

to know that God created them—the only uncreated being in the universe—who has all perfection in himself—is the author of these heavens? Does it not make us look with greater admiration on those monuments of God's power, when we know that it is God who setteth fast the mountains? Does not the flower appear more interesting when we know whose hand pencilled its beauties? Any of God's productions derive a glory from their very authorship. And so it is with the word of God, with his testimonies: they are wonderful for their very authorship, as being the production of God, written by his hand, or under the inspiration of his Spirit.

2dly. The testimonies of God are wonderful for their matter. No book contains such wonderful matter. The Bible contains the only authentic account of creation. It carries us back to the origin of all things. It exhibits to us the time when nothing existed; and when God's creative voice was heard through the empty space, calling up the worlds to which the Word gave being. It records the six days' work. It shews man in the garden, newly sprung from the hand of his Creator—in all his innocence, and when God could walk with him in families of glorious converse. It tells us of the covenant which God made with man in the person of our great progenitor. It relates the consequences of that covenant. It tells of the loss of Paradise—the expulsion of its fallen inhabitant—the bitter fruit of sin—of the breach of God's covenant—the loss of God's favor. It carries us down the stream of human history, to the coming of Christ, the Saviour of the World, who was promised even to our first Parents in the garden. It exhibits God's remarkable dealings with the human race during the successive ages of the world. It gives the minute history of God's ancient people, his chosen race—the marvellous condescension of God in his dealings with them—his wonders in their behalf:—it traces the goodness of God—his long-suffering—his mercy—his faithfulness—his power:—it recounts his judgments, under which both his own people, and the other nations, suffered for their sin:—it exhibits God's awful jealousy—his spotless purity, his unerring righteousness, his undeviating truth. Sinai and its laws pass before our view.—The principles on which God governs the nations are represented in actual embodiment. Nineveh, Babylon, Tyre, Egypt, fill up the canvass: they are secu-

in all their pride and grandeur—and then sitting in sackcloth, bewailing their lost bravery, their departed glory, ruined kingdoms, desolated empires!

But the testimonies of God speak of God himself. What glorious views do they open up of his unity—his attributes—his purposes—his works! The world has lost the knowledge of God: it had invented or imagined, Gods many and Lords many. The whole Gentile world was sunk in idolatry and polytheism—The Bible proclaimed the great truth—the unity of the Divine nature: "Hear, O Israel! the Lord our God is one Lord." It revealed Jehovah—the I am. What sublime descriptions of the spirituality of his nature—of the eternity of his being—of the infinity of his perfections! How vast the scene of his empire! How profound and inscrutable His counsels!—How glorious the evolution of his plans! How unlike any previous views of God! The testimonies of the Lord are wonderful! How poor all the religions of the heathen world! How false and distorted their ideas of God! Did philosophy avail aught to correct the prevailing errors in regard to the Divine Being?—No! The world even by wisdom knew not God. God alone could reveal himself, and he has done so in his word—his testimonies. These speak also of Christ—unfold the scheme of redemption—discover that glorious plan by which our fallen race is to be saved from ruin—carry down that plan from its first formation in eternity to its consummation in the glory and perfected happiness of the redeemed. The Holy Spirit's work is taught. God in three persons—but one nature or essence—is clearly made known;—and their concurrence in the scheme of redemption is displayed. Their united operation in that mighty achievement is traced in every successive age; and in every case of a renewed nature—of a saved, a rescued, sinner—a child of God—we have the three persons of the Godhead forming man upright again—after the image of God. Thus we have the Patriarch who walked with God—we have the Prophets—we have David—whose admiration of God's testimonies it is that is here recorded for our instruction. Going further down we have the Apostles and many New Testament Saints—illustrious examples of saving grace. How wonderful are God's testimonies! How marvellous in their matter! How comprehensive! extending from eternity to eternity—reaching from