

## POWER OF THE SPIRIT.

COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT EDWARDS' LETTER PUBLISHED IN  
LAST WITNESS.

It would be difficult to meet with a more entertaining narrative of the operation of the Spirit, speaking after the manner of orthodoxy, than we find in the extract from President Edwards, endorsed by editor Dr. Campbell of London, copied in our number for October. It is however still more difficult to treat the narrative with that respect which is its due, and at the same time to expose without favor its want of spirituality and religious unction, notwithstanding its design to show by special example the power of the Spirit of God. The public mind has become so estranged, and we might say depraved, upon this topic, that we have only to disapprove of the fanciful credulities and speculative orthodoxies found in the sermons and essays of the day, in order to bring upon ourselves the whole censure of the scribes and elders of the people, and array against us the entire rank and file of ecclesiastics within the enlarged territory of both Roman and Protestant dominions. To speak against a theory of spiritual influence, is set down as speaking against the spirit and against its power. This impression in connexion with something else that we shall presently name, has not unfrequently kept us nearly half quiet on this vital topic when we have groaned in the inner man, to correct the Babylonian language of the times.

The other matter that has operated as a hinderance to our free speech, is, that there is scarcely such a thing in these days of dull pupilage as the advocacy of the Spirit's influence without some kind of a theory—long, short, or medium; orthodox, heterodox, or between. Excepting in a very few instances to the contrary, the discourses and the essays of those who accept the scriptures without creed or comment, have as much use for a theory of divine influence as any of the obedient sons of popular faith. A theory seemingly must be concocted to confront and combat theories. An opposite error to correct an error! We exculpate not ourselves: for in discoursing upon this most sadly abused and woefully misunderstood subject, we have more than seldom detected the current of our ideas shaping themselves into a well trimmed theory.

Still, it becomes duty to arrest attention to the spiritless speech about the Spirit so often heard from the lips and pens of the most godly men of the age—intelligent and amiable in all things, saving in the religion of the Lord and Saviour; and if we cannot ourselves always