

Bible, the conclusion is irresistible, that it cannot be a human production, but must have come from God.

If the evidences of christianity, and the divine power attending it, had not been irresistible, it could not have prevailed at the time, and in the places where it was first preached. Its author neither accommodated the prejudices, customs, appetites, ambition, nor worldly interest of those to whom it was addressed, but required them to take up a cross against all these things ; and told them plainly, that unless they would forsake parents, wives, children, houses, lands, and even their own lives, they should have no part in him ; while at the same time all the prejudices, customs, superstitions, learning, and civil authorities of those countries, were arrayed against it ; so that every one knew that to profess christianity, was certain disgrace, and suffering, and almost certain death. Yet under all these disadvantages it triumphed ; and not by military force, and in the regions of the greatest ignorance, and barbarism as Mahometanism did, but by the spirit of truth, and in the precincts of science and civilization, so that in a short time it became the prevailing religion of scientific Greece, and political Rome ; and has ever since held its empire over civilized man. There was no train of natural causes sufficient to produce this great change in the moral condition of mankind, but on the contrary every thing in the dominion of nature, and in the state of society stood in opposition to it ; therefore to deny that it was effected by supernatural agency, would be the same as to say that great effects have arisen from no cause.

If the miracles said to be wrought by Christ and the Apostles were false, why were they not then detected ? Learning, the prejudices of the age, numbers, and civil authority were all on the side of their enemies, and if they were impostors, nothing could have been easier, than for those enemies to defeat them ; and by murdering Christ, and more than a hundred thousand of his followers, they proved that they were disposed to suppress both him and his religion.

If a man should be arraigned at the bar for forgery, and his enemies should have every advantage over him, that the enemies of Christ and the Apostles had over them, and when the trial would come on, his accusers would assert that they had more than a thousand living witnesses who saw him commit the crime, and then, after manifesting the greatest zeal and rancor, so completely fail to bring one proof against him, either positive or circumstantial, that the judge would declare of him, as Pilot did of Christ, that he found no fault in the man, surely common sense would pronounce him innocent. Similar to this was the trial of Jesus Christ, and if his enemies with every facility failed to convict him of forgery then, how can they expect to do it now, after his gospel has stood the test of eighteen centuries, and has always proved itself to be the nurse of science, and the promoter of every thing that accords with the best interests of man ?

The Bible informs us that if we will repent of our sins, take up our cross, and persevere in praying to God, he will give us his holy spirit to change our hearts, cleanse us from sin, and fill us with joy unspeakable and full of glory : and the Christians who have complied with these