

Contributed Articles.

PROGRESS IN REVELATION.

NO thoughtful reader of the Bible can fail to discover that God in revealing Himself to His rational creatures, gave gradual and more extensive views of His nature, character and purposes, as the years of human history multiplied.

Progress in Revelation, was doubtless due to two causes. The first cause was that the needs of the race called for a greater knowledge of God. The second was, that the capacities of the race were ever enlarging, and were able to appropriate more with each successive revelation.

Here we may see, not only, the wisdom and goodness of God, in suiting His revelations according to the necessities and capabilities of His people, in a manner similar to that of a wise teacher in instructing his pupils, but we may find also in the perfect harmony of those scattered portions, which were given at "sundry times and in divers manners," a strong proof of the divinity of the sacred scriptures.

The patriarchs and prophets and priests of the olden time could not have met in solemn convocation to pre-arrange their varied contributions in systematic form, with the view of securing agreement, but each, "moved by the Holy Ghost," who superintended all the conceptions of these holy men in relation to divine communications, and protected the transmission of God's thoughts into human language, gave to the world humbly, independently and personally what the Lord had given to him.

Thus, in periods more or less distant from each other, under circumstances sometimes the most opposite; and in forms more or less complex and diverse, the Creator manifested Himself to His rational creatures: always revealing to them all that they needed to know of doctrine and duty, and all that their gradually expanding capacities would enable them to improve.

The various names and titles of the Almighty are sure to set forth some distinguishing features of His character, of some express