

Far be it from us to impugn the motives of the learned body of "divines" who originated the Evangelical Alliance in Europe and America; or the Evangelical Union of New Brunswick. We shall certainly rejoice if error be exterminated, or the cause of God or man be furthered by the labors of the Alliance; but we know the good can only be partial, because it is an effort built wholly on human expediency, and without the sacrifice of one of those peculiarities which have been the cause of disunion, schism, and sectarianism.

W. W. E.

## STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

No. 8.

### PREFATORY HINTS TO THE OTHER EPISTLES

BY A. CAMPBELL.

#### EPHESIANS.

1. The account of the conversion and gathering of this congregation is recorded Acts 19th and 20th chapters.

2. Paul was a prisoner in Rome when he wrote this letter, and those to the Colossians and Philippians. He was imprisoned because of the truths he taught concerning the calling of the Gentiles, the abrogation of the Jewish constitution and law, or the development of that secret which was, in an especial manner, intrusted to him, as the Apostle to the Gentiles; which is summarily comprehended in one sentence, viz. Christ to the Gentiles, or proclaimed among them, *THE HOPE OF GLORY*.

3. In this letter he rather declares this grand secret, than attempts the proof of it; and, in thanksgivings and prayers to God, extols the wisdom and goodness exhibited in this procedure.

He is very sublime in his thanksgivings to God for his goodness to the Gentiles, from the fact that he had *before* the law, (yea, *before* the formation of the world,) determined to bless them under the reign of his Son, to call them to the honor of being *his* people, to give them the privilege of adoption, and to purify them for an inheritance in that world of which Canaan was but a type. He declares that God's original design and plan was not only to magnify his benevolence and favor, but also to reduce every thing in heaven and earth under one head—viz. Jesus his Son. The proofs of the eternal purpose of calling the Gentiles, the Apostle lays before them in the statement of facts—

1. That the good tidings of salvation to the Gentiles, called *the gospel of their salvation*, had been confirmed by his own sufferings in proclaiming it, and by the miracles which he wrought in attestation of it.

2. That the Gentiles, who believed his message, were sealed by the same Holy Spirit which was promised by the Jewish prophets; which was to them who did not believe, an evidence of the truth; and in them who believed, a confirmation that the Gentiles were now become the people of God.

3. That the former condition of the Gentile world, contrasted with the state, character, views, and feelings of those who had already believed, was a full proof to them of the riches of that favor shown to them through the more good pleasure of God.