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Internal Evidences

OF

CHRISTIANITY

DEDUCED FROM

Phrenology.

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BY MEDICUS,

MEMBER OF THE EDINBURGH PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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## PREFACE.

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WISDOM, that will be proved in the course of the following argument to be divine, has asserted, that God made man upright, but he has sought out many inventions. These, from the corruption of his nature, have, **in** general, been such as to increase the many and oppressive evils connected with the fall; and even those, good in themselves, have, from the same sad perversity, been turned to evil by their misdirection. The gifts of Providence, matters quite independent of man, have been grossly abused: the means of sustenance



to his body he has rendered the destroyers of his frame ; and those intended for the nourishment of his mind have been so used as to produce, not a veneration for the Author of his understanding, but an impious disbelief of that Being's existence ; or, if not of that, a disregard for His testimony, verifying the truth of another assertion of wisdom, " knowledge puffeth up." In fine, intellectual and bodily strength have been, are, and, it is likely, will be, exerted in ways contrary to that relationship in which every man stands to God, as the moral Governor of the universe.

In the midst of this general perversion of what is good, and of defection from God, the Author of good, the Christian is bound to come forward, and manfully endeavour, in humble dependence upon his Creator, to direct the gifts of Providence and the many useful inventions and discoveries of man into proper channels, thereby bringing back all matters to their



source, and making every gift, every invention, to show forth God's glory.

Within the last century, as well as in the present, many are the powerful intellectual energies which have been exercised in delivering science from the thralldom of infidelity. Many have come forward as champions in this good cause; and many a gauntlet has been thrown down by the heroes of truth, which, as yet, no sceptic warrior has attempted triumphantly to raise. Need I instance a Butler, a Watson, a Paley, a Sherlock, a Lyttelton, a Wardlaw, a Haldane; men, who have made history, natural philosophy, and every branch of metaphysical science, so far as consistent with truth, speak to the honour and glory of the God of nature and of grace? And, among the many labourers in the vineyard of late years, in which it may truly be said "the harvest is plenteous," Dick and Douglas hold pre-eminent places; the former having shown how all true science leads to its Author;



the latter, how every species of knowledge may be made to bear upon the diffusion of the true knowledge of God.

Many of the names mentioned will be recognised as those of men who have exercised their faculties in one of the most important directions, namely, in demonstrating the evidences of Christianity. Butler has shown the folly of disbelieving facts and doctrines stated in Scripture, on the account that we cannot understand them, by proving that many of the commonest things in nature, perpetually presented to our view, and others constantly recognised by consciousness, are not known, and imperfectly, if at all, understood, even by the wisest. Chalmers has given us a view of the stable foundations on which Christianity, as it regards its external evidences, rests; and, amongst the others, Erskine has opened up a new field of investigation, and has attempted to demonstrate the truth of Christianity by its internal evidences. He has, in his own



words, “analysed the component parts of the Christian scheme of doctrine with reference to its bearings both on the character of God and on the character of man ;” and this, in order to demonstrate, “that its facts not only present an expressive exhibition of all the moral qualities which can be conceived to reside in the divine mind, but also contain all those objects which have a natural tendency to excite and suggest in the human mind that combination of moral feelings called moral perfection ; and that as this object is one suited to the character of God, the system having this tendency must be of divine origin.”

When reading Erskine, the author of the following argument was induced to conclude that another illustrative view of the internal evidences of Christianity might be founded upon the *constitution of the human mind*. The train of thought leading to this conclusion was the following. It is with man that religion has to do. All



the rest of animals, as well as all the other parts of creation, show forth, by a kind of necessity, the glory of God : their uses, wonderful contrivances, grandeur, variety, changes, the peculiar adaptations in their constitution to their particular habits, speak a silent language of praise to the Creator. But man is endowed with a principle, concerning the nature of which there has been much useless dispute, but which instead of going downwards, like that of a beast, rises upwards, and finds as its resting-place no other than the Lord God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Man has a mind, and this has been so constituted, that God requires its willing and joyful exercise in offering to Him a rational worship. We find that when man was first created, this was the case. Adam's happiness in Eden consisted in the enjoyment of God's presence, and his pleasure was found in showing forth his Creator's glory. But this happy scene of things soon changed : Man fell ;—his mind became enmity



against God ; and instead of being directed into the channel of showing forth his Maker's glory, ran in the polluted stream of evil imaginations, and that only, and that continually. But God took pity upon his miserable subject, and in the midst of wrath at the violation of his covenant by his creature, the Creator remembered mercy, and taught the rebel man the way of obtaining favour. This was gradually unveiled, until the fulness of time came, when God sent his Son, made of a woman, who delivered to his disciples precepts durable for ever, and dictated to his apostles those doctrines, exhortations, and admonitions, all of which are collected in the New Testament, and all the preceding circumstances in the Old ; both being comprised in the book called, by way of eminence, " The Bible." The Bible, then, it appears, contains the way by which man can show forth the glory of God, by performing with acceptance those duties which he owes to his Maker ; and provides means



by which his mind, from the corruption of his nature, continually misdirected, may be made to run in the channel of obedience to God's will, its legitimate direction. To effect this grand purpose, (for the former is comprised within the latter,) it is evident that the Bible must contain certain motives, having such a powerful influence as to lead the mind from one track into another, in which they will keep it, and in pursuing which they cause the renewed man to find pleasure. This, we shall discover, is the case. Religion, then, is a system of motives, and these are and must be such as will affect the human mind. If, then, we possess a correct knowledge of this mind; if we know its principles, its constituent parts, on which the motives act, we shall be enabled to deduce thence a series of tests probatory of the position, that the Bible is the word of God. How we are enabled to do this depends upon the following indisputable conclusion. If the Bible comes from God



the Author of our being, and if religion is a collection of motives acting in a certain way upon the mind, connected with this being, it is evident that these motives must be suited thereto. If we find that they and no others are suited to produce the effects which Christianity recognises, we have a right, indeed it is our imperative duty, to infer that the system containing these is from the Author of our being. If not suited thereto, the contrary inference must be the one arrived at. These conclusions admit of no dispute, for we may reasonably inquire, "He that planteth the ear, shall he not hear? He that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that teacheth man knowledge, shall he not know?" Psalm xciv. 9.

But here a difficulty presents itself; where are we to meet with a correct system of the human mind? Till within these last few years, a search for a true system of the human mind among the ponderous volumes written upon the sub-



ject, was as vain as that of the alchymists to find out the philosopher's stone. Indeed, all the systems of the mind which have appeared are the results of the endeavours of some men of mighty genius to bend the facts, discovered by observation, to their peculiar pre-conceived notions; and, having taken them for principles, have endeavoured to reduce all the varied manifestations of the mind to these as their first sources. They have seated themselves in the judgment-hall of their own consciousness, and have adopted its decisions as the laws which regulate mental phenomena: forgetting that other minds are not constituted as their own, and trying to blot from the page of memory, that one well-established opposing fact overturns the validity of any general law. Of late years, however, a system of the human mind has been brought to light, the principles of which are dependent upon observations, whence, by the Baconian system of induction, they have been pa-



tiently deduced. Such is the phrenological, at least to those who believe in it, and to such principally these pages are addressed. However, to satisfy the scruples of some who have not studied the evidences on which phrenology rests, (which indeed, if studied, are sufficient to convince any candid mind,) a few remarks will be made in reply to some objections which are frequently brought forward by good-meaning people; both by those who have a great respect for religion, but who have, in some points, a zeal without knowledge, and those who care little about things which are not recognised by any whom they have been taught to consider "great men."

