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Miscellaneous Articles.

THE BOOK AND ITS SUBJECT.*

The book, we mean, is the Bible, and its subject, is salvation for fallen man. In the following remarks we intend to show that the grandeur of the theme proves the divinity of the book. We design not to speak of its external evidence, but we invite attention to the *substance* of the Bible as a proof that it comes from God. This is a reason of the hope that is in us, which is patent to all. It offers satisfaction to the highest intellect, and gives rest also to the lowliest heart. Yet it is remarkable, this is the branch of Scripture evidence that unbelievers have most neglected. They have argued about Bible miracles and prophecies; they have mustered up for the hundredth time feeble objections to isolated facts; but not one of them has approached the great plan of salvation indicated in the Bible, to show that the human mind is competent to have devised it. There is no infidel writer, who has ever looked at the substance of the Bible in its coherence and unity, as a whole, and attempted to prove to candid reason, that it is not from God. This is a post of the christian fortress that unbelievers have hitherto left unassailed, and it may be thus inferred they perceive it to be impregnable. They therefore choose rather to direct their attacks against the outworks, than to point their artillery at the heart of the citadel.

It appears well for us, then, to mark the bulwarks of Bible truth, in considering the subject of which the Divine Book treats. And it may be observed here, that it might be presumed a book from God would bear the stamp of his mind, in its substance. In looking on the world He has formed, we see evidence that He made it. Traces of power, and wisdom, and judgment, are everywhere apparent, in creation, that prove it the work of none other than a Divine hand. So, in studying the Bible, we perceive proof that God gave it. The deep thought that runs through it—the redeeming plan that forms the grand theme of it—is evidence to us that no other than a Divine mind can be its author. A book, we know, by its style and contents, may decide for itself the question of its origin. It may discover throughout, so lofty thoughts, so

* This paper, by an able minister in Scotland, is specially intended for reflecting and enquiring young persons, who may not be settled in the faith of the gospel. We earnestly recommend it to their candid and serious consideration, and pray God that He may be graciously pleased to make it effectual for the all-important objects contemplated by its excellent Author.—ED.