

*D. A. Doudney*

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*“ In Doctrine shewing Uncorruptness.”*

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## PREFACE.

**W**E desire, upon the commencement of another volume, to render our tribute of thanks to the God of love, the centre object and bestower of it. To the Son of the Father, who was made flesh, obeyed and suffered for us men, and for our Salvation. To the Holy Spirit who hath commanded light to shine out of darkness, and who hath shined into our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Before the ETERNAL THREE, FATHER, SON, and HOLY GHOST, we lay low in adoring gratitude, and implore, in behalf of our readers, and ourselves; that we may be filled with the knowledge of the Divine Will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; and that the genuine character of our blessed Lord may be increasingly impressed upon all our faculties, till we are changed into the same image.

With many fears from within, and much opposition from without, as also the captiousness and instability of pretended adherents, we have by the good hand of God upon us, brought the Gospel Magazine to the completion of seven volumes. The many hinderances cast in our way by sectarists of various denominations, insisting upon us to give up that independence of intellect, so as to come in to their confined views of certain things, has exposed us to the animadversions of the peevish and querulous, and occasioned us to lament the union of little spirits, with powerful talents.

In taking a retrospect of the religious community of the present day, we have had occasion before to remark, that there is a plan to suppress and mitigate what is called an open declaration of the Gospel of the Son of God, so as to make it suitable to the taste of the times. Nothing in our opinion so dishonours the Gospel Record as concealment: the more it is seen by the eye of faith, the more lovely it will appear. Its residence may be said to be placed in the Sun, and it never looks so glorious as when it shines in its full meridian splendor.

We would not wish to be understood as intimating that it is not possible for a man to preach and write most strenuously for what may be called an orthodox creed, and yet he himself have an unregenerated heart; we believe it a possible circumstance that a man may form an exact system of the Gospel, and deliver the mind of the Spirit of God in the most happy expressions and nervous reasoning, and yet never to have embraced in his heart the record God has given of his Son; but what does this amount

to? only that the person is a shadow of a shadow, and that he holds the mystery of faith in an impure vessel.

But shall we be led aside by those teachers who are for substituting a consciousness of moral good and evil, an exercise of human virtue, temperance, sobriety and charity, for the fruits and operations of the Divine Spirit? God forbid. These notions are common to all nations and tribes of mankind, who are not totally sunk into barbarism. And we will continually reiterate the repetition, as long as we live, that these are duties every man owes to himself, and to society; and truly every one *herein* will find his reward, and if a person is not an idiot, he will be found in the habitual practice of them.

Let the **CARDINAL VIRTUES**, so called, be carried to the highest perfection, they are only the goodliness of man, or the flower that grows from the fleshly stem, they are no more than the remains of that natural principle which was essential to the being of man in his creation: and which the law of our Creator requires of every rational creature, and are to be found among the deniers and opposers of the revelation of the Son of God.

These and such like undigested notions of the Gospel pass current amongst thousands of religionists, for the work of the Spirit of God upon the heart, and many professed teachers of the Gospel are leading their votaries to the grave with a lie in their right hand. To such sentiments as these in their various subtle movements, we have for these seven years made a decided stand. The one grand subject we have held up is this, that where the truth as it is in Jesus dwells in the mind, it makes that soul alive unto God by faith; enlightening and enlarging the subject thereof more and more into the grace, truth, light, life, glory and excellency of Emmanuel, *unto all the riches* of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

THE EDITORS.

London, Jan. 20th. 1803.