

The Open Communion Baptists have their summary of principles, very concise indeed, but so much the worse, because every variety of opinion might be held and taught under it. The Methodists also, have their discipline containing a very superficial digest of Christian doctrine. From all this it appears, that no section of the Christian Church can dispense with a particular constitution, and a compend of doctrine.

What is the duty which the Christian Church owes to her Creed and Confession of Faith? Her duty is to compare her formularies of doctrine with the word of God, to receive them in so far as they are agreeable to, and founded upon the Scriptures, "to hold fast the form of sound words;" "To contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints."

B. B.

### **Of the State in which Man was Created.**

Next to the Character of God there is no subject the knowledge of which is of deeper importance to us than the character of man, his present condition and future state. To know what man is we must collect the facts stated in the Scriptures respecting his creation, the materials of which he was formed and the purposes for which he was made—respecting the relation in which he stands to the creatures above him and below him, and especially to that Glorious One from whom all being has proceeded and whose glory all creation is intended to display. In a word, we must study him from the moment he was formed of the dust, till his body return to the earth and his spirit to God who gave it,—we must follow him into the future state and see him placed where the predominant principles of his nature shall have full room for developement for good or for evil, uncramped by the peculiarities of his present condition, and where happiness or misery shall be perfect and eternal.

Man, is not only an interesting, but a useful study. It must, in the highest degree be useful to know what we are—to ascertain our place in creation—to know the end for which we were made and how that end has been thwarted—the remedial system devised by Infinite Wisdom and the means by which we may be interested in the remedy. In comparison of this all human knowledge is worthless.

The source whence our information must be derived is the word of God. That is the only authoritative document. While however, we assign this exclusive place to the Scriptures, it must be obvious that as the Bible is wholly taken up with man, it will be found that its infallible statements minutely harmonize with all the findings of enlightened observation. If it speak of man as having existed in a state, which, in some of its most important circumstances has long since passed away, we may see in the abundant remnants of that state enough to satisfy us that the scriptural