

practice it, he is fulfilling the purpose for which the Bible should be read ; and he will be accepted according to what he has in him of the true spirit of Christ. The Bible requires learned men to understand large portions of it. Moreover most, for want of time and opportunity to examine for themselves, must believe on authority in matters of theology, as they must in those of medicine. But as there is no council capable of enforcing any particular selection out of the medical profession ; so neither is there any power on earth to enforce the precepts and views of one Doctor in Theology rather than another. Each must consider who is most capable of imparting to him a real knowledge of the scriptures, who has the best advantage of studying them, and therefore is most capable of solving his difficulties, or of leading him to correct opinions concerning their doctrines and precepts. Each must carefully choose his own authorities. If however those who have had no opportunities are preferred to those who have had them ; or if those whose situation is liable to bias them to conclusions, to which they were bound to subscribe before they had the means of knowing the correctness of them ;—if these men are to be the authorities of the world in points of theological doctrine, how can we expect anything but a conservative priestcraft to rule the hearts of the people, and to keep their minds in ignorance.

Non-subscribers to articles of faith,—that is those who practically take the Bible as their only standard of religious and theological truth,—have, as a matter of history, almost universally converged by degrees to what are commonly called Unitarian opinions. Whether under the title of Christians in America, or non-subscribing Presbyterians in Ireland, or English Presbyterians and General