

Whiston once urged the Bishop to write a work in recommendation of a fair and impartial examination of the state of opinion, in the early ages of the Christian Church. On this Smallbridge exclaimed with great emotion, "Mr. Whiston, *I dare not examine, I dare not examine!* for if I should examine and find that you are in the right, *then* the church has been in error so many years"—you being another Smallbridge, afraid like him to examine. Now Mr. Editor, the question is not how long the doctrine of endless misery has existed, nor how many "sinners" has fled by the means of its advocacy from the "wrath to come;" but is it, or not, true?—is it, or not, founded on scripture?—what are the evidences in its favor?—and what are those against it? To weigh these in a fair balance—to notice the preponderance, and to side with that system which has the greater weight of evidence, and in searching for proofs use every text in its proper connexion, and in connexion with proofs from the Bible, prove also that the early christian were *not* Universalists, taking for your historical authorities, writers of approved reputation, while it will be mine on the other side to prove the contrary, making reason as well as scripture my guides.

I hope you will give a place to this letter in the pages of your magazine, for who ever knew of truth being beaten when placed on a fair field with error?

I am, sir,

Yours in behalf of injured truth,

JABEZ WILLIAMS, JR.

While giving your letter to the public, Mr Williams, it does not seem to me to be necessary to accompany it with a formal response. If you desire to lay the claims of Universalism before the readers of this work, I will give you space for three letters, of from three to four pages each, provided you prepare them for insertion in consecutive Numbers. After you have formed, fashioned, and finished these letters, I may briefly review them—which review you will have the liberty of replying to, if you should discover anything in it uncandid or unfair toward yourself or your system.

The inspired Book, I am thoroughly assured, gives not the least countenance to any *ism*, and just as little as to any other the new-coined and eccentric "*ism*" with the word universal before it. Still, as this Banner is unfurled in the name of truth and the author of truth to do battle as occasion may demand against all the *isms* that either build citadels or go out upon the open field, and as you