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“ PROVE ALL THINGS, HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.”

EPISCOPAL TESTIMONY AGAINST CREEDS.

SOME men by their high standing in society, give great emphasis to all that they say or do. The following *expose* of many sentiments for which I have been called a *heretic*, coming from a man who was in his days, and died in the office, of Bishop of the whole state of Virginia, will, to the minds of many, afford much more evidence of truth than if I had said them. Truth, however, is truth, whether a child or philosopher affirms it.

I have not met in any one extract so many of the sentiments advanced in this work; nor have I seen so unexceptionable an exposition of my “peculiar views” from any pen; nor did I know, till yesterday, that any man in the United States had spoken so much good sense on these subjects, in the year 1786, as appears in the following extract.—*Ed. Millennial Harbinger.*

EXTRACT OF A SERMON

Delivered by James Madison, D. D. President of the University of William and Mary, and Professor of Moral and Natural Philosophy, before the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the state of Virginia, May 26, 1786. The text is, “God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”—John iv. 24.

The object of this sermon is to urge the necessity of christian union, and the injurious effects of creeds, &c. in originating and promoting dissensions and feuds among christians.

Permit me, then, to make some observations upon the means most likely to forward such an event, for without attention to them, we shall deprive ourselves of the inestimable privilege of worshipping God in spirit and in truth.

Fortunately for christians, those means are altogether of the negative kind. They depend upon the *rejection*, not the *adoption* of those *human systems* of belief, or rules of faith, which have often *usurped the place of christianity itself*. They only require christians to *revert to the gospel*, and to *abandon every other directory of conscience*. I will then venture earnestly to recommend to all christians to reject every system as the fallible production of human contrivance, which shall dictate articles of faith, and *adopt the gospel alone as their guide*. Am I not sufficiently warranted, my brethren, in this recommenda-