

[We publish, entire, the following article from the *Christian Messenger*; because some strictures upon it, appear in our present number. We wish to fulfil the divine injunction, "prove all things, that we may hold fast that which is good," by impartially considering the merits of any reasonable, or scriptural argument, which may be urged on either side of a question. Whatsoever things are of good report, among any, we wish God speed. Whatever of doctrine or practice, of any denomination, can be proved to be Scriptural; we wish to promulgate, as *truths of God*. Whatever of any party, is founded, only, on the reasonings of men, we wish to be exhibited, in its real character, as *precepts of men*. How far we fulfil these our wishes, can only be decided, by those, who without prejudice, read, or hear us, and search the Scriptures; *solely for the sake of truth.*]—*Ed.*

"For the *Christian Messenger*."

REMARKSⁱ ON THE BIBLE.

How deplorable are the numerous errors which have divided, darkened, and deformed, modern Christendom! These errors have principally originated in attaching an unwarrantable importance to some portion of the Bible, and in some instances, to the Bible itself. Perhaps our pious readers may be startled at the very idea of there being a possibility of thinking more of the Sacred Scriptures than we ought. To quiet their alarm, we will at once say, that few think sufficiently highly of the blessed Book under present consideration—for we deem it to be a divine volume of which God is the author, and which has been communicated to men as an *instrument* of bringing sinners to a saving "knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus."

We apprehend, however, that too many Professors of Religion at the present day, do not make an evangelical distinction between the *agency* and the *instrumentality* which accomplish the salvation of apostate men. To illustrate plainly, so as not to be misunderstood, what we mean by *agency* and *instrumentality*, we will suppose a man about to fell a tree with an axe: the man is the *agent*—the axe the *instrument*.

In the salvation of rebellious men, Jehovah is the *sole agent*: God the Father in the infinitude of love and wisdom, devised the scheme of our redemption—God the Son opened "a new and living way" through which mercy, consistent with justice, can be communicated to sinners—and God the Holy Spirit must create the soul anew, destroy its natural enmity to the divine perfections, sanctify it; incline it to repent of its sins and to believe the Gospel; and therefore capacitate it for obeying the divine commands in this world, and for enjoyment of celestial glory in that which is to come. In operating upon the soul, the Holy Ghost uses