An objection frequently made by the former class is, that Phrenology is opposed to religion. To this, the argument contained in the following pages is a sufficient reply; and it may, with truth, and the kindest feeling, be affirmed, that the birth-place of this objection is ignorance. But



strange to say, some, when told of this application of the science, cried out against it with unbecoming vehemence. These people seem offended when any thing except the Bible testifies to Bible truths. To object to phrenology on this account, is equally absurd as to object to the works of God, because, on the page of nature, as well as on that of revelation, the attribute of goodness is imprinted.

Another objection, made by the latter class, is, “How is it that so many great men oppose phrenology?” To this it might be replied, that this is no argument against the science: since every man of strong common sense (a possession, however, by Juvenal said to be very rare,) must be aware, that the question necessary to be first decided in every inquiry, is, Is this truth or untruth? It may be remarked, in addition, that a respect for authority is one of the greatest obstacles to the obtaining of truth. The “ipse dixit” of an ancient sage closed the eyes of obser-



vation for ages. This foolish reverence forbids any originality of thought : indeed, few are fond of thinking, and are very happy that others are willing to take the trouble out of their hands. These people take all things upon trust ; they obey the dicta of a man great respecting literary honours, with as much deference as the subjects of the Ottoman empire the commands issued by the Caliphate. If they who urge this objection be such, and it is to be feared they are, it is begged of them to deliver themselves from this mental bondage, and be free Britons, not only in respect to their bodies, but also in relation to their minds. The inveteracy of habit must be allowed to have an influence on great as well as on little-minded men. These persons have been long used to one train of thinking. They consequently find it difficult to adopt another ; and as the acquisition of the system of mental metaphysics has, it is likely, cost them much labour, their interest and self-esteem,



and a number of other motives, are roused to refuse any aggressor entrance at the gate of their mental territory, inveterate habit being the door-keeper. No wonder then, that phrenology, which threatens to overturn the ancient building, reared at first by Aristotle, overturned by Reid, partially built up again by another, daubed over by another, embellished by Dugald Stewart, and his admiring followers, should be refused admission. In fine, it may be inquired of the scientific men, what did Galileo and other worthies suffer? and to the Christian the question may be applied, what was the treatment that the holy and unblamable life, and equally holy and unblamable opinions of the Saviour met with from the enthusiastically zealous Scribes and Pharisees, and from the philosophic Sadducees?

In the following pages, therefore, phrenology is assumed to be a true system of the human mind; a postulate, which it is believed every candid mind, upon a fair



investigation of the evidence, will be ready to allow. Let it be remembered, however, that this is not considered by phrenologists as a postulate, but a truth, demonstrable by facts numerous as those on which the principles of any other scientific system are built. For the phrenologist will find no difficulty in proving that chemistry, botany, natural history, or civil sciences generally believed in, have not evidences equally numerous and indisputable, as grounds on which they are established, or considered by their adherents to be so.

These remarks may anticipate an objection which has frequently been made by persons ignorant of these evidences, against the application of phrenology to matters of history, of government, of literature, and so forth. They think it wrong, that a science, according to them not yet established, should be applied to these subjects. In order to obviate this objection, and to remove the apprehensions of some



at the following employment of this science in relation to Christianity, the truth must be stated, that its principles rest upon no other foundation than the solid rock of observation. These have been accumulating for years, and will continue to accumulate till the human mind has for ever ceased its functions ; a period, when neither phrenology nor any other human science will any longer be applicable. If, then, we were to delay the application of the principles of phrenology till the mighty structure be completely reared, we should delay till the end of time ; for, till that period, the science will be receiving accessions. Indeed, the applications serve to build the fabric quicker by enabling its architects to bring supplies from every quarry out of which the human mind has worked materials : and the readiness and neatness with which the matters collected help to form the fabric, show that the principles of the science agree with those of nature, and its professors to be skilful master builders.



Yet some people would have the phrenologist delay. These persons, however, do not argue thus with respect to other sciences. Chemistry, the present system is referred to, has been established but a few years, and yet who refrains from applying it? and who objects to the application? No one :—indeed, the man would be reckoned a fool who should say to a chemist, “ Your science, Sir, is not established ; you must not apply it to the illustration of chemical phenomena.” Indeed the objection, that phrenology is applied too far and in too many ways, is often made in a very angry spirit. People might as well be angry, that out of twenty-six alphabetical letters, many thousand words are made : or that, from the seven notes of the gamut, such a countless number of sounds should be worked.

Indeed phrenology, as a true system of the human mind, will apply to every exhibition of its antitype, and will be useful in every relation in which the mind is called



into exercise. Consider its possessor as a child, phrenology will lead to the proper means to be made use of in cherishing some and restraining others of the dispositions and faculties. If we view man as a member of a community, this science teaches what talents he has, and how he can best employ them for the common good. And, finally, if we behold man as a creature of God, a knowledge of phrenology will enable him to examine that historical code which boasts a divine origin ; to try whether it deserves this high dignity, by investigating whether its doctrines and precepts are accordant with our nature. This last and most important application is the one taken advantage of in the following pages.

To show the justness of this application, it is worthy of reiteration, that religion is addressed to the mind.\* It is evident,

\* This word is used in the broad phrenological view, as comprehending the desires commonly called the *flesh* ; the sentiments named in the Bible, the *soul* ; and the in-



then, that, if we are in possession of a correct mental system, we have data or grounds from which we can deduce tests, witnessing to the Bible being the word of God, by showing that its doctrines are conformable to the constitution of that mind with which it has to do. This species of analogical proof rests on the possibility of inferring the truth of one proposition from its consistency with another, which we know to be true : and the evidence derived from this source is second only to that of direct facts.

By some it may be thought that in this demonstration too much is given to phrenology : They may say, you would never have found out this application of the science, without the mind having been illuminated by scripture truth. The author most readily allows this ; and, in so doing, is glad to acknowledge, that the word of

tellectual faculties represented in the same book by the word *spirit*. In this threefold division of the mental faculties, phrenology agrees with scripture.



God is the best purifier of our mental optics that ever was offered to man. But it does not follow, because this application would not have been seen without the aid of the light of scripture, that therefore the application did not exist, any more than that the imperfection of our natural sight does not at all argue against the existence of things which we do not see ; for I do not suppose, that many are so ignorantly blind, as to refuse to believe in any thing but what is evident to their own senses. We should rather than impugn this application, rejoice in it, and value and study constantly the word of God, which alone is capable of enabling us to direct our knowledge to proper objects.

This introduction may be concluded by an extract from a work published in the seventeenth century :—“ The two volumes of nature and grace are so divinely perfect ; contain so much true beauty and solid worth, that, in order to be thoroughly admired, they can want nothing more



than to be well understood. And moreover they correspond so strictly, and tally so exactly in numberless respects, and are so peculiarly fitted to illustrate, unfold, and enforce each other, that nothing can redound more to the credit and esteem of either, than a nearer contemplation of both. Doubtless the more intimately men are acquainted with them, the greater excellencies they will discover ; and the severest search, if honestly made, must end in deriving both from the same original.”\*

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The author cannot let this opportunity pass without testifying his gratitude to a respectable lecturer, Mr. Sleigh of London, for having directed his attention to the discoveries of Gall and Spurzheim : and also to Mr. Combe, whose labours, in the cause of phrenology, will ever en-

\* Balguy's Tracts, Moral and Theological, page xxix. Preface.

title him to respect, and will obtain him in future days a place, and that no mean one, among the benefactors of mankind.



