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## A Letter to a Near Friend.

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July 79

**T**EAR SIR:—I am surprised at the way you speak about the Revelation. You talked about it as if it were dangerous to study it, and warned me, as if I would miss the salvation of Christ by studying it. Now, dear sir, I am safe to say that if the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the root of David, should open this Revelation to you, and fill you with his Spirit, so that you would understand it, you would certainly see Christ in a way you never saw him before. It is the last part of his Will and Testament He would then appear so glorious to you that you would sing:

“How sweet unto my taste, O Lord, are all thy words of truth?  
Yea, I do find them sweeter far than honey to my mouth.”

“God’s law is perfect and converts the soul in sin that lies:  
God’s testimony is most sure, and makes the simple wise.”

You would also be able to sing the praises of his infinite justice.

“Thou shalt as with a weighty rod of iron, break them all:  
And as a potter’s sherd thou shalt them dash in pieces small.

But God is judge: he puts down one and sets another up,  
For in the hand of God most high of red wine is a cup.

’Tis full of mixture, he pours forth and makes the wicked all,  
Wring out the bitter dregs thereof: yea, and they drink them shall.”

Just look at him as he is spoken about, and as he speaks in the first chapter. He is truly brought before our minds as our God and Saviour. First as a man, in these words: “Which God gave unto him:” because nothing could be given to his divine nature. He created all things and they belong to him. Secondly, as God, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” And thirdly, as God and man, “I am he that liveth and was dead, and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” Now, dear sir, as far as I know, the hymns of human composition used by the churches for worship, do not teach concerning the Jesus mentioned in them, that he has the keys of hell and of death. I would ask, is this not a part of the doc

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