

better and weightier than others that they *must be obeyed*; and other of the divine requirements are so far inferior that they *may be obeyed or not* as the professor chooses. Now, father, these things appeared novel to me, and contrary to the authority of divine law: will you therefore please relieve me of my difficulties by telling me if there be any authority for them in the scriptures?

OMEGA.—It gives me pleasure, my son, that you never until now heard these words, nor any of the religious novelties connected with them; and it gives me equal pleasure to know that your attention has been called to consider them at a time when there is an opportunity of giving such explanations as may erase or prevent false impressions. But, in the first place, in order to give a proper direction to my remarks, tell me what have been your own reflections?

ALPHA.—No distinct impressions of any kind have resulted from my own reflections. So many other topics, divisions of topics, and different opinions of topics were introduced and illustrated by the speaker, all of them marvellously new to me, that I have been sufficiently occupied in pondering over and wondering at them; for, although the preacher was a textuary, and had a handsome little text selected, he touched upon every thing, ancient and modern, having relation or having no relation with the subject, that could either with propriety or impropriety be manufactured into a discourse of an hour's continuance. Indeed it required no little ingenuity to bring so many curiosities into a single discourse. If leisure permits, and memory is faithful, a week's asking will perhaps unfold a few of these doctrines and simplify them to my understanding.

OMEGA.—In the next place then, my son, let me ask you if these words essential and non-essential are to be found in the New Testament. You remember, I presume, what I have frequently said, that all the doctrines, commands, and sanctions of the religion of Christ are fully revealed, taught, and enforced in the sacred writings of the New Institution. If, then, these words or these ideas can be discovered in the writings of Paul, or Peter, or Matthew, or Luke, or John, we are not only at liberty, but it becomes obligatory to employ them irrespective of our own views of propriety or impropriety. For it is proper here to observe, that the novelty of anything is no argument against it: for all that is good, in religion as well as in science, must, of necessity, at one time have been new or novel. We will examine this matter upon its own merits.

ALPHA.—Neither the words nor their import, so far as I have discovered, are to be found in the Bible, Old Testament or New. It was the remembrance of what you had often taught me respecting the all-sufficiency of the oracles of God, and the impres-