## INTRODUCTION.

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WHEN my thoughts were first turned to the subject discussed in these pages, so many and so powerful seemed the obstacles against their successful prosecution, that, had not an ardent desire to direct any additional knowledge to the development of the most important truths given its potent assistance, the following attempt would never have been made. Indeed many, and they men of sound sense and extensive reading, asserted, that every thing that could be said upon the evidences of Christianity had already been offered to the world, and enumerated a train of so many illustrious spirits, who had



directed the powerful energies of their minds to this momentous question, that it seemed almost presumption to persevere. Still, however, the conviction of being in possession of a fountain of knowledge, which has been, till of late years, undiscovered ; and the certainty, that from it flows a purer stream than that which has formed the mighty but Stygian river of mental metaphysics ; and the hope that, by seizing the stream in its course, it might be directed into the fields of truth, encouraged me to proceed.

It is hoped, from the observations contained in the preface, that the nature of the argument will be perceived. But as it is, naturally enough, a common case, that an author, like a painter, observes peculiarities, and sees farther and more in his productions, than the reader or the spectator beholds, it may be proper to make some additional remarks, proving that the argument herein brought forward has something new in it, and is not, as some may be apt to imagine, a substitution of new expressions for new ideas. In order to exhibit its novelty, it will be necessary to un-



dertake the unpleasant, though useful, duty of showing the nature,—and, in doing so, the defects,—of former arguments, (for they all seem more or less defective;) and then to point out the nature of the following. The ungracious nature of the task of dwelling upon the misconceptions of great men, must be evident to all: its performance, however, is a duty rendered imperative by their very celebrity.

The arguments of those who have written upon the internal evidences of Christianity may be reduced under three classes. The first consists of those who have argued upon the reasonableness of the doctrines, or the accordance between the nature of the Christian religion and the character of the Supreme. The Divine character, it will be seen, is the touchstone in this species of argument. But to make this serve such a purpose is illogical, and consequently unsound. We have no knowledge of the character of God, but from his works and his word. Our information upon this head from his works is very limited: indeed so much so, that we cannot be justified in making our experience there-



upon, a standard of truth. Chalmers's reasoning on this subject is conclusive: "To assign," says he, "the character of the divine administration from the little that offers itself to the notice of our own personal observation, would be far more absurd than to infer the history and character of the kingdom from the history and character of our own family." Any reasoning, therefore, as to the truth of Christianity, from the accordance between its doctrines and the character of God, as made known by His works, is inconclusive. Our knowledge from the word of God is far more extensive. Indeed, therein we are taught the real character of the Deity; therein he who fills all is made known: a view of his immeasurable attributes, under the veil of some interesting and important facts, is presented. This knowledge, thus obtained, is the proper standard to use in examining the Divine character. But this is that which Christianity makes to appear; and in proving that the general doctrines of the Christian system correspond with those that relate to the Being held forth therein as the object of adoration, all that



is demonstrated is, that a consistency exists throughout. But this, though pleasant to behold, and, to the believer, one confirmatory evidence of the truth of his system, the object of belief, is not sufficient to authorize any one to believe the Bible to be indeed the word of God. The harmony proves that truth is the general feature of the work ; but not that the God, who is Truth, is its author. In Euclid's elements there is throughout a consistency, but who considers this as proving that of this work Euclid was the author? The insufficiency of this argument will be rendered still more apparent, when it is remembered that this consistency is *not* perfect, at least to most minds ; for, with some matters revealed, all that can be said is, to use Paul's language, and to inquire, "Who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him who formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"

The next class of reasoners are those who have argued in favour of Christianity, from its doctrines being superior both in morality and in faith to those of any existent system ; and from its precepts being



opposed to the predominant desires of the generality of men. Therefore, it has been concluded by many, that Christianity could not have been the work of men, or of devils, but necessarily of God. This conclusion depends upon a want of knowledge ; for, in many works written by heathen philosophers, we find very proper practices recommended, and many duties enjoined, requiring for their performance the sacrifice of feelings which men hold dear. Wicked men have often inculcated highly moral precepts. Voltaire, in his Philosophical Dictionary, has some excellent laudatory and illustrative remarks on self-denial, and other commonly called virtues : yet no man, perhaps, practised them less. The morality of Christianity, it is true, is distinguished by the principle to which in this system it owes its rise, namely, the love of God. Of this class the arguments can be called no more than illustrations of Christianity : as such they have been useful in exhibiting the grandeur and elevation of the Christian system, even as a system of philosophy ; but do not prove that the same is a revelation from God, because



we are not certain, upon like reasoning, but some system may yet come forward superior to it. Before, then, this mode of arguing can be convincing, it will be necessary for us to possess the standard of perfection, and to find that upon comparing Christianity with it, they agree.

The third class of arguments consists of those drawn from the honesty, manifested by their sufferings, of the persons who bore testimony to the truths stated in the Bible, and from the successful elevation of Christianity above all the numerous, varied, and powerful attempts to overthrow it. The withstanding of this opposition, it is said, is sufficient to demonstrate, that the Christian system has God for its author. But this way of reasoning is not conclusive. Many persons have devoted their lives in the defence of what are now believed not only false, but absurdly childish, religions : and it is well known, that the best way to perpetuate a name, is to persecute its possessor. Indeed, a philosopher, who wished his opinions to be known, cried, " Persecute me, persecute me." Persecuted men band together, stir up one another,



and often unjustly identify their cause with that of God, and, by so doing, acquire an intrepidity superior to every difficulty. And, allowing that the bearing of persecution for conscience sake, shows the *honesty* of the belief of the persecuted, it is no proof but that the *thing believed* may be a lie.

These three classes comprise almost all the arguments that have been written upon the internal evidences of Christianity; and, though not conclusive, have not been without use. They have been the means of removing much of the rubbish that prevented some of the strong and well-defended buttresses of the Christian's citadel being seen. They have shown the bulwarks of Zion, and have pointed out thy beauties, O Jerusalem.

Two arguments, however, remain to be noticed; these not being comprised within the three above. Reference is made to those of Butler and Erskine.

Some had disputed the truth of revelation, upon the ground that it contains many things which are opposed to our reason, and to the light afforded us by natural



religion. To this objection Butler replied, by showing that if this argument was sufficient to overturn the truth of revelation, it was equally so in destroying the truth of what we observe in nature. For, in the natural world, we see and believe in many things which we do not understand, and which we cannot reconcile with our notions derived from any natural source. But if our belief be refused, unless our understandings perceive the nature of all things, we must shut our eyes, we must deny the most evident, yea sensibly evident, truths. Hitherto the argument of Butler is good. As overturning the objection, it is unanswerable ; but the positive application which some have made of it, in attempting to establish Christianity, is not so good. It can do only as a negative argument. For that man wanders wide, and in a latitude not in Butler's measurement, when, from the similarity between nature and revelation, that difficulties exist in each, he argues that, therefore, the God of nature and the God of revelation are the same. There is more of neatness than of conclusiveness in this way of reasoning ; a simi-



lar kind of logic would demonstrate, that, because two things agree in one respect, they shall coincide altogether.

