

selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them:" and again in 1 Tim. iv. 1,—"The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." Also Peter has written, in 2 Eph. ii. 1;—"There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, &c." The Apostles John and Jude also have given similar predictions and warnings. All these prophecies have been fulfilling, by the numerous forms and systems of heresy which have arisen during the several ages of the church, down to the present day. In nearly all the instances, however, of such heresies, their authors and adherents acknowledged the authentic and inspired character of the Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testament. Their false tenets chiefly consisted in applying erroneous meanings to certain passages of Scripture, which they cited as supporting and confirming those tenets. It is in our own advanced and more generally enlightened era of Christianity, that rather a numerous class of persons, of literary pursuits and habits, in several countries, and strangest of all, many of them holding some of the highest positions in christian churches, are found arrayed against the most vital truths of divine revelation. Such is the profane and disgraceful spectacle, which for a considerable time past has been exhibited in Germany, and recently in England, comparatively one of the most evangelically christian nations. The writings and other efforts of those persons, especially of the clerical class of them, form the most amazing, as well as profanely wicked, of all the attempts yet made to undermine and injure pure scriptural Christianity. But the Lord omnipotent—the gracious Head of the Church—reigneth and ruleth; and his promise, that "the gates of