

Frontispiece.



George Harder sculpsit

*And I saw another Angel fly in the midst of
heaven, having the everlasting Gospel.*

Rev: 14. 6.

THE
Gospel Magazine,
OR
TREASURY
OF
Divine Knowledge.

Designed to promote

EXPERIMENTAL RELIGION.

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A N
A D D R E S S
T O T H E
R E A D E R.

THE church of Christ is a world in a world. It has views, affections, pursuits, ministers, and books, peculiar to itself: and though the number of publications commonly called Magazines is great, and their matter various and sometimes solemn, yet none of them are intirely suited to the taste of minds truly spiritual. They must have something of their own fort, something relating to the Soul, to G O D and Eternity, to J E S U S C H R I S T and their happy interest in him. Hence the idea of a G O S P E L M A G A Z I N E ; to conduct which with propriety and utility, is a very arduous undertaking, and requires every possible assistance that divine and human wisdom can afford.

If other methods of instruction, besides those of the pulpit, be valuable;—if the diffusion of spiritual knowledge through the whole kingdom be important;—if providing smaller pieces on religious subjects, for those whose circumstances would otherwise grasp none at all, be beneficial;—and if supplying a sort of christian-recreation to the mind, superseding the necessity of lighter amusements, be doing service to the Christian church;—it is hoped that ministers, and men of leisure and ability, will gladly unite to afford all necessary encouragement for the success and improvement of so valuable an undertaking.

To promote the study of the sacred scriptures, to spread the knowledge of true divinity, and to make the streams of heavenly wisdom flow down from this pure and inexhaustible fountain of all spiritual instruction; that Zion may be more plentifully watered, that her plants may blossom, bud, and bring forth abundantly, is one great end of our present design; a design that needs no apology, has every thing in it that can be commendatory; and which we doubt not will meet with a wish of good luck in the name of the Lord from every serious and benevolent heart, as well as with all possible encouragement from those whom it hath pleased God to entrust with talents

to be used for his glory in this particular way ;— we hope to see the humble mite of heart-felt knowledge cast into this Spiritual Treasury, where want of ability may not admit of the silver of human eloquence, or the gold of human learning.

Here ministers and others will be able to propagate their feelings and fears for the prosperity of Zion ; and their discernment of the signs of the times, whether, and by what means, we are tending to indifference on the one hand, or to superstition and enthusiasm on the other. What instructions may such of them as, in the course of nature, must soon quit our earth for ever, have an opportunity of leaving behind them for the benefit of the rising generation, that we may be better, and not worse, than our fathers, and that the light of our understanding, which seems increasing, may not only resemble that of the moon for brightness, but that of the sun, quickening and chearing the whole creation !

The works of many of God's most eminent servants must be for ever hid from the eyes of perhaps the greatest part of the Christian world, on account of the expence attending an extensive course of reading.

It may therefore be some argument in favour of this work, that the price will not exceed the circumstances of the poorest among those who wish to be made wise for eternity.

We propose to begin our work with an essay on some divine subject, in the course of which our readers will become acquainted with the perfections, work, and offices of each person in the co-equal and co-eternal Trinity, as well as with all the important truths of divine revelation.

Our second part will be taken up with a portion of Ecclesiastical History; in the prosecution of which we shall learn the triumphs of Christianity, and be fully convinced how TRUTH hath finally prevailed over falsehood and error in every place and age.

Nor shall we forget to provide niches, as it were, for the statues of good men of every age and nation.

Poetry and Musick will also have their share in our plan.

And that we may do our utmost to render this work acceptable to the christians in general, we intend

tend to give a plate of the head of some eminent minister of the gospel, either in the establishment or out of it, as we shall judge most suitable, with each number; hereby signifying to our readers, that we wish to lay aside those little differences which only tend to promote prejudices, and to destroy the benign influences of true piety and christian affection among us.

Hebrew and Greek criticisms will also be admitted, as we imagine the proposing and solving difficult texts may prove an agreeable addition to our learned readers.

We beg leave to remind our readers, that a large part of our Magazine will be devoted to Miscellaneous Writings, Anecdotes, Questions and Answers in Divinity, and, in short, every thing which seems likely to be useful and well received.—And as in this part of our work we shall insert all occasional pieces, we would just observe, that the preference will be constantly given to such as are the most animating and enlivening, as most conducive to the Increase of PRACTICAL and EXPERIMENTAL RELIGION.

As we humbly presume a short account of the several publications in DIVINITY, together with a
brief

brief Diary of any interesting occurrences of the past month, with a list of Preferments, &c. will not be unacceptable, we shall be careful not to lessen the value of our work by an omission of these articles.

These are the improvements we shall attempt with the utmost diligence; and as long continuations have been much complained of, we mean to avoid them as much as possible, except in the instance of Ecclesiastical History, which we shall continue till it is completed down to the present time.

With due deference we hope for candour from all parties; and commend them, ourselves, and this Undertaking, to the Blessing of GOD.

THE EDITORS.

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