Erskine has, however, struck out a new road. The character and condition of MAN hold pre-eminent places in his argument. The character of God, namely that recognised by natural religion, has its place. He endeavours to show that the doctrinal facts contained in the Bible are such as must necessarily arise from the divine character ; and that the nature of these facts, in relation to man, is such, that the effects, which are said in the Christian system, will be produced by their exhibition and reception, are such as, on the known principles of human nature, must be :—thence concluding, that Christianity is a revelation from God. To use, however, his own words—“ I mean to show, that there is an intelligible and necessary connexion between the doctrinal facts of revelation and the character of God (as deduced from natural religion,) in the same way as there is an intelligible and necessary connexion between the character of a man and his most characteristic actions ; and farther, that the belief of these doctrinal facts has an



intelligible and necessary tendency to produce the Christian character, in the same way that the belief of danger has an intelligible and necessary tendency to produce fear." This method of reasoning, though, as far as I have been able to learn, never objected to, is inconclusive on three grounds. I state this opinion with all humility; but truth does not admit of a compromise, even among friends warring in the same cause. It is liable to objection, first, from the assumption of the character of God as recognised by natural religionists: second, from certain known principles of human nature being taken for granted: and third, from the condition in which human nature is, and to which the motives contained in the facts of Christianity are suited, not being explained or proved. To consider these grounds individually may be beneficial and just: and therefore, with respect to the first, it may be observed, that until natural religion is proved to present a correct standard of the character of God, it cannot be consistently used in demonstrating that the doctrinal facts of scripture are of divine origin. But



this is the method of demonstrating the divine original of scripture by Erskine, as may be seen by reading over the first portion of the just given extract. The uncertainty of the dicta of natural religion must be evident to every one who has examined his own mind, and has observed how others' thoughts have become so incorporated in his mental exercises, that when they appear, he takes them for his own. The Deists of modern days have, it is true, brought forward a more consistent system than those, their fellows of the ages before the Christian era. But to what is this superiority referrible? Is it not that revealed religion has been incorporated into the minds of the Deists by early education, and thence being biassed, they have devised a system in which all the real beauties are borrowed from Christianity? And in making the dicta of natural religion the means of deciding upon the divine origin of the doctrinal facts of the Christian system, we fall into the error of making the experience of those whom every Christian must allow are enemies of God, the judge before whom the character and proceed-



ings of the Deity are arraigned. If natural religion was demonstrated to be true in all its decisions respecting the character of God, this might be permitted, but not till then. I am aware it may be said, that man was created in God's image, and that by giving to God all the moral traits in man in an infinite degree, (the way of natural religionists,) we cannot err. But this way of reasoning is fallacious; because it is only from Christianity that we learn that man was created in his Maker's image: and the strength of this species of argument depends upon what, to an unbeliever, is an assumption.

The second ground on which Erskine's argument must be inconclusive to the infidel is, that certain features of human character are taken as *known* principles of human nature. Many may allow that the principles of Erskine are the fixed ones of the nature of man, but there are others that will not: and before the argument deduced from such principles is valid, these must be demonstrated to be the immutable standards of human character. If he had established the principles of hu-



man nature upon a foundation as firm as that on which the laws of mechanics are fixed, his reasoning from them would be fair. This we have a right to expect, for Erskine introduces his argument by a beautiful illustration. He fancies a traveller returned from China, where, among the many wonders seen, it is supposed one was a steam engine. He tells his countrymen, the Syracusans. The stupid believe all : the judicious doubt ; but Archimedes, on hearing the description of the boiler, the pipes, valves, and so on, acknowledges the truth of the narration, although the narrator may not be trustworthy : and why ? Because the effects stated agree with the known principles of mechanics. Thence it follows, that, for Erskine's argument to hold good, it is necessary that the principles of our nature should be demonstrated ; because the mere decisions of experience cannot be convincing, until all experiences decide similarly.

The third defect in Erskine's argument is, that, in it, man is assumed to be in a certain condition. Every one must allow



that much evil is in the world, and most will agree in referring its origin to the fall. But the motives of Christianity are addressed to our nature, as affected in a certain way by the fall : and the force and suitableness of the doctrinal facts can be seen to the full extent only when a conviction of being in this condition is driven home upon the mind by a demonstration of its truth. It is true, Christianity says that we are in this condition ; but the infidel does not believe. And before he can be convinced of the suitableness of the doctrinal facts of the Christian system to produce certain effects, he must have it demonstrated that such is the condition of human nature : for it must be allowed, that what is very suitable to a person in one state may be very unsuitable for him in another.

Having thus pointed out the nature of former arguments,\* it remains that the one

\* One argument has not been noticed, and this is perhaps the best of all. It is Haldane's ; and is well worthy of perusal. It views Christianity as regarding the salvation of man. Some others, of which the author is not aware, may have been passed by.



pursued in the following pages should be brought forward. Previous, however, to doing this, it seems to the writer a bounden duty to bear testimony to the beauties of Erskine's publication, and to add, that though it is not a conclusive argument, it affords the most striking illustrations of the genuine influence of Christian principles. Every Christian must be pleased with the work, and must be happy to see the extensive circulation which it has had; and its writer, it must be acknowledged, has made a diligent use of every means he had in his power. And though the deficiencies in the argument already stated, are supplied in the following pages, the author takes no credit to himself; the difference being, that he happens to be in possession of means which Mr. Erskine did not possess; or, at least, so it is supposed.

Phrenology, as a true system of the human mind, supplies all these defects. It frees its possessor from the need of any appeal either to natural or revealed religion, for the character of God; puts him in possession of the known, the fixed prin-



ciples of human nature ; opens up to him the influence of motives on that nature ; enables him to prove, both that man is in the condition in which he is said to be in Scripture, and to overrule many unanswered objections.

These statements may be thought to be mere boastings ; but for proof, the following argument is appealed to : and, it is hoped, when the reader has finished the perusal, he will say “ ’Tis done.”

Before stating the argument, it may be proper to hint, as an objection which may be made by those who have not fully studied the discoveries which the science of Phrenology has made. It is this ; that experience is equally sufficient with the evidence of phrenological demonstration. This is saying that the stream is equally pure as the fountain. Experience is the stream flowing from the primitive faculties, demonstrated by Phrenology. It is true, we can say the stream is water, but we cannot be certain that it arises from a fountain. It may be accumulated rain. The metaphysicians say that it is : they refer the differences, which Phrenology



demonstrates to arise from primitive faculties, to the influence of circumstances ; and refuse to acknowledge that they flow from individual fountains. Thus we see the uncertainty of experience, from the possibility of putting different explanations upon it ; and the certainty of phrenological demonstration, by its not permitting any difference of explanation. Indeed, metaphysicians are, in truth, Owenites, although they will not allow it.

All religions are similar in the three following respects ; in having some superior being or beings for their object ; the favour of the same as their end ; and the means of obtainment as their subject. These remarks apply to Christianity ; and in illustrating them in the following dissertation, it will be proved that this religion alone can boast a divine original, from the following circumstances : That no God but that of Christianity can be approved of by man on account of his mental constitution : but man having, in every case, approved of others beside the true God, some change has happened in human nature : That this change is evil, and that



man is necessarily evil: That the means for obtaining God's favour are suited to man in such and in no other condition: That the obtaining of this favour is connected with certain changes, which the means are efficacious in producing: That the means for preserving the favour of God are such as are, according to the present condition of human nature, efficiently suited for effectuating that great object: Finally, concluding, that as Christianity corresponds thus, in every respect, with the fixed constitution of our natures, it must be the work of the Author of our being. Such are the principal matters discussed in the present work; and it now remains that we pursue them.

The similarity between all religions has been stated. And as the division is natural between a being and the circumstances in connexion, the argument will embrace two points: First, the general character of the God of Christianity; and, second, His particular character seen in the means to be made use of by His creatures to gain and preserve His favour,







# INTERNAL EVIDENCES

OF

## CHRISTIANITY,

DEDUCED FROM

## PHRENOLOGY.

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### PART I.

THE argument to be illustrated here is, that the general character of God, as revealed by Christianity, is conformable to the principles of our nature, as demonstrated by Phrenology. In the establishing of this, two propositions will be offered for consideration : first, that man is so constituted as to be constrained to worship some being ; second, that he is endowed with certain faculties, enabling him to de-



cide on what ought to be the object worshipped ; that this object must be such as these faculties, unbiassed, approve of ; and that the God of Christianity is the only such object.

