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MR. DAVIDSON'S FIRST LETTER REVIEWED.

BY A CORRESPONDENT.

Feb. 1850.

I wish at present to make a remark or two on the communication from Mr. Davidson, published in the January Number. From the fact that you considered it expedient to address a number of letters to Mr. D. I concluded he was as a man and a Christian worthy such efforts. I expected he would in calm manly dignity, and true Christian candour, examine your statements—"approve the things that are excellent" and "distinguish the things that differ"—in short I thought that if he found you seriously wrong he would as a humble worker in his Master's vineyard, show you a more excellent way.

But I am quite disappointed. I feel sorry indeed on his account that he has allowed such a production to be published. It is by no means calculated to raise him in the esteem of those who admire the meekness and lowliness of Christ Jesus—nor to produce the impression that he is a *humble* laborer in any vineyard. But let us look at it once more. I have read it again and again and conclude that it is designed to be—an apology for not reviewing your letters. As such let us consider it.

The apology embraces several items. 1st. The Baptists are held up in "an unfavorable and invidious light." 2nd. A reply would "lead to a controversy unpleasant to him in the extreme, and unprofitable to both." 3d. He is a man of peace. 4th. His time is fully "occupied with his duties to God, to the church, and to the world." First, the Baptists are held up in an unfavorable and invidious light. "Whatever *makes manifest* is light." To things unseemly and distorted, the most unfavorable light is daylight; the most favorable is twilight or even darkness. Hence the value of the common "mantle of charity"—it presents a fair outside and conceals all defects and deformities; and hence also some hate the light and avoid it.

On the other hand, an article that will bear inspection is placed in the broad light of the sun, to be seen in all its parts and admired in all its fair proportions. In this case, the least obscurity or darkness is