

New Testament, "Though various parts of it were universally received at an earlier period, still it was not in existence as a collection of inspired writings for 400 years after the commencement of Christianity." Again (p. 81), "Where is the Bible ever called by the name of the *Word of God* in the Scripture itself"? And further on, referring to the book of the New Testament, he says, it "was not written," "was not in existence from the beginning of Christianity." Now, Mr. Maturin must excuse its being said that all this is really no better than empty *quibbling*. We all know that the books we now call the Bible and the New Testament were not compiled and made into their present *forms* until long after the establishment of Christianity; but we also know that all the writings or books of the Old Testament contained in the Bible were in use, as inspired writings, by the Jews, many ages before any Christian Church was planted at Rome or elsewhere. We also know that all the writings contained in that part of the same Bible called the *New Testament* were written and in use by most, if not all, of the Churches during the very first years of Christianity, and all of them during the lives of some of the Apostles. Several, indeed, of those inspired writings were composed and in use, in some of the Churches, before any Church was planted at Rome. To expose the utter fallacy of this objection of Mr. Maturin's, as to the time of compiling the Bible and the New Testament, let us suppose that a man indicted for a criminal offence, described in an act of Parliament, should urge, as an objection or defence, that the book in which the statute was then bound up, with other laws, had been printed and made subsequent to the date at which his offence was charged to have been committed. Surely the objection would at once be treated with contempt, and he would be told that the statute itself had been made and on record long—perhaps ages—before the date of his offence, and the making of the book. Mr. Maturin's objection, as to the time of compiling the Scriptures in books, is just as futile and empty as the one in the case supposed.