

*S. C. P. H. W. W. W.*

THE  
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*“In Doctrine shewing Uncorruptness.”*

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# P R E F A C E.

WHATEVER pleasure and satisfaction may accrue to the Patrons of Literature from being able to extend the boundaries of science, the Friends of Gospel Truth will be susceptible of equal and superior pleasure, in perceiving new efforts to enlarge the kingdom of our God and Saviour.

Every Servant of Christ is set for the defence of the Gospel; and every publication to which they lend their signature and support, should carry this laudable design in the very face of it.

The countenance the Gospel Magazine has met with, from the staunch and inflexible Advocates of Truth, is such as hath increased, and not diminished, our obligations and acknowledgments to our correspondents and readers; and suggests a flattering omen that the genuine zeal "*for the faith once delivered to the saints,*" is not wholly extinguished, amidst the frenzies of heterodox parties, and the smoking offensive dogmas, and peculiarities of each; and inspires a cheering hope, that the latent remaining spark will yet burst forth in a pure flame.

While, indeed, Error is split into numerous factions, and erects its bloody standard to assemble and inspire its infatuated votaries, Truth, like its glorious Author, is one and indivisible: and however slow its advancement and success may appear to us, it compensates for this seeming delay, in the permanent blessings it yields, wherever it plants its footsteps, or establishes its sway.—But we know it is the fixed determination of Him, whose purpose of heart is equivalent to the execution of his hands, that she shall finally ride in triumph through the earth; and that the whole body of his elect shall willingly submit to her controul, and shall sweetly rejoice under the benign protection of her wings.

The noxious mists of gross superstition have already, in great measure, yielded to her progress; which has been marked with a luminous train of happy consequences, that has gladdened the hearts of millions: but this we deem only a pledge of the

future victories reserved for her honour, in those remaining shades of Popish delusion which have overspread our own and other countries, under the less hated visage of Arminianism. A phenomenon which has, indeed, been naturalized amongst us, to the disgrace of every body of professedly Evangelical Christians; but which, like the stupendous boasted Colossus of Rhodes, with its gigantic strides, extended from shore to shore, or the feet and toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image, shall be consumed at the appointed time, as being related to the same design with it, and included in the same prediction and judgment.

Animated by these considerations, let the Friends of pure Evangelical Truth unite their exertions to diffuse its salutary influence, by every proper medium of circulation, for its overthrow. And as this publication has for its object the extending of the glorious gospel of the blessed God, it invites and courts, the free communications of every Lover of the whole Truth as it is in Christ; and we flatter ourselves, that in proportion as it continues to be patronized and supported by such, it will also continue to receive and exhibit the same auspice from above with which it has hitherto, we trust, been conducted and marked: and, while it collects the rays of sacred knowledge and information from various quarters, will reflect them in every direction with increasing vigour and lustre, and acknowledged pleasure and edification.

This, at least, we can say that at the moment it ceases to promise utility, it shall, by our unanimous suffrage, cease to exist; but occasional or stated opposition, from whatever quarter it may originate, shall, instead of intimidating, or discouraging us, only stimulate our efforts and rouse our zeal: because we are taught, that popular and malignant errors will never expire without the violent struggles of the Beast in the Revelations; and because we know that such agonies form the predicted symptoms of their approaching dissolution. Which, may the Lord hasten in his time!