

*To the Editor of the CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.*

REV. SIR,

It has often surprised me, that persons, whose minds have received the greatest polish that education can bestow, and who are so ready to acknowledge and applaud the productions of the classic writers of antiquity, affect to treat the Sacred Volume as if it were unworthy their notice. For viewing the Bible as a human composition, its indisputable claims to literary excellence entitle it to our attention and approbation, as has been acknowledged by some of the most competent judges, among whom is the celebrated Mr. Pope, who, speaking of the book of Job, says, "the whole of the book of Job, with regard both to sublimity of thought and morality, exceeds beyond all comparison the most noble parts of Homer." When we consider the influence that prejudice frequently exercises over our judgment, even when we are not aware of its existence in the mind, we may reasonably suppose, that this is one cause why many men, endowed with the most splendid literary qualifications, form such erroneous opinions of the character of the Sacred Writings, and speak of them with so much disrespect. Another reason, probably, is, their ignorance of the original language of the Old Testament, and of Eastern manners and customs; for, without a knowledge of the Hebrew, a man is as unfit to judge of the literary beauties of the Jewish Scriptures, as one, ignorant of Greek, is to judge of the literary merits of Homer. However faithfully a work may be translated, it is well known to you, Sir, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to convey, into a translation, the spirit and beauties of the original. This is particularly the case with the Hebrew, owing to the peculiar construction of that ancient language, and the various and sometimes opposite meaning of words formed from the same root.

The one hundred and fourth Psalm is a most sublime composition. While the important truths, which it contains, instruct the mind, the spirit of gratitude and devotion which it breathes, warms the heart; so that it is hardly possible for us to read it with the attention which it deserves, without uniting with its author in praising Jehovah. It contains such thoughts on the creative energy, and universal government of the Deity, clothed in such language as we should look for in vain any where else.

If you are of opinion that the following translation of this inimitable Psalm comes nearer the meaning of the divine original than our excellent authorised version; or that it may contribute towards the improvement of your readers, its insertion will oblige,

Yours respectfully,

AMICUS.

*Montreal, April 2d, 1827.*