

tive and unmeaning devotion, or by the dreams of visionary illumination. Very different is that religion which Jesus Christ came down from Heaven to publish and to propagate. The religion of the gospel of Christ fearfully as it withdraws the veil that conceals the counsels of the Almighty, reveals to us a "new heaven and a new earth;" it is pure, spiritual and divine; and by its progressive influence upon the heart it is capable of exalting our nature from the grossness of a lower world to the "glorious liberty of the sons of God:" we see all that is great or good in our nature purified from the corruption it had acquired through the merits of a suffering Redeemer; we see a system that is capable of exalting the humblest of its followers through progressive stages of "wisdom, knowledge and joy" to be the companion of angels and archangels and of "the spirits of just men made perfect;" and what is peculiar to this religion, and distinguishes it from all others that have ever appeared in the world, the discipline which it prescribes to man in his state of probation is that by which he is to attain to the glories of eternity and rendered meet for the inheritance of the Saints in light. While it leads its humble disciple in the road to "honor, glory and immortality," it scatters unnumbered blessings in its way, and proves the strongest and sweetest cement of society, the guardian of the purest social virtues and most sacred domestic ties.

Such being the character of that religion, that the Almighty, in mercy to mankind, has been pleased to reveal to the guilty and corrupted sons of Adam, it becomes the duty of the Legislature of the Country to secure its propagation and diffusion among the members of the community. Had Christianity never been published to the world, then every one might with impunity have followed the imaginations of his own darkened understanding. But since the joyful sound of the gospel has come to our ears; since the Almighty has

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