

divine wisdom to assert that it is necessary that every seed should come *immediately* from God's hand, that the sun should arise by his *direct* power, and the rain descend from *newly-contrived* sources.

Infinite love, infinite condescension and grace are displayed in the Christian salvation: wisdom in its contrivance, and power in its accomplishment: yet it would be detracting from the glory of him "who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working," to affirm that every sinner must be converted by an *immediate* and *peculiar* revelation. There is a general, established provision made in nature for the working of the natural laws and the production of natural phenomena. There is also a general, established provision made in grace for the working of the spiritual laws and the reception of the gospel among men. Both are *finished* systems; both are *perfect* systems.

But it may be objected there were miraculous conversions in the apostles' day, and why not now? Paul was arrested by the immediate interference of God when on the way to Damascus, and was miraculously converted. The Philippian jailor was alarmed by the immediate power of God shaking the prison, and led to cry out "What shall I do to be saved?" by the direct interposition of his providence. Why then should not men at the present time be converted by *special* means? I answer: Once, in the course of the divine government, the children of Israel were commanded to pass through the wilderness to possess the promised land. They could not cultivate the ground and make use of the natural means to obtain bread,—therefore it was necessary either that the appetite should be miraculously suspended, or bread miraculously supplied. God rained down bread from heaven. But no sooner were they in possession of the "land" than they were left to obtain bread by making use of the natural means. Paul was converted for a special purpose, at a time when the evidences of the Christian system were not fully consummated. The prison was shaken for the deliverance of Paul and Silas, whose labours were particularly needed to establish the truth. And they who wait to be converted as Paul was converted, may also wait to be fed as the Israelites were fed; but in both cases their expectations will be cut off. They will die unconverted; they will starve for want of bread.

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South Dorchester, Jan'y 1st, 1840.

CHAPTER ON CORRUPT COMMUNION.

From a Work on Church Order,—by JAMES BUCHANAN,—late Her Majesty's Consul at New York.

THE scriptural grounds taken by the clergy of the Church of England, Scotland, and other communities which do not exercise discipline in accordance with the word of God, rest chiefly on erroneous views of the parable of the tares in the 13th of Matthew, and the 3d of i. Cor. In the latter, men are represented as building on Christ the foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble—and that the fire shall try every man's work, of what kind it is. "If any man's work