

our own language, placed in our hands? Do we indeed realize the inestimable blessing thus conferred upon us by our God and Saviour, who, notwithstanding the waywardness of our race in perverting his institutions, has preserved his Word from being corrupted, and caused it to be transmitted in its purity down to the present time? How unlike the abstruse deductions and metaphysical inferences of theologians are the communications of the Holy Spirit, as unfolded in the sacred record; wherein are contained the priceless treasures of Divine wisdom and knowledge. Full of all the attributes of truth, the bible commends itself to the conscience of every rational individual, possessed of an upright mind. When we look abroad upon the physical world countless adaptations exhibiting wisdom and goodness in their design present themselves to our view; and when we, in a proper spirit, and with a suitable degree of attention, pursue the word of God, we discover the same wisdom in design—the same perfection in adaptation. And thus, by the clearest analogy, evidently show that nature and revelation have a common origin, and that they are both the production of Him who is boundless in goodness, excellent in counsel, and wonderful in working. How rich, how ample, the provision which the Creator has made in the “book divine” for the intellectual and moral necessities of Adam’s race—the fallen creatures of his love! Those things that man most ardently desires to know are there revealed. The questions—from whence came I? and, whether am I bound? which arise in the human mind, demanding to be answered with all the urgency of reasonable desire, are here, alone, satisfactorily explained.

Before we become enlightened by the truth—and knowing in some measure the insufficiency of our knowledge to guide our feet in the path of wisdom and virtue—did we not realize in our experience the truth of that saying of the prophet which declares: “that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (*Jer. x: 23.*) In view, then, of having to guide our frail bark across the ocean of life; and seeing many of our fellow-men making shipwreck of character; we therefore felt that we required instruction upon which we could rely with unwavering confidence; that it would direct us aright, and finally bring us to the haven of rest. We required not merely theoretical, or abstract instruction. For abstract principles however correct possess not sufficient power over the human mind, to lead to the perfection of moral character. To accomplish this end, it requires perfect instruction exemplified by its teacher, or