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“ PROVE ALL THINGS, HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.”

THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

CHRISTIANITY is the perfection of that divine philanthropy which was gradually developing itself for four thousand years. It is the bright effulgence of every divine attribute, mingling and harmonising, as the different colours in the rainbow in the bright shining after rain, into one complete system of perfections—the perfection of GLORY to God in the highest heaven, the perfection of PEACE on earth, and the perfection of GOOD-WILL among men.

The eyes of patriarchs and prophets, of saints and martyrs, from Adam to John the Baptist, with longing expectation, were looking forward to some glorious age, indistinctly apprehended, but ardently desired. Each messenger sent from heaven, fraught with the communications of the Divine Spirit, to illuminate, to reprove, and to correct the patriarchs and the house of Israel, was brightening the prospect and chastening the views of the people concerning the glory of the COMING AGE. The “FOUNDER OF THE FUTURE AGE,” as one of Israel’s prophets styles the Messiah, was exhibited, in the emblems of the prophetic style, as arising, expanding, and brightening to view; from the glistening “*Star of Jacob*,” to the radiating “*Sun of Righteousness*,” with salutiferous and vivifying rays.

The person, character, and reign of Messiah the Prince, exhausted all the beauties of language, all the grandeur and resplendencies of creation, to give some faint resemblance of them. In adumbrating Emmanuel and his realm, “*Nature mingles colours not her own.*” She mingles the brighter splendours of things celestial with things terrestrial, and kindly suits the picture to our impaired faculties. She brings the rose of Sharon and the lily of the vales—the mild lustre of the richest gems, and the brightest radiance of the choicest metals. She makes the stars of heaven sparkle in his hand, and the brightness of the sun shine in his face. She causes the mountains to flow down at his presence; his advent to gladden the solitary place;