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APPEARANCE AND REALITY, AS RESPECTS PUBLIC WORSHIP.

[From the Millennial Harbinger.]

Much depends upon the countenance and general appearance of a stranger in order to his favorable reception with the public. A favorable or an unfavorable impression is formed almost simultaneously with his introduction to our acquaintance. So it is with a worshipping assembly. Soon as we enter the house of worship and look round upon those who have assembled to invoke the ear of the Eternal, and to offer at the footstool of his mercy the sacrifices of a broken and a contrite spirit, we are favorably or unfavorably disposed towards the assembly, and even to the profession of the religion under whose banners it has convened, as it happens to fill, or not to fill, the measures of our expectations.

It so happens, and it happens favorably, that all mankind are prepossessed in favor of decency, gravity, and good order in every part of religious worship. Every person of reflection and good sense expects that if there be piety in the heart—if there be genuine devotion of soul, it will appear on the Lord's day, in the Lord's house, and amongst the Lord's people. Now it is not only right in itself, but relatively right, as respects the good opinion of spectators, that the christian assembly always appear to be delighted with the worship of God, and as devoted to the Lord as it really is: for if auditors and spectators are not prepossessed in our favor, we can seldom do them any good.—A person who would be religiously useful, must not only be religious, but he must appear religious to all those whom he desires to influence. He that would do good must appear to be good, else his real goodness will give him no power over the heart; for every one feels that it is much more easy to elude an argument that comes from the head, than to resist an appeal that flows from the heart. Even a hypocrite, who acts the christian