

“ We commence this new series with the experience of fourteen years’ Editorship, and we hope to offer some evidence to our indulgent readers that we have not been so inobservant of our own faults, or those of others, as not to have learned something in so long a time, which may be turned to a good account in our farther attempts at public edification. Our confidence in the cardinal principles of our christian profession, and of the whole complex cause of reformation which we plead, continues to increase with every year’s experience. The ordeal through which these great evangelical principles of religious and political liberty—of christian faith and practice—have passed, if not absolutely confirmatory of their truth, certainly has emboldened us to defend with renewed zeal their divine authenticity, and to urge their acceptance upon our fellow-professors of all the sects into which Christendom at this hour is most unfortunately severed.

Not only the unprecedented spread and adoption of these views and principles in so short a time, evinced by the multitudes who have rallied under the banners of reform ; but the visible influence which they have exerted upon large masses of society, who stand aloof, and in very uncharitable strains denounce us and them, yet yield to the sovereignty of truth by practising upon these principles, and actually teaching them, though under the disguise of an uncompromising opposition ; encourage us to persevere in a cause which has the warmest commendation of both friends and foes.

The labors of the Press are the greatest and most powerful means of operating upon society, a species of preaching and teaching that is fast changing the aspect of things. To keep pace, then, with the age and still to spread the principles of a radical and thorough reformation—to enlist others in the ranks, and to confirm many new converts—it appears necessary that we should continue our labors in the *restoration of original Christianity*.

There are a few points which we intend to labor with still more assiduity in the present series :—Education, intellectual and moral ; Parental Influence and Obligations ; Practical Piety, or Personal Reformation ; the Peculiar Character of the Age, with its demands upon Christian Effort and Co-operation ; Roman Catholicism ; Modern Infidelity ; Future Prospects. These, in addition to the usual essays and communications upon the whole subject of the Bible and the Church, will command our attention in the volume which we now commence, and in this new series.

A controversy with the Roman Catholics* has already commenced, and an invitation to a discussion with the Universalists

* See page 6