

3. The third department consists of twenty-one epistles, addressed to Christian churches, communities and individuals. Let it be carefully noted, that none of them are directed to the world or to unbelievers. The design, then, of this department is, primarily to teach the believing converts how to live in accordance with the confession they had made. In brief, living practical christianity is here taught. It embraces the following general features: 1, personal holiness, 2, family cultivation, 3, church edification, 4, public reformation. These four things engage the principal labor of all the epistles. The Christian spirit, morals, and character are all concentrated and directed in this chapter to these four things. This is a much longer lesson than the former. It does not require a long time to learn how to become a Christian; but it requires a life time to learn and live a Christian. The one is apparently but the business of a day, the other is the business of a life, however long.

4. The fourth department of the book presents the issue of all the foregoing. This department is usually called the "Book of Revelations," but is entitled by the writer, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ to his servant John." This chapter being chiefly prophetic, is not very well understood, and perhaps never will be by mortals. There are chasms in the history of the past which make it difficult to determine with certainty which of the prophecies are in the future and which are accomplished. Some parts of it, however, are easily apprehended. Such as the resurrection of the dead, the judgment of the world, the passing away of the earth, the new heaven and earth, the eternal city, the presence of God, and the everlasting joy of his saints. The following arrangement may, perhaps, be suggested as being nearly correct: 1. The admonitions of the Saviour to the seven churches in Asia Minor, comprising the first three chapters. 2. The then future history of the Christian church, with reference to the political kingdoms and empires of the world, to the end of time, closing with the 12th chapter. 3. The same with reference to the religious kingdoms and establishments of the world, to the end of time, closing with the 19th chapter. 4. The prophetic history of christianity, individually considered, from the apostolic day to the end of time and into eternity, comprising the last three chapters.

In presenting the foregoing arrangement, and the design of each, it is not affirmed that nothing else is to be found in the several departments. On the contrary, in the first chapter, (the four gospels) may be found general instructions respecting Christian department and character, as well as particular directions to be observed—for example, the "sermon on the mount," Mat. 5th ch &c., and the directions contained in the 18th Mat. for the settlement of difficulties among brethren. The chief matter of each of these departments may be found incidentally in all the others. But, observe, these things are but *incidentally* found. It is not necessary to introduce farther examples. The reader is requested to consult the book itself.

To sum up the whole matter thus far, it presents this distinct out-