

It is highly probable that, by this time, our reading population, in general, have become rather weary of such a lengthened discussion on subjects which they are inclined to regard as merely of a dry theological character. With reference, however, to those who read on such subjects, and feel in any degree interested concerning them, there are some, and perhaps not a few, who are so unsettled, and so defectively acquainted with them, that it is highly requisite they should be accurately informed and guarded as to those errors concerning Scriptural truth. Moreover, not only as to such persons, but as to many others, it does seem proper to show, what is really the truth, that with all Mr. Maturin's theological and historical lore, his smooth and consecutive reasoning, and his pure and adapted phraseology, he is not really entitled to be considered a valid or reliable authority on any of the important points on which he has written—on some of them, indeed, no authority at all—but, on the contrary, he is quite uninformed or deeply in error. Some instances to this effect will presently be given, and others will be found in appropriate places in this publication.

Viewing Mr. Maturin, indeed, as he has exhibited or *defined* himself, by the particulars he has detailed in his personal narrative, concerning his secret exercises, vacillations and conflicts, and his external movements and conduct, he really does appear to be a person of an extremely singular mental constitution. The writer of this can truly say, that in a long life, and after much historical and biographical reading, as well as varied and extensive intercourse with very many classes of mankind, he does not recollect reading of, or meeting with, a person of equal singularity of character. Mr. Maturin, from his own showing, is evidently of a most fervent, luxuriant, and expansive imagination; of extremely excitable and impulsive feelings; and of powers of just perception, and accurate judgment, in an inverse ratio with those other qualities—or, in other words, very defective. To some, these may appear to be needlessly plain and