

## SPECULATIONS IN RELIGION.

By Speculations in Religion, we mean religious opinions, (purely human) respecting the truths of the Bible, which do not enter into practice, or which more or less make void, the word of God.

Speculations in philosophy, have been wisely discarded from approved systems. Since the days of Bacon our scientific men have adopted the practical and truly scientific mode. That is, they have stopped where human intellect found a bound, over which it could not pass, and have been contented to go no farther than material objects analyzed gave out their qualities; and left the manner of their existence, as beyond the bounds of created intellect. Since men have become so wise in handling and analyzing material objects, we have heard little or nothing about occult sciences, or been disturbed with the strife, and war of words they created: but the sciences and the arts have advanced with increased velocity to the great good of the human kind—we plead for the same principle in the contemplation of religious truth.—To deduce them, *of practical application, ONLY*, from divine revelation, stopping where it stops, and avoiding all speculation.

As the *Bible alone* was said, and constantly affirmed to be the religion of protestants, it was for some time a mysterious problem:—why the Bible alone, confessed and acknowledged, should work no happier results than the strifes, divisions, and retaliatory excommunications of rival protestant sects. It appeared, however, in this case, after a more intimate acquaintance with the details of sectarian christianity, as in many similar cases, that it is not the acknowledgement of a good rule, *but the walking by it*, that secures the happiness of society. The Bible alone in the lips, and one of the contradictory, speculative creeds in the head, and in the heart, will not, save the Church from strife, emulation, and schism. The Bible alone, is the Bible alone, in word and deed, in profession and practice; and this alone can reform the world, and save the Church, and teach us the will of God.

Speaking the same things, is both rationally, and scripturally proposed, as the most sure and certain means of thinking the same things. But how shall we all speak the same things relating to the Christian Religion? Never, indeed, while we add to, or abstract from "*the words which the Holy Spirit teaches.*"—Never, indeed, while we take those terms *out of their scriptural connection*, and either transpose them in place, or confound them with terms *not in the book.*—If we are not greatly mistaken, the adding to, subtracting from, the transposition of, and mingling the terms of the Holy Spirit with those of human contrivance, is the *only cause, why all who love the same Saviour* are disunited. Now every Sectarian creed in Christendom; either adds to, subtracts from,