great ignorance, praying for more light, and anxiously looking for a more desirable time, when knowledge, truth, and holiness should abound. This circumstance clearly argues that every thing is not right amongst them, themselves being judges. Yet we have often heard these same leaders of devotion vindicate themselves from error, and attempt to justify themselves and all their measures as soon as any reprover presented himself. This, though a common occurrence, is a singular proof that many deceive themselves, as well as their simple hearers, “ by good words and fair speeches.”

‘ We are very certain that to such as are praying for illumination and instruction in righteousness, and not availing themselves of the means afforded in the Divine Word to obtain an answer to their prayers, our remarks on many topics will appear unjust, illiberal, and even heretical ; and as there are so many praying for light, and inattentive to what God has manifested in his word, there must be a multitude to oppose the way of truth and righteousness. This was the case when God’s Messiah, the mighty Redeemer of Israel, appeared. Ten thousand prayers were daily offered for his appearance, ten thousand wishes expressed for his advent, ten thousand orations pronounced respecting the glory of his character and reign ; and, strange to tell ! when he appeared the same ten thousand tongues were employed in his defamation ! Yea, they were praying for his coming when he stood in the midst of them, as many now are praying for light when it is in their hands, and yet they will not look at it.’

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