The first proposition that requires demonstration is, THAT MAN IS SO CONSTITUTED AS TO BE CONSTRAINED TO WORSHIP SOME BEING.

Such a proposition may, to some minds, be so self-evident as to need no proof. Indeed, one writer says, that “it is morally fit that man should reverence his Maker, is a proposition self-evident to all that rightly understand the terms.” In proof, it has been urged, that man is called a religious animal. That he should have received such a distinguishing appellation without some adequate cause seems unreasonable. Indeed, this characteristic of human nature is very evident, even upon a superficial observation ; and so strong and so general has been the impression of a superintending power, and of our duty to bow in homage before the same, that we find the most civilized of nations banishing Pythagoras, one of their philosophers, for denying the ex-



istence of a God, and putting another, called by the Delphic oracle the wisest of men, to death, for maintaining the existence of a being thought by his countrymen to be in opposition to their superintending powers. The lifting up of the hands and eyes towards heaven, the natural language of distress, seems to bear testimony to the general impression, both of the existence of a Deity, and of the duty of bowing before him. And, though in health and prosperity, many among the heathens, and in modern times, still many more, have pretended to doubt the existence of God, and consequently their duty to worship him; yet, in the days of adversity and sickness, we find, as Seneca remarks, that these sceptics show themselves to be most fearful of this Being, according to them, when well, the fancy of men. And few will doubt what Cicero says, “there was never a nation so savage or people so barbarous but always confessed the existence of a God.” The objects of worship may be, not God, but devils, or sometimes even men; and the means for obtaining the favour of the being worshipped may be not



beneficent, but cruel ; yet, the impressions that there is such a being, and that this, as such, should be worshipped, seem to be general. And it is a curious fact, that the very name the Greeks gave to the Deity, Θεός, *theos*, signifies *fear*. If language be signs of things, this affords most striking illustration and evidence of the opinions of the Greeks upon this subject.

However evident these conclusions may seem, and however fairly deduced from facts, some have disputed them. So evident indeed, are they thought by one writer, that he attests “it would be as absurd to demand a reason why man should reverence his Maker, as to ask why a whole is greater than its part.” But this is no argument ; for it should always be remembered, that, before we can be convinced of the fitness of any thing, it must be evident to ourselves ; it being clear to others, unless they be infallible, (an attribute which a real Protestant will not be willing to allow to any man,) is no reason why it should appear fit to us. Indeed, two objections have been urged against these conclusions, thus deduced ; the first is, that there is no cause



for a belief in a superior existence; and second, supposing that a superior being exists, there is no reason why he should be worshipped. These objections must be refuted, and, in their refutation, an opportunity will be afforded to show the importance of Phrenology in giving the force of demonstration to conclusions deduced from disputable observations. The first objection set the master-genius of Paley to work, and the result of his labours was his valuable and interesting publication "Natural Theology." His main proposition, which he illustrates by a great variety of examples, is, that wherever there is design, there must be a designer. In the world, innumerable instances of design are evident, and therefore, according to his proposition, a contriver must have existed; and as, in the carrying on of the varying circumstances of this and other worlds, there must be a presiding mind, that contriver still exists. This argument so simple, and apparently so free from objection, was nullified by an opposing statement. The sceptic did not pretend to deny the examples of



design, but disputed the conclusion that these should lead to a designer. Paley illustrates his argument by supposing a plain, over which a person travelling picks up a watch. The archdeacon then analyses the thoughts that would pass through the man's mind. But here he fell into an error, which almost all metaphysicians have been in the habit of committing : he made his own consciousness that of the man, and makes the traveller think as one would who knew the uses of the watch. To Paley it would exhibit the idea of a workman ; but why ? Because he knew that workmen make such things. Here, then, his conviction of design depended upon his knowledge. But let a savage happen to pick the watch up, what would be his conclusions ? said the infidel. He would, it is likely, fancy it was some animal, having peculiar powers, and would be astonished ; he would not think of a designer, unless he had seen such a thing made by some one. But any other animal besides man, would have thought in a similar way. The animal creation behold the same objects ; they look around, admire and wonder ; but do not infer any



thing respecting a supreme existence. This philosophy, though so humbling, has been advocated ; it puts man on a level with the brute creation, a paradoxical exhibition of philosophical pride. We might almost doubt whether men ever held such opinions, were we not aware that one would-be philosopher of the present day glories in the idea of being, *post mortem*, a cabbage. Those, who argued for the existence of a superintending power, were so delighted at the opportunity of attack afforded them by this lowering of man to the rank of the brute creation, that they came to the charge with the word "reason," without having properly considered in what reason consists. The possession of reason was their ground, on which it was maintained that man and no other animals could discover the existence of the Supreme, and discovering this, could be bound to worship Him. Prejudice, it is true, was on their side ; but the infidel returned their attack with a vigour and a skill to the effects of which they had laid themselves open by the intemperance of their charge. He demanded the evidence that man is in the possession of rea-



son ; and observed, if we say reason consists in foresight, look at the ant, that collects with so much diligence her food for the winter ; if reason be exhibited in suiting ourselves to our circumstances, behold the beaver, building its two-floored house ; if, in being grateful for favours, consider the dog, the faithful remembrancer of kindness ; if, in the approval of what is right, read the numerous instances wherein animals act justly. A long dispute was now entered into, respecting the nature of reason ; and attempts were made to point out differences between this and instinct. A principal distinction was the following :—That instincts ever lead to the same results, and do not admit of improvement. But, against this so many facts were urged, that the objection cannot be considered answered with such clearness as to justify an infidel in bowing before the judgment of his opponents.\*

\* Indeed the difficulties attendant upon a delineation of the difference between reason and instinct will be fully seen by reading the valuable work entitled “ Paxton’s Illustrations of Scripture,” also an essay on Instinct, read before the Royal Society of Edinburgh, also Smellie’s Natural History.



This brief view of sceptic opinions has been given with the intent of showing how little certainty the labours of metaphysicians have conferred upon these important subjects; and I think, if phrenology sets these questions for ever at rest, we cannot look upon the science but with a smile of approbation.

How then can the question be answered? how is it to be proved that man possesses reason? In order to give a proper reply, it must be established that man has certain faculties, not in the possession of other animals, the exercise of which constitutes reason. Does phrenology afford this means of proof? It does. This science demonstrates by observation and by dissection, that man is in possession of several faculties not possessed by beasts: and, among these, two in particular, the exercise of which constitutes reason. These are Causality, which traces between cause and effect, and impresses us with an irresistible conviction that every phenomenon, or change in nature, is caused by something; and Comparison, which gives the power of perceiving resemblances, similitudes, and analogies.



