

## ADDRESS, &c.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences, contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not the Lord Jesus Christ, but —— by good words and fair speeches deceive the heart of the simple."—Rom. 16.

It was my earnest desire, on my return to this place a few months ago, to have requested a meeting with you, for the purpose of addressing to you the word of exhortation and warning, as He should vouchsafe to help me, who hath promised to "bring all things to remembrance." As I have been disappointed in an opportunity of so doing, I avail myself of this method, as the next best I can devise, of acquitting my conscience of my duty to you, and of relieving my heart, in some measure, of its sorrowful anxieties on the subject; for although you have pastors and teachers much better qualified to address you on the subject, and who no doubt have frequently done so, yet do I not feel myself thereby exempted from contributing my mite of evidence on the occasion.

The subject I refer to, is the ministration of those following in the late Mr. Edward Irving's track. *You believe*, that "the children of God are led by the Spirit of God,"—and consequently that the *experience of any member* of "the household of faith," demands respectful and devout attention; my experience in the matter I will accordingly give you. I had occasionally attended Mr. Irving's preaching in England with much pleasure, as opportunity offered, from about 1822, and was personally acquainted with Mr. I. In about 1830, residing about 50 miles from London, and hearing of the profession made by himself and his church, of a remarkable measure of the gift of the Holy Ghost being vouchsafed to them, manifested even in miraculous endowments, I felt much inclined to believe it was truly so; for I had long and deeply lamented that so little of the Spirit of Christ seemed to dwell in those who by membership with the church of Christ, declared that their bodies were the temples of the Holy Ghost. One thing seemed *very certain*, either that it was, as they said, a *very great work of God*, or that they were uttering a very solemn lie, and that instead it was a *very great work of the adversary*. That what they said was *true*, (and it might be so,) or that "the enemy had again done great things," and had seduced many to "speak as in the name of the Lord," saying with the false