

INTRODUCTION TO A NEW AND BETTER COURSE OF TEACHING.

It is generally considered to be a difficult thing for any one to learn to sing scientifically; and that many people are entirely destitute of musical capacity, who can never be taught to sing. These unreasonable and unscriptural notions are common among the people; the very people, who are all commanded to sing; yes, the people of this so called enlightened age, consider their Creator to be a harder taskmaster than Pharaoh; commanding them to do what he has not given them power to do; For, though Pharaoh denied the children of Israel straw to make bricks, he allowed them to gather stubble. Many attempt to learn music, and make a failure. And as nature is not apt to err, it was demonstrated by some, long ago, that the fault must be in the systems of teaching; So, attempts have been made to improve them. Many have thought the fault was in solmization, and so dispensed with it altogether. Some changed it from four monosyllables to seven.

Others supposed the fault to be in the staff, and discarded it. And it appears that more fancied the fault to be in the pendulum, and accordingly threw it away. Their motives might have all been good, but they were all too hasty; like an unskillful Physician, administering the most powerful medicines, at random, without stopping to learn the nature and cause of disease; of course his patient would be destroyed; so, Psalmody is nearly destroyed. Some of its very best appendages are rejected. And many conflicting systems are destroying one another. For instance, THE CHRISTIAN PSALMIST is in three systems of notation, the round, the numeral, and the patent note. By close investigation we have discovered many errors, and plans to remove them. The following are some of the most injurious errors:--

1. The musical phraseology is unintelligible.
2. Instrumental rules are applied to vocal music.