

I. Varying with the change of times and circumstances, must be that wisdom which is necessary, for the preaching of the Gospel. At the first dawn of the Christian æra, this qualification was of a different kind, and required in an inferior degree, because the Apostles were endued with powers from above, and because their Lord and Master was at hand to reprove, to exhort, and to enlighten. Humility of heart therefore, and teachableness of disposition, were the main recommendation for the first Christian Ministry. It might otherwise have been objected to our Religion, that it had made its way by the artifice and contrivance of its Disciples. When, however, its Heavenly Teacher had ascended up on high, then the Apostles were by no means destitute of human acquirements and learning. St. Paul, separated and chosen for the conversion of the Gentiles, had been educated at the feet of Gamaliel, and was well versed both in Grecian literature, and in all the Jewish Scriptures. His writings are before us; and they abundantly prove, how well qualified he was to refute and convert the gainfayers. In argument and in eloquence they stand unrivalled.

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