These two faculties, perceiving the wisdom, harmony, power, and beautiful connexion in the works of creation, infer that a supreme creating and directing mind exists. This they do from the very necessity of their constitution.\*

The establishment of these faculties takes away one chief support of the second objection, that, supposing a superior being exists, there is no reason why man should worship him. The sceptic maintained that, though he received many benefits from the works of creation, this is no reason why he should bow before the Creator. For, said he, “does not the insect enjoy the benefits of God’s creation, when it revels in the sun beam? Does not the lion, wandering through the desert, and stalking along in the dignity of his greatness, receive his food from the hand of Heaven? Does not the Creator supply the rivers for the fish, and does He not feed the fowls of every kind? Why should I, any more than these, who enjoy the bene-

\* For a fuller illustration of these observations, see Combe’s System of Phrenology, article Causality.



fits of creation, bow before the Creator? And besides, if I look over the earth, I behold much misery. It is true, the earth is watered, and the sun rises. The face of nature is beautiful: but, sad contrast! I am obliged to obtain my bread by the sweat of my brow; my life is beset with toils which cannot be avoided. Am I to worship a Being who has permitted such misery?" To reply to the former observations, it was alleged that man possesses reason; an allegation demonstrated by phrenology. To the latter, it was urged, happiness is the rule, but misery the exception. To this, the sceptic replied by a passage from the Bible, "Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upwards;" and added, that though our reason may demonstrate the existence of God, it does not therefore follow that he should be worshipped. "My reason says, He is above all glory and praise. I am the clay in his hands, and his glory is exhibited in my constitution." And besides, the simple belief of an existence does not imply that that existence is to be worshipped: for "the understanding only perceives facts and draws inferences, but



does not feel emotions." Metaphysicians argue to the contrary, but they have been misguided by mistaking the decision of another faculty of the human mind for that of those constituting reason. And, that simple adoration is not the effect of reason, but of some other faculty equally strong, is proved by the fact, that the deities of the savages are often blocks of wood and stone. It surely will not be said that a logical train of deductions gave birth to this species of worship; a conclusion to which we must come, if we allow that the impression of the duty of worshipping a superior Being depends upon the design, harmony, and order in the works of creation, discoverable by reason. Is it a conviction of reason that gives rise to idol worship? To what then are all the facts connected with adoration referrible? "To the influence of education," says the sceptic; "and the differences in the elevation of the object worshipped arise from the relative cultivation of the minds of the worshippers: and the beginning of worship of every kind is ascribable to designing priests." This objection is invalidated by the nature of the



facts ; for how could the priests have induced such a state of things, unless something exists in the mind of man leading him to worship ; and why should the priests have chosen *this* method of bringing their fellow-men over to their purposes, unless they had been convinced that, in man, a powerful tendency to worship some Being exists? However, the infidel strenuously maintains his explanation of the facts, which he considers as exhibitivè of the influence of education. Indeed, conviction has not been driven home upon this point : because, though it is fair to argue, as has already been done, that where light exists, there must be a luminary, so there cannot be any exhibitions of a religious principle, unless the principle is in existence, yet, until we can either show that the infidel explanation is insufficient to account for the phenomena, or bring positive evidence to the existence of the principle, we cannot convince the gainsayer. Those, who have been used to reasoning, will know the difficulty connected with proving to any one the insufficiency of his explanation ; and although in this case, a



person, void of education, who has had no communication, so far as is known, with human beings, a man of the woods in fact, is brought, having manifested in his conduct the influence of a principle leading him to bow before God, the sceptic objects, and fairly too, "We are unacquainted with all the circumstances of this person's history. In his early life he may have seen some human being lift his hands and eyes towards heaven, and being imitative in his nature, followed the example and became a worshipper of a being, of whom he is altogether ignorant." On this ground the infidel takes his stand, and defies the utmost efforts of his opponent. For, though it has been (and with truth) asserted, that "a kind of devotion to worship him, being the Creator and Preserver of men, and of all things else, and the provident Father of all, is planted and inseparably fixed in the hearts of all men;" yet, to prove this, if we can appeal to nothing but exhibitions, which, the infidel asserts, arise from circumstances, we can never be successful. We must demonstrate the principle.

Such then is the condition in which we



are left by the observation of facts. Phrenology stops not here, but helps us out of our difficulty, by demonstrating by positive and incontrovertible evidence, the existence in man, and in man only, of a faculty of the mind, the source, the fountain, of all these exhibitions of worship. This faculty is named Veneration, from the emotions to which it gives rise. Its existence (for the evidence is convincing,) affords an all-powerful argument; in fact, the only argument that can be used, to prove to a man, who loves his infidel explanation of the exhibitions of this principle, the inaccuracy of his opinions. And having proved its existence, it may be asked as an additional evidence, whether a human being, not idiotic, was ever known, who did not, in any respect, exhibit its influence in adoring some one being or other?

In answering these objections, the proposition started with has been proved. It has been demonstrated that man, from his very constitution, is bound to worship some being. And when, in addition, we consider that man, and man only, has the faculty of Veneration, we see a distinction be-



tween him and the lower animals ; and behold the cause why the soul of man goeth upwards, while that of a beast proceedeth downwards. The examination of this proposition I cannot conclude better than by the introduction of a passage, elegant in style, and beautiful in sentiment. “ Dr. Gall observes, ‘ that the existence of the organ (Veneration) is an indirect proof of the existence of God. Destructiveness is implanted in the mind, and animals exist around us to be killed for our nourishment : Adhesiveness and Philoprogenitiveness are given, and friends and children are provided as objects on whom they may be exercised : Benevolence is conferred on us, and the poor and unhappy on whom it may shed its soft influence, are everywhere present with us : in like manner, the instinctive tendency to worship is implanted in the mind ; and, conformably to these analogies of nature, we are entitled to infer that a God exists whom we may adore.’ ” Combe’s System, p. 147.

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The faculty of Veneration produces mere emotion. It is the source of the tendency



to worship a superior power, but does not guide its possessor in forming any ideas correct, or incorrect, of the object worshipped. It is therefore natural to expect that the Being who made man, and has endowed him with a faculty leading to adoration, has also provided his creature with faculties, which, if properly directed, will lead to the knowledge of the character fitted to be the object on whom this faculty may be rightly exercised. Indeed, without such an endowment, man could not discover in this matter between good and evil, and would have been left in the chaos of objects, without a test to discover the real and proper one. These observations lead to the second proposition in establishing the argument taken from the general character of God, THAT MAN IS ENDOWED WITH CERTAIN FACULTIES, ENABLING HIM TO DECIDE ON WHAT OUGHT TO BE THE OBJECT WORSHIPPED; THAT THIS OBJECT MUST BE SUCH AS THESE FACULTIES UNBIASSED APPROVE OF; AND, THAT THE GOD OF CHRISTIANITY IS THE ONLY SUCH BEING.

Phrenology demonstrates the existence of certain faculties. And it is phrenology



only that does. Metaphysicians have wandered far from this idea : common-sense people have asserted their existence under the name of “dispositions,” and in this, as well as in many other points, their sentiments approach phrenological truth. Common sense and phrenology always agree ; but there is, in general, little accordance between this product of observant minds and the mental metaphysics of the ancient school. Mental metaphysics are foolishly abstract ; their believers tell us what is going on in the temple of their consciousness, but not in the large theatre of the world. Phrenology studies nature as it is, and teaches us that we have the faculties of Causality and Comparison, the offices of which have been explained ; and also that we are in possession of Conscientiousness, which gives birth to the sense of right and wrong, and produces the feeling of moral duty and obligation ; of Hope, producing the tendency to believe in the possibility of what the other faculties desire, and to look forward into futurity ; of Benevolence, the name of which explains its power ; of Firmness, of Cautiousness, and of others.



Phrenology proves, in addition, that these faculties harmonize together, so that the intellect cannot, except when biassed by the desires, or misled by ignorance, approve of any thing opposed to the dictates of the moral sentiments. These faculties decide always in a similar way. Their language is perpetually the same, although differing in power. This anticipates the objection, that the decisions of these faculties, when small, are different from those resulting from them, when large. Persons reasoning thus, forget that a difference in *degree* is not a difference in *kind*. A drop of rain is water as much as is the ocean. Benevolence must be benevolent ; Conscientiousness must be just ; Causality must investigate ; Comparison must compare ; Cautiousness must excite caution, whether small or large. The voice may be feeble and faint, but it will never vary.

