

and that he has reserved no element in it for the direct forth-putting of His power, we must reject the deistical negation which assigns to the Most High the position of a mere spectator in His own universe, and we must cordially accept every manifestation of supernatural power, for which there is sufficient evidence.

2. Socinianism or Unitarianism is a stage in advance, and embraces a number of positive elements which are not found in Deism. It is not very easy to specify the positive elements which all who rank themselves as Unitarians, will acknowledge as entering into their creed. For the diversity of sentiment which obtains among them is so great, that it is only by very close personal converse, that we can approximately gather how far each member is prepared to advance in the path of negation, or of affirmation. But, striking a kind of average, the Unitarian creed may be said usually to embrace the following positive elements, viz., the reality of a supernatural revelation of which the Bible is upon the whole a trustworthy record; the prevalence and evil of sin; the unity of the Godhead; the true humanity of Christ, and the moral influence exerted in favour of virtue by the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Most Unitarians, in addition to the affirmations of the Deist, maintain these points, but, in so doing, they assert nothing which does not enter into the creed of Calvinists, and indeed into the creed of Christendom. It is not what Unitarians believe, but what they deny, which separates them from orthodox Christians. It is not their acceptance of the Scriptures as a reliable record of supernatural revelation which distinguishes them from ordinary Christians, but the denial of their inspiration. It is not the assertion of the unity of God, but the denial of the Trinity; it is not the affirmation of Christ's humanity, but the rejection of his deity; it is not the acknowledgment of the evil of sin, but the denial of the total, innate depravity of the human race, which differentiates them from orthodox believers. It is their negations which place an impassable gulf between them and those who worship Trinity in Unity, and trust in the mediation and sacrifice of the God-man for deliverance from the ruin sin has wrought. Their