

*very little matter*; it may perhaps be expressed in one or two little words, and yet it may be the very germ of our most holy faith, which once destroyed, what will avail all those other minor truths, however interesting, under the cover of whose redundant verdure the secret work of destruction has been working its insidious way?

False Christs and false Prophets the Lord forwarned us should arise, and should "deceive many by signs and lying wonders, so that if it were possible they should deceive even the elect;" but what was the advice of the good shepherd? Was it, go after them; don't be satisfied with the evidence even of credible witnesses to the falsity of their doctrines, to their heretical and schismatic ways; nay, be not satisfied by the testimony of the most wise, pious, and experienced of the brethren; be satisfied with nothing until you have heard with your own ears, and seen with your own eyes, and inhaled yourselves somewhat of their spirit, and of the atmosphere which surrounds them? Far from it—our Lord says on the contrary, if they shall say of such: lo, he is in the desert! *go not forth*: behold, he is in the secret chambers! believe it not. Take heed lest *any man* deceive you: lo I have told you before: for as a snare shall it come upon all them that dwell upon the face of the whole earth. Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things.—*Luke 21. Mark 13. Matt. 24.*—For as to this infidel principle which determines to receive no evidence but that of *personal experience*, does the wisdom of God consider this a mark of the wise, candid, ingenuous disciple, who with genuine humility receives the light of divine instruction in whatever way his master may choose to impart it; and would shrink from the thought of "limiting the Holy One of Israel," or prescribing to the Most High how he will be directed? "Thomas! because thou hast seen thou hast believed; blessed are they who have not seen and yet have believed!" And on another occasion when other of the disciples manifested the same incredulity in *sufficient* testimony, "he upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not *them that had seen him.*" O Lord! encrease our faith in all the truth; in all that thou hast taught us, especially in the divine, in the super-sensuous, in "the things of the spirit;" that our whole body being full of light, having no part dark, we shall more readily detect every meteor blaze, and every *ignis-fatuus* which "leads to bewilder, and dazzles to blind;" and whether we hear the promised "voice behind us saying, this is the way, walk ye in it"—or this is not the way,