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

LETTER FROM BISHOP R. B. SEMPLÉ TO A. CAMPBELL.

Washington City, March 23, 1830.

BROTHER CAMPBELL,

Dear Sir—IT seems, from your Christian Baptist, that you are about to commence, or have commenced, another and a larger work, to be called the *Millennial Harbinger*. Well, now, though I differ radically from your opinions or doctrines, &c. I think I must become a subscriber for this last periodical also. I wish to watch and see what is to be the end of this *new gospel*; or, if you please, of this *ancient order*, as you term it.

You seem to allow me (in your last notice of me) to be, at least, not under the influence of prejudice. This, I assure you, is the fact. Indeed, so far as I can judge of myself, I am prepossessed in your favor. Your able defence of baptism against Walker and M'Calla, and recently the complete route of Owen and atheism have produced favorable impressions upon my mind. But, sir, under all these partialities, I am more and more compelled to say, that if your view of christianity be correct, I have read and studied my Bible in vain. You say of me, “Although unable to rise above all his early associations, and the long received opinions which a long course of reading and teaching had riveted upon his mind,” &c. Now, my dear sir, the act is exactly the other way. My early opinions, my education was predicated upon a system greatly in accordance with your views. In the very first christian lesson ever taught me, I was directed to answer that my name was *Robert*, and that I obtained this name in my baptism, “wherein I was made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.” As my mental powers expanded I was farther taught to read the scriptures, and pray in private and public; to go to preaching, and to practise moral and religious goodness. So far from being taught to seek for experimental