Man has been endowed with these faculties that they may serve for his guidance. His Hope aspires for some object on which to rest ; his Cautiousness bids him beware of resting on a sandy foundation ; his Causality and Comparison dictate that



such are all things here below ; his Benevolence makes his Hope sigh for an object of benevolence ; and his Conscientiousness for one who is just.

In order that the importance of these faculties may be more fully seen, it may be farther remarked, that the faculty of Veneration, unguided by them, may urge its possessor to “ worship the genius of the storm, the sun as the source of light, heat, and vegetable life ; or if more debased in intellect, he may bow before stocks and stones. It was the faculty of Veneration, not under the presiding influence of the other faculties, and misguided by the vain and proud imaginations of sceptical philosophy, that give birth to the first verse of Pope’s Universal Prayer, the sentiments of which are not less impious than the versification is pretty. Veneration is blind ; the unbiassed faculties are its eyes ; and by them, the way, in which the former should exercise itself, is found out. The object of these remarks is to impress on the mind the important truth, that Veneration, unguided by the intellectual faculties and moral sentiments, must lead its possessor



into the deep night of superstition, affording to designing priests an opportunity to waylay and to strip the traveller, not only of his raiment, but of his mental freedom.

The existence of these faculties having been demonstrated by phrenology, and the nature of their operation, as connected with the present subject, having been thus briefly stated, the next part of this proposition comes into view, namely, THAT THE OBJECT WORSHIPPED MUST BE SUCH AS THE UNBIASSED FACULTIES APPROVE OF. With the view of finding out this object, the principal heathen deities, first, of the commonalty, then, of the philosophers, will pass under review, and, as they march on, their features will be examined through the scrutinizing eye of these faculties.

One of the principal features of paganism, for under this term Grecian and Roman, as well as Egyptian and Persian idolatries must be classed, in spite of the Gibbonian definition of the first, *the elegant mythology of the Greeks*, is a plurality of deities. Indeed polytheism is the leading characteristic of heathen devotion. “ In



number, titles, and attributes, the objects of adoration may indeed occasionally differ ; but a multiplicity of deities still constitutes the general creed of paganism, and a dereliction of the pure worship of the Unity is equally chargeable upon the refinements of Europe and Asia, the degraded worship of the western hemisphere, and the base superstition of Africa. The wisdom of Egypt, the learning of Greece, the masculine energy of Rome, were alike unable to preserve them from the universal contagion.”\* It becomes thence a matter of inquiry, Is this predominating feature of the ancient idolatries in accordance with the decision of our mental faculties? Veneration, it is true, would as willingly perhaps, have many as few objects of adoration ; but what will Causality and Comparison decide upon this matter? Their decision is the following. These numerous deities cannot all be equal. They could not have called themselves into existence, (supposing them to be existences,) but must have had some one who is their ori-

\* Faber's *Hor. Mosaicæ*, vol. i. p. 7, chap. 1.



ginal, the source whence they derived being. This must be superior to the rest, and ought, therefore, to be the object of worship ; and unless authority is given to recognise the worship of other beings, his inferiors, Conscientiousness and Cautiousness forbid to bow the knee before creatures, themselves created. Thus, then, it appears, that the demonstrably existing mental faculties pass the decision of “ No ” upon the question whether it is accordant with their constitution that the faculty of Veneration should be directed to more than one object. And this want of accordance is more fully seen when it is remembered that the Father, the original of the gods, is represented in Heathen mythology as being divested of his power by his children ; a palpable absurdity, that the source of power should be overcome by those who derive thence their strength ; and a violation of the dictates of Conscientiousness, which commands us, as being just, to reverence our parents.

Some writers, however, have attempted to show that the religion of the Greeks was, even in this matter, rational, and con-



sequently just. We are told by them, that the great foundation of the Grecian mythology is one wise and benevolent God, diffusing happiness around, and protecting his creatures by dispensations equally wise and benevolent. This is a fact giving support to the proposition by showing, that once the impression of a being, in whom justice, mercy, and unity, attributes recognised by Conscientiousness, Benevolence, and Causality, with Comparison, are constituents, had its abode in the human mind. Of this further notice will be taken hereafter. We are, in addition, told, that the various gods implied only the peculiar operations of nature as they were beneficial to man ; and mythology consists of the personification of abstract qualities, of the sources of our chief benefits, or of different allegorical representations. But this does not justify the multiplication of deities, and does not make it more consistent in the eye of our faculties, that men should worship objects made : for their decision is, that we should venerate the sources whence all the providential manifestations and virtues flow. It may be said, that the



philosophers, the initiated, did so. They saw through the inferior deities to the one true God. It is possible ; but Ideality says, that no likeness of Him by whom are all things, and to whom, and in whom all things consist, can possibly be made. If it be urged, that it is to help the worshippers to raise their minds, Ideality and Hope dispute the need of this ; yea they spurn such or any assistance, and boast that their powers are sufficient to wing even such a lofty flight.

In order to show more fully the discordance which subsists between the decision of our mental faculties upon the object fit for our adoration, and those deities, said by the above writers to be representations of virtues, it may be well to consider a few.

Jupiter is the head. It is true that he holds the thunder and lightning in his hand, and in this is approved by our Cautiousness, but is abhorred by our Conscientiousness, being represented without natural affection, as a violator of virtue, of the marriage bed, and as an inventor of the most abominable contrivances to gratify his lust. Juno truly is a malicious dame, being



full of envy, pride, malice, and practising unheard of cruelties on the objects of her hatred. Venus represented love, not the pure flame of affection, but the destructive element of passion ; and the nature of her character is well exhibited by the nature of the worship offered, prostitution : look at Corinth. Mercury was the god of thieves ; and the circumstance which gained him his deification was his knavery. Saturn is represented as destroying and eating his own children. Mars is a bloody, murderous, mad, cowardly fool. Pluto is the god of hell and of riches. It is true that Minerva, Ceres, and Proserpine, are better than the rest. Bring these boasted deities of Greece and Rome to the bar of Veneration, to have the decision of our mental faculties, Causality and Comparison, guided by pure Benevolence and unbiassed Conscientiousness, and what will be their judgment with respect to the question, whether these are fit objects for adoration ? They will, they *must* decide in the negative : they will say, “ these are no gods.”

The Romans deified other objects : they gave the divinityship to Paleness, to Fear,



to Disease, and erected temples for their worship. And what do the above faculties say to this deification and adoration? They say, it is not consistent with our constitution, that any one mental faculty should worship the manifestations of other mental faculties ; and Benevolence will never consent that its possessor should bow before such loathed objects.

The phrenologist will have perceived another mark of degradation in these objects of adoration, inasmuch as, with a few exceptions, they are deifications of our animal propensities, and, what is worse, of their misdirections : thus, Venus is an emblem of misguided Amativeness ; Saturn of deficient Philoprogenitiveness ; the Romans often sacrificed justice to Friendship, a misdirection of Adhesiveness ; Mars is a good representation of misguided Destructiveness, and Combaticiveness. Mercury is a figure for Secretiveness, misdirected to thieving, and so with the rest : thus the animal propensities have been elevated above the moral sentiments, contrary to the phrenological and scriptural doctrine, that the latter are supreme.



The deities of the Romans and Greeks have been brought forward, not with the view of presenting the most horrible portraits, but the best: for these are what the wisdom of Greece, and the gigantic greatness of Rome, gave birth to and acknowledged.

