

frequent impositions practised, and, above all, the momentous stress laid upon them, required that they should be authenticated from heaven. In the attestation of this testimony, and in the proof of these facts, the office of the Holy Spirit first presents itself to our notice.

It was not enough that the Apostles were qualified by the Spirit to deliver a correct, intelligible, and consistent testimony, but for the reasons above specified, that this testimony be attested by such accompaniments as would render the rejector of it damnably criminal, as well as afford the fullest ground of certainty and joy to all that received their testimony. Nor are we in this inquiry so much called to consider the import of their testimony or their qualifications to deliver it, as we are to exhibit the attestations afforded by the Holy Spirit.

Miracles were wrought by the influence of the Holy Spirit in confirmation of their testimony—that is, signs or proofs of a supernatural character followed their testimony. The very circumstance of miracles being added, proved their necessity; for all declare that God does *nothing in vain*. If miracles were wrought by the Saviour and his apostles, those miracles were necessary appendages to their testimony. For if faith, which we have agreed, is necessary to salvation, and if testimony is necessary to faith, as also admitted, then, in the case before us, miracles were necessary in order to the confirmation of this testimony, or to its credibility; for this is apparent from the fact that they were exhibited, and from the acknowledged principle that God does nothing in vain.

Two conclusions are fairly deducible from the preceding observations. The first is that the truth to be believed could never have been known but by the revelation of the Spirit; and secondly, that though it had been pronounced in the most explicit language, yet it could not have been believed with certainty, but by the miracles which were offered in attestation of it.

COMMUNICATION.

Whitby, 20th March, 1846.

Bro. Oliphant,

—O how happy we will be when we get done fighting so many hard spiritual battles. My head is full almost every night and day with studying on the greatness and goodness of God, and how I can best assist in propagating his blessed cause. * The scheme of salvation through

* This brother's thoughts are well occupied. Would that all our brethren were equally studious. Not one in a hundred can in conscience give this testimony of himself. The most of us are asleep, or at least only half awake. The times call for all our energies. Every day I live I am more fully persuaded that we could accomplish more in a single year than at the present rate we could accomplish in an age, *if our wills were only equal to our ability*. We live in a day of inquiry. The minds of men are turned in every direction for truth. We shall be guilty if we are not forward in assisting their researches. Many are running to and fro—knowledge is increasing—men's views are changing—the mysteries of former years fail to conceal the operations of deceivers—established customs and religious devices cannot long be preserved in the ointment of sacred unction—the edifice of error is growing old, and its foundation trembles and threatens ruin. Strong and mighty is the truth of God. It will—it must conquer. Awake, then, all you who are on the Lord's side: "awake, awake, put on strength." "Awake to righteousness."—Conductor.