

Does any Christian inquire how he may most successfully promote the cause of Christ? We answer—by religious conversation with ungodly friends—by the distribution of religious Tracts—and by aiding those Societies which are accomplishing so much for the eternal good of mankind. All this, and much more, is necessary, if our readers wish to accelerate the interests of Messiah's Kingdom during the present year.

It is possible that this may be read by some person who is still in the "gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." To such we would say, that this day reminds you of the flight of time, and of the necessity of preparing to meet your God. Before another new-year's-day, the cold sweat of death may be upon your brow; and that manly form in which you now delight, may be crumbling in the dust, and your spirit have gone to the Judge of all to receive its final sentence. Be wise, therefore, and consider your latter end; and live the life of the righteous, that your latter end may be like their's. There is little doubt but that some, who read this number of the *Magazine*, shall not live to welcome its appearance on the first day next year. Let, therefore, both Editor and readers, so live that this year may be truly a "happy one" to them—that whether they live or die, it may be well.—G. B. M.

ORIGIN OF CHRISTIANITY.

Christianity claims a Divine origin. Is this claim true, or false?—just or unjust? We intend no argument. We only assert our faith in its Divinity. Millions have done the same. So—says the objector—have millions believed in every religion, however absurd and hurtful. But *such* millions? Never! Such wisdom, and holiness, and happiness, and usefulness as render homage to Christianity, never gave credence to imposture. They never will. They never can. These attributes of the finished Christian character are peculiar. They exist only in the persons of those who acknowledge the supreme authority of the system. And it may be added

that *they* are most profoundly assured of its origin who combine these excellencies in the greatest degree.

We cannot but express our astonishment that any remain undecided in relation to this great question. Is Christianity a Divine revelation or a human invention? They have no opinion! How is this? Are they incapable of forming opinions!—and without opinions? No—they will talk eloquently all the day long and all the year round in defence of innumerable convictions of little moment; but upon the subject of religion, the only one in respect of which it is inexcusable to want an opinion, they are entirely unsettled.

We are astonished, because of the nature of the question. Compared with others, it is the first and last, and only important question in the world. What art thou? An atom—startled a moment with electric excitement? Or, the immortal image and heir of an infinitely perfect God? Thousands have no answer!

We are astonished, because of the evidence of the truth. They are so accessible, so clear, so numerous, so various, so harmonious, and so overpowering. If there were nothing but the Bible, that is the very Temple of the Spirit; in which the humblest may commune with the Highest—growing more and more glorious with the radiance, and more and more assured by the inspirations of truth and love. Dost thou read the Bible? Even to this interrogation, the reply of many is seen rather than heard. But they are not hopeless, who blush.

We are astonished, too, on account of the cause of this indecision. Are there not some, who think of the question daily, and acknowledge its unequalled interest, but are still in doubt?—wilful doubt, indolent doubt, disgraceful doubt, distressing doubt? There can be *no doubt* that this condition is the result of efforts, on the part of the poor, fallen, feeble spirit,