

RELIGIOUS REPOSITORY.

VOL. 1.

DECEMBER, 1839.

NO. 12.

DIVINITY

ON THE OFFICES OF THE SPIRIT.

"Quench not the Spirit." *Thess. v--10*

It appears to have been a custom universal among the ancients, especially the Israelites, to convey their instructions to their several audiences by parables, where things apparent, and familiar, were brought in illustration of the *moral* to be taught. The Scriptures abound with examples of this happy method of instruction: and, in fact, our Lord seems to have adopted this method as the one most familiar, probably, to those to whom he, at first, communicated the riches of the 'gospel of the grace of God;' and it is said that 'without a parable spake he not unto them.' The Apostles, also, it appears, took the same course of illustrating *Spiritual* things by *natural*, instances of which may be seen by referring to the 9th ch. I Cor. from the 23d. verse to the end of the chapter: also, I Tim. vi-12, in both of which places, as well as many others in the writings of the same Apostle the Christian's course is compared to the Isthmian games, the manner of conducting which, was perfectly familiar to the Corinthian brethren, to whom the first passage quoted was addressed. Our text appears to be of that character; as in it the Spirit of God is compared to *fire*.

In noticing the text, under present consideration, we shall consider,

FIRST, the analogy.

SECOND, the doctrine infered, viz. that the Spirit may be quenched.

THIRD, how the Spirit may be quenched: and,

FOURTH, offer some reasons why it should not be quenched.

The *analogy* existing between *fire* and the *Spirit* is peculiarly striking! and a more fitting figure could scarcely have been conceived. Some of the peculiar properties of this element are well known to all; not excepting the most ignorant of our fallen race.

1. One of the properties of *fire* is, to dissipate *darkness*, and to diffuse *Light*: and, what the natural world would be without light, so is the *moral condition* of man without the SPIRIT. What the natural Sun is to the Solar System, the Spirit of God may be said to be to the soul of man. As the former was before "God said let there be Light," so is the latter until that Spirit which "lighteneth every man that cometh into to the world" move upon the darkness of the understanding, and diffuse some ray of light to the soul. The