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ESSAY

ON THE NATURE AND DESIGN OF THE "GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF THE BLESSED GOD."

BY MR. JOHN M^CLAURIN, OF THE CANADA BAPTIST COLLEGE.

"Eternal love,
Eternal sovereign love, and sovereign grace,
Wisdom and power, and mercy infinite,
The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God,
Devised the wondrous plan—devised achieved."
POLLOCK.

On a subject so delightful, so extensive, glorious, and important, as that of the Gospel, it is difficult and almost impossible to be original and concise. It is a subject which filled the miserable malignant spirits in hell, with perplexity, vexatious anguish, anger, and sorrow, by being so opposed and so baffled in their wicked designs,—a subject which has filled the holy and happy angels of light with admiring wonder and joy; and into which they, with the greatest intensity, desire to look,—a subject which caused light, joy, and happiness to be diffused into the hearts of an innumerable company of human beings, of sinners saved here on earth; and to whom it communicated the delightful anticipation, and good hope through grace, of a never-ending happiness hereafter in the glories above; and which shall be the means of conducting unnumbered millions saved from the guilt of sin and wrath to come, to the paradise of God, to the never-ending joy and blessedness of heaven. And more than this, a subject which, as far as we know, cost the Creator more than the whole creation of worlds, and which engaged more than any other thing in the universe, the attention and regard of the Most High God, the Triune Jehovah, himself. On a subject, then, so extensively great, so highly important, as that

which is now before us, we may indeed exclaim with intensity of feeling, Who is, or can be, sufficient to describe the wonderful, and glorious aspect, and character of its NATURE;—and the tendency, results, and effects of its vast and beneficial DESIGN?

What, then, is to be understood as signified by the "Glorious Gospel of the Blessed God?"* We are to understand by it, a revelation of God's mercy. Glad tidings of salvation—good news of redemption, through faith in the sufferings and merits of Christ the Son of God, even to a guilty, perishing world—a message of mercy from God to his depraved, sinful creatures—the good tidings of great joy to all people of the coming of

* The Greek word *euangelion*, which is translated Gospel, signifies good message or tidings (from *eu*, good, and *angelia*, a message or tidings); and corresponds exactly with the English word Gospel, which is derived from the Saxon word *god*, god or good, and *spel*, word or tidings, denoting God's word, or good saying. How expressive of this meaning are the following texts of the Holy Scriptures:—"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith *Motto Zion*, Thy God reigneth! Is. lii. 7, and xl. 9. Luke ii. 1—15. John iii. 16. Rom. x. 15. 1 Tim. i. 15. All these, with several others, direct us for salvation to the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. The sacred writers use the term Gospel, with a variety of epithets, such as the "Glorious Gospel of the Blessed God," (1 Tim. i. 11); "The Gospel of the grace of God," (Acts xx. 24); the Gospel of his Son (Rom. i. 1—3); the Gospel of Salvation (Eph. i. 13); Gospel of Peace (Eph. vi. 15); and Word of Reconciliation (2 Cor. v. 19); and various other appellations significant of its meaning.