

The remarks of Bishop Tomline on the above five points are the following: "Such is Calvinism; and it is in its nature so inconsistent with the attributes of God, so contrary to the express declarations of Scripture, and so repugnant to the feelings of the human mind, that it seems only necessary to state the system simply and fully in all its parts and consequences, to ensure its rejection by every unprejudiced person. The modern advocates of this system are indeed so aware of its forbidding aspects, that they never bring it into open view by a plain statement of the doctrines which they really support; and rarely venture to quote from the writings, or appeal to the authority of their master; they shrink from the Articles of the Calvinistic Creed, and virtually allowing them to be indefensible, are driven to the necessity of asserting that their system of Calvinism is not to be judged of by the doctrines of Calvin himself; that they profess a sort of moderate Calvinism; Calvinism reduced and qualified: purged of its most offensive tenets, and retaining only those which are less revolting to reason and common sense, and less derogatory to the perfections of the Deity. But Calvinism, however modified and explained, while its characteristic principles are preserved, will always be found liable to the most serious objections; and if those principles, by which it is distinguished as a sect of Christianity, be taken away, it is no longer Calvinism. Calvinism, in reality, will not bear defalcation, or admit of partial adoption. It has at least the merit of being so far consistent with itself. Its peculiar doctrines, considered as a system, are so connected and dependent upon each other, that if you embrace one, you must embrace all; and if the falsehood of one part of the system be proved, the whole falls to the ground. I cannot but suspect that many Calvinists deceive themselves more than they deceive others. They seem not to take a complete view of their own system. They contemplate certain parts, and keep others entirely out of sight.* They dwell with pride and satisfaction upon the idea, that they themselves are of that small number whom God has predestinated to salvation, without reflecting that it is incompatible with the character of an infinitely just and merciful Being, to consign the far greater part of his rational creatures to inevitable and eternal torment. They flatter themselves that their own conduct is governed by Divine grace, though it may be denied

* Unconditional reprobation, for example, and the utter impossibility of many of their hearers being saved because their sins have not been atoned for.—M.