

public. Two things only are necessary to recommend any letter from the camp of the opposition to acceptable attention. The one is, that the language employed is not so rank and putrid as to offend the ear of civil society; and the second, that the contents are of such a nature as will be generally useful to the community, either in convicting us of error, or in giving an opportunity of exposing the errors of others for the benefit of the great cause of truth. Your letter therefore having come with these recommendations, it was handed to the compositor without hesitation.

It is not easy to determine whether you are serious or in jest when you express a desire to ascertain the manner in which I read the bible, and therefore with regard to yourself I am at liberty either to speak or to remain silent, for I could not be certain what symbol represents the person before whom I might cast my pearls. Besides, it would seem useless and superfluous on my part to offer any explanation, since it appears that you and I do not read the same bible, for the book from which you have learned contains doctrines not found in the sacred volume that I have studied.

No wonder, sir, that you cannot solve the perplexities of religious divisions, while the shades of Adam Clarke and the pure darkness of Westminster tractists eclipse the radiancy of divine light. You have chosen the surest method to encompass yourself with perpetual obscurity. Your horizon can never brighten. I mean while you rely for your instruction upon commentaries, ministers, and tracts. One who was meek and lowly, and also a greater than Solomon, has said "*Come unto me*". This is no mean voice, no vain call. *It is the divine call*. A simpler, a more amiable, a better, and a more competent teacher cannot be found. The best instruction, the purest manners, the highest virtue, the wisest precepts may be learned here. And it is all simple; for he preached to the poor, suited his addresses to the people, and gave his instruction to the unlearned.

The voice of Jesus cannot be heard amidst the clamour of theological Doctors, the voluminous notes of commentators, and the interpretations and contradictions of textuaries. Lord and Master he is sometimes called, but these titles are only breath in the lips; for his authority as Lord and his claims as Master are monopolized and misrepresented by human rivals. Assuredly these aspiring men "stand between the living and the dead", and so effectually do they obstruct the way, that they prevent the dead from obtaining life through the great living Head.

Yet, sir, you wonder at my boldness in speaking in defence of the Great Teacher. Because I say that he is superior to Adam Clarke, you, like the Pharisees, watch me to find matter