Philosophy has ever presumed to scorn the ignorance of mankind. It may therefore be fairly expected, that in its doctrines we shall find some gleams of truth, some more exalted notions of the Deity. And as the friends of philosophical knowledge pretended to be free from the superstitions of the commonalty, we may reasonably hope to discover in their creed, some views more consistent with the irremovable decisions of the mental faculties. As the best example of the deities of philosophers, the portrait of the Hindoo God, as given in the institutes of Menu, may be first presented to exhibition. In the Vedanti philosophy, evidently Platonic, the Almighty, known by the mystical and incommunicable appellation of O'M. is the only being, and all others, including Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesa, are only the creatures of idea



or perception, which will perish in the general annihilation, while O'M. alone survives through all eternity. In the translation of a Persic version of the Yoog Vashesti, a very ancient composition in Sanscrit, the following curious sentence is contained. "You are not to consider Vishnu, Bramha, or Madeva, and other incorporate beings as the deity, although they have each the denomination of deva or divine : these are all created, whilst the Supreme Being is without beginning or end, unformed and uncreated ; worship and adore him." Before we obey this injunction, it will be necessary to be further acquainted with this Being's character. Upon examination we find not much to admire. It is true that this deity made a distinction between right and wrong ; but it seems, that after the work of Creation was completed, the Hindoo Creator interfered little or nothing in the management of the concerns of the world. The Hindoo philosophers held that he was unlimited in extent, and unequalled in authority. They held also inferior deities, whom they endued with divine attributes : and thus introduced Polythe-



ism into their system. Respecting future rewards and punishments, as far as the author has been able to learn, nothing, or little less than nothing, is said. Conscientiousness may, to a certain extent, approve of this being: but Benevolence cannot look with pleasure on his stoical indifference; Hope cannot contemplate him with delight; nor Cautiousness, with anxiety.

It was my intention to present individual portraits of the god of each philosopher. But on minutely examining the subject, there is so little congruity, the same person having different notions in different parts of his works or of his life, as to defy all exactness of portraiture. Those who wish to know more on this matter, and to be convinced that the author asserts the truth, need but turn their attention to Enfield's translation of Brucker: and to the scholar, I know nothing that will exhibit the uncertainty of feature of the deities of the philosophers with more brevity and beauty than Xenophon concerning the gods. In this he introduces the opinions of his master Socrates, who is represented as pointing out the duty of modesty towards



the gods ; as illustrating their benevolence, providence, continual watchfulness, and anxiety concerning men, and the impossibility of perceiving them. The philosopher states the character of Him, who made and preserves the world ; in whom every thing useful, lovely, and good exists, as not liable to injury, disease, or old age : as infallible, and as governing the whole universe. Yet we find that he gives the duties or offices of providence to others, and does not confine them to this one Being ; and as a most striking instance of the uncertainty of character in the Socratic deity, we find the philosopher, as his last command, ordering a cock to be sacrificed to Esculapius. It need not be repeated how such contrarieties are in opposition to our mental faculties.

The atheistical notions of the ancient philosophers are clearly illustrated in the paper on Atheism in the Edinburgh Encyclopedia. To this and the above works, the reader is referred ; and he will find, taking the faculties as demonstrated by phrenology for his touching stone, not one of the many deities to stand the test.



These remarks will be closed by a portrait of the Epicurean God, which, being drawn by a heathen philosopher, Seneca, is the most perfect we have : “ Epicurus fancies God to be without power, and without arms : above fear himself, and as little to be feared. He places him betwixt the orbs, solitary and idle ; out of the reach of mortals, and neither hearing our prayers, nor minding our concerns ; and allows him only such a veneration and respect as we pay to our parents.”\* Of this being our faculties cannot approve. Our Causality and Comparison cannot recognise a God without power ; our Veneration combined with the other faculties, denies, both that God is not to be feared, and that the reverence due to him is not greater than that we owe to our parents. Our Benevolence will not allow of a God who is not engaged in benevolent providences ; and Conscientiousness cannot recognise a being not exercising justice.

Amidst this variety of divinityships, we cannot find one portraiture that claims the approbation of our mental faculties. All

\* Seneca de Beneficiis.



have some blot, some stain, that renders them hideous to behold. And, if we direct our attention from them to the God of the Deists of modern times, something more consistent, but in one respect glaringly defective, will be seen. It is true, that deistical diligence has worked out a being, in whom are many beautiful traits of character. It is one of their own making; and is nothing more than a *melange* of whatever pleased them in the Gods of heathen idolatry, and in the Author of Christianity. But one feature condemns this creature of fancy: and this is, that justice does not hold a part in its character. The violated law, whether of nature or of revelation, is overlooked by the Deist's God; whereas, Conscientiousness, a primitive faculty of man's mind, calls aloud for punishment upon every offender against any just commands. The Deists represent God as merciful, but not as just. Of this Deity, our faculties, unbiassed, cannot allow; and man cannot by their unanimous consent bow before such a being; for, though it is true that God is a God of mercy, he is enabled to show forth this



lovely trait, only as connected with justice. Deists boast of leaving to Christians the God of revelation, and taking to themselves the God of nature : but, if this view be correct, they embrace a shadow, not a substance ; a being, neither in nature nor in revelation.

As yet, the glorious object has not dawned. Are we left in this unpleasant deficiency ? Is there no being on whom our Conscientiousness, Benevolence, Hope, Causality, Comparison, Cautiousness, and Love of Approbation will alight ? Is there no being in whom Justice, Mercy, Glory, Infinity, Power, and Holiness shine forth as constituent features ? We have : and this is the God of revelation. In order to prove this, we must have recourse to revelation itself, and take its testimonies concerning its Author.

As a prominent feature, we find the Unity of the Deity.<sup>a</sup> Equally so are the attributes of Love, (indeed it is said “God is love,”) Mercy,<sup>b</sup> Goodness,<sup>c</sup> Wisdom,<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Exod. xx. 3 ; Deut. iv. 35, 39.

<sup>b</sup> Exod. xxxiv. 6 ; Joel xi. 13 ; 2 Cor. i. 3.

<sup>c</sup> Psalm lxxxvi. 5 ; Psalm cxlv. 9.

<sup>d</sup> Psalm xlv ; Acts xv. 18 ; Heb. iv. 13 ; Psalm civ. 24.



Power,<sup>e</sup> Omnipresence,<sup>f</sup> Immutability,<sup>g</sup> Justice,<sup>h</sup> and Holiness.<sup>i</sup> We are taught that He is every where : that nothing is hidden from his eye : and that He will bring every secret thing to light, whether it be good or evil. The Christian's God is represented as being "jealous" of His honour, and will not give His glory to another. This, and all other traits in the God of revelation, our faculties, unbiassed, delight to contemplate. It is here that Veneration finds its resting-place : here alone, that happiness is to be found : here, that the creature discovers the image in which he was created.

It is hoped that the truth of the second proposition is now fully seen. That it will appear, that man, being constrained by the constitution of his mind, to worship some being, can approve of the God of Christianity only as the fit object of worship.

I am well aware that objections may be started against this view, by having recourse to the particular character of the

<sup>e</sup> Isa. xiv. 24 ; Dan. iii. 17, 29 ; Rom. i. 20.

<sup>f</sup> Psalm cxxxix. 7.      <sup>g</sup> Mal. iii. 6 ; James. i. 17.

<sup>h</sup> Gen. xviii. 25 ; Deut. xxxii. 4 ; Rev. xv. 3.

<sup>i</sup> Lev. xix. 2 ; 1 Sam. ii. 2 ; Isa. vi. 3 ; Rev. iv. 8.



God of revelation, as exhibited in the facts forming the foundations of Christianity ; but, as this part of the argument embraces merely the general character, and as the nature of these facts will be fully illustrated hereafter, the conclusion remains indisputable, that the God of Christianity, as to His general character, is the only one approved of by our unbiassed faculties : