

the friends of this same Saviour who accuse him with playing a species of deception on his hearers, disgraceful to a common stump orator! He talks to them of an individual who never had nor will have an existence—he warns them to fear what he knew never did or would exist!!

The mind, so far beyond the reach of the divine record, is not to be treated as the co-tenant of a body in which the Holy Spirit dwells—(1. Cor. iii. 16.) The only way to cure such speculators, is to preach to them the evidences of Christianity—make them acquainted with God and themselves, and then they should begin on the “sincere milk of the word,” like children, and never think of dipping into hard questions till they become men—not wise above what is written!

The apostolic gospel has suffered more by these speculators, and those of a similar progeny, than by all its enemies. Indeed, satan has too often felt the power of truth to attack it openly. Convinced that he cannot stop the gospel car—he mounts himself and attempts to show his zeal for the cause by driving it off the track—or driving it where no rails are provided.

“And no wonder, for satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

The dragon now speaks like a lamb. He is a most active, zealous preacher. He comes not now with fagot, fire, and sword. He even denies that he ever persecuted any one. He is very charitable and teaches that “*What ever is, is right!*”

Brethren, be not deceived—“whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.” If you leave the plain, light road—the *facts, commands, and promises* of God’s word—to dispute with the sects who are endeavouring to serve God, about the materiality or immateriality of the soul; about the probable age of satan; and of his particular location;—you and your converts will both fall into the ditch: for my own part, I would rather that a praying man—who loves and obeys God, would remain encircled in even some traditionary fog than in his haste to leave the precincts of Geneva or Westminster and then run by Jerusalem into the phlegmatic rationalism of Germany:—a cold, careless formalist,—whose prayers [if he prays at all in secret is doubtful] would chill the heart of an angel.

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POSITION AND PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLES.

No. XIII.

The apostle to whom Jesus delivered “the keys” has preached to us three times, and we want to hear him again before hearing another