

T H E

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ANCIENT SCRIBES AND MODERN SCRIBES.

We take pleasure in laying before our readers the letter which follows, written by a gifted brother who has not previously spoken to us through the Witness:—

“But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Mat. xv: 9.

The question often presents itself to my mind, when reading or thinking of the striking passage quoted above, Do our creed-making, creed-loving, creed-defending, and creed-following system-builders ever think of the import of these words of our Lord and Master, contained in this clear and definite passage? Methinks they do not. It was addressed to scribes and Pharisees: and our traditionary friends cannot think they are scribes and Pharisees, and consequently it does not suit them. But before proceeding, let us take a brief review of the circumstances under which these memorable words were uttered.

The scribes and Pharisees, were very zealous in observing, and on every occasion enforcing obedience to the commands or traditions of the Elders; and on more than one occasion did they call forth severe reproaches from our Saviour by their duplicity and hypocrisy. They made long prayers, that they might be seen of men. They made clean the outside of the platter, while all within was full of pollution: and now they come to him, with a complaint against his disciples, charging them with eating bread with unwashed hands, contrary to the traditions of the Elders. Christ in his reply, charges them with making void the law of God by their traditions, and calls them hypocrites, and then follows the passage I have quoted. “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”