

reputation and fame of a good speaker ; he who preaches with some selfish object in view, ultimately to better his circumstances ; he who acts as a fashionable visitor only, or idle preacher, more thoughtful of his appetite and palate, than visiting among the brethren of all classes to promote goodness, he who spends six days in social engagements only, are all equally removed from the evangelists of the New Testament, and differ as much from them, as the name from the reality, or the shadow from the substance.

W. J. P.

THE GOSPEL.

No. XV.

LETTERS TO A FRIEND.—No. 3.

MY FRIENDLY FRIEND:—Bear with me one letter more upon the subject of faith, and if the correspondence continues, I promise willingness to give variety of topic by introducing a new one.

From what has been said in the preceeding letters, you will have seen that the religion which I have the honor of recommending, is a religion that cannot be confined in the head like wine in a cask, nor carried in the veins and vessels which circulate the blood in the body. It has been variously illustrated that the religion of the new covenant is a system which has in itself life and action. My logic, illustrations, and general disquisitions have taken this direction, in order to move you, if possible, from the stakes you have set, and to which you have fastened yourself. For if it be shown that christianity be a living system, replete with demonstration and operation, and not a skeleton of opinions and sentimentals, it is not then difficult to make clean work of expelling the unclean spirits of false doctrine from the minds of those who have implicitly and without inquiry received the "like precious faith" of their fathers, that a man may have faith although he cannot give open or outward proof of it. This is the spot on the serpent's head that I wish to bruise.

"He that doeth the will of my Father," says the Teacher, is the person who shall be saved, and who therefore has the approval of Heaven. Eternal life depends upon doing as well as believing or feeling ; nay, I was about to say that what is done occupies a prominent place, if indeed there be such a thing, in scripture teaching, as one part of the gospel system having greater emphasis, or a greater degree of salvation in it than another. "Inasmuch as you have done it to these my brethren, you have done it to me," teaches the Saviour, referring