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The Theological Instructor.

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VOL. I.

INTRODUCTION.

In the name of the holy and undivided Trinity, we now commence the first number of our Magazine, which by a dear friend has been named the "Theological Instructor." Our object in publishing this Periodical is purely to do good, and not to usurp authority over the conscience of our brethren. We purpose, with God's blessing to make it the means of helping the weak and those who are ready to halt, assisting the faint but pursuing Christian, and the sincere inquirer for the old paths in the prosecution of their journey to the heavenly land. We do this in obedience to the divine word in order to increase the spirit of *unity* and Godly love among the people. We feel we cannot be unmindful of Our Lord's Prayer for his church, shortly before his passion in the garden, "That they all may be one; as thou Father art in me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou has sent me." John 17: 21.

From this it is clear and manifest that we have the mind of our Lord with regard to Christian unity, and it is precisely of the same import of that passage we have just referred to where we have, "Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said we

will not walk therein." Jer. 6: 16. Now these passages of Holy Writ teach us the following very important truths, that to the end of time there will be many paths in that broad way in which so many are tempted to walk with their backs Zionward; but that the strait and narrow way has but the paths which may be called the Divine way leading to everlasting life. In all these ways we are commanded to stand, and ask for the old paths, that is, the paths of Divine appointment; and in the same connection we are reminded of the perverseness of fallen nature. "They said, we will not walk therein," implying their belief that the humanly devised paths, which they selected for themselves, are just as good as the Divine path selected for us by our infinitely wise and adorable Saviour. The most thoughtless cannot but perceive that this description of society is to the letter applicable to the present age. There are at present about 354 sects that call themselves Christians, holding different tenets, and opposite ideas of religion. Now, these all cannot be correct; for an infinitely wise being could never have established a babel of confusion in his kingdom, and the teachers of contending sects therefore cannot be his lawful ambassadors, or in fact his ambassadors at all, and therefore it is of vast importance that every sincere