

to his Almighty Creator. On these and kindred topics the Christian revelation affords the most clear and satisfactory information, and the details which it furnishes on these subjects are of the highest moment, and deeply interesting to every inhabitant of the globe. But ignorance, leagued with depravity and folly, has been the cause that the sacred oracles have so frequently been treated with indifference and contempt; and that those who have professed to recognise them as the intimations of the will of the Deity have been prevented from studying them with intelligence, and contemplating the facts they exhibit in all their consequences and relations.

In order to a profitable study of the doctrines, facts, and prophecies contained in the Bible, it is requisite, in the first place, that a deep and thorough conviction be produced in the mind, that they are indeed the revelations of Heaven, addressed to man on earth to direct his views and conduct as an accountable agent, and a candidate for immortality.—From ignorance of the *evidences* on which the truth of Christianity rests, multitudes of thoughtless mortals have been induced to reject its authority, and have glided down the stream of licentious pleasure, “sporting themselves with their own deceivings,” till they landed in wretchedness and ruin. The religion of the Bible requires to be examined with care, and studied with humility and reverence, in order to produce a full conviction of its celestial origin; and wherever such dispositions are brought into contact with a calm and intelligent investigation of the evidences of revelation, and of the facts and doctrines it discloses, the mind will not only discern its superiority to every other system of religion, but will perceive the beauty and excellence of its discoveries, and the absolute necessity of their being studied and promulgated in order to raise the human race from that degradation into which they have been so long immersed, and to promote the renovation of the moral world. And those objections and difficulties which previously perplexed and harassed the inquirer will gradually vanish, as the mists of the morning before the orb of day.

Of the reality of miraculous events, we have as high a decree of evidence as we have for the reality of any other fact recorded in the Scriptures or in the history of the world. The single fact of the *Resurrection of Christ*,—a fact so important in the Christian system, and with which all its other facts and doctrines are essentially connected,—rests upon a weight of evidence so great that the rejection of it would be almost equivalent to the adoption of universal skepticism. This fact does not rest upon the testimony of an unknown individual, or even of an unknown