

my family ; which you have so nobly demonstrated ; not merely by *saying* that you feel interested, but by *feeling* in the right place for them !
May the Lord reward you an hundred fold. W. W. E.

BIBLICAL CRITICISM.

" No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him."

JOHN vi. 44.

As this is popularly interpreted, it would be rather an expression of pity, or excuse for want of *power*, to receive Jesus as the Messiah, than of *reproof* for the hardness of heart and prejudiced unbelief of the proud and self-righteous Jews who rejected him. But if we attend to the scripture use of language, and the *facts* of the bible, we shall readily learn that our Saviour does not mean here to express any act of God *in them*, but rather some disposition of theirs with regard to God, and the impossibility of their acting consistently with their duty and true happiness, except the constraining motives which God places before us in the revelation of his Son, influence them. That we may not speculate, let us attend to the scripture use of the word *draw*. Our Saviour tells the Jews, (John xii. 32), " And I if I be lifted up will *draw* all men unto me." This surely does not imply *any act* of his upon men ; but that the excellency and suitableness of the doctrine of Jesus Christ and him crucified, &c. revealed among men, would be the only means to draw or move sinners freely to believe and trust in him—for redemption in his blood the forgiveness of sins. In like manner, when God declared to Israel of old, " with *loving kindness* have I drawn thee ;" and by Hosea declares, " I *drew* you with the bands of a man, with the cords of love," surely he meant to tell them of the eminent instances of love and mercy vouchsafed and manifested in favor of Israel, should be the motives of God, the means, the cords of love, which should influence them to love, fear, and serve him. But if not thus influenced or drawn of God, then what more could he do than he had done, &c. Paul uses even a stronger expression in this sense : he says the love of Christ constrained us that we should not henceforth live unto ourselves. Acts of love and kindness move or draw men—his threatenings to Nineveh drew them to repentance—his *revelation* to Noah *moved* him by fear to build an ark. We are moved, drawn, or influenced, by arguments, reasonings, threatenings, promises, &c. &c. and that the churches in the revelation may be moved or drawn to reformation, they are directed to *hear* what the spirit saith unto the churches *in those epistles to them*. Not that these things are agents ; they are truths, or motives, which God presents to the mind of man in great goodness and condescension to move him to act to his own glory and man's best interest—and if *they neglect these means*, they are told they cannot escape. [See Heb. ii. 7—19, &c. and also John vi. 44, except the persons addressed were influenced by the truths revealed to them by God in Christ—except thus drawn, they could not come unto Jesus].

When Paul had reckoned up seven things which are generally apt to affect men most strongly, he says, " none of these things move me."