

SERMON.

Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.—1st Thess.
5th Chap. 21st v.

THE Holy Scriptures, as founded upon Eternal and Divine truth, are so far from forbidding their Disciples to investigate the evidence by which their claims are supported, that they invite enquiry, nay, they make it the duty of the Christian carefully to examine the testimony which is designed to prove their supernatural origin. On the other hand, Heathen superstition and Mahometan delusion prohibit, under the severest penalties, their abject votaries from the slightest use of their reason in matters of religion, and inculcate upon their followers implicit faith, as well as unhesitating obedience. Based upon error and falsehood, they are naturally afraid to come to the light, lest their deeds should be made manifest that they are deeds of darkness, and that there is no truth in them. Even under the Mosaic dispensation, which was an economy of comparative bondage, the Almighty, nevertheless, with marvellous condescension, appeals to the understanding of the Children of Israel, for the rectitude, the reasonableness, and justice of his ways. Wherefore I will yet plead with you saith the Lord, and with your children's children will I plead. In the original be judged. Ezekiel 17th ch. 20th v., and I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare and I will bring him to Babylon, and I will plead with him there for his trespass that he hath trespassed against me. And to mention no more, Ezek. 18th ch. 25th v. Are not my ways equal, are not your ways unequal O House of Israel, saith the Lord. Our blessed Lord, early in his Ministry, charged his countrymen to search the Scriptures, for in them says he ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me. John 5th ch. 39th v. The word translated search, is a metaphorical term, borrowed from those who dig for metals, who ransack the bowels of the earth with great labour, industry and care until they happily find the wished for Treasure. Truth, like