

the sceptic ; thus only can he prove, that the Christian story differs in all the broad characters of truth, from either antient or modern impositions.

But it were a waste of time and argument to prove more at large, before this audience, that a well-grounded assurance in the Divine dispensation, can only be kept up, unless miraculously preserved, by the instrumentality of human learning, by the labours of persons fraught with the stores of science, and skilled in the languages, in which the volume of inspiration is transmitted.

The necessity however of Biblical knowledge is not left to be deduced from abstract reasoning alone. We, in this age of innovation, have witnessed the practical consequences originating in the want of it. Many and great are the evils which have flowed, from ignorance usurping the province of sacred instruction. Some who were unable even to read the word of God, have audaciously attempted to explain it. Many, without knowing the difference between literal and figurative expressions, have not feared to declare to others in what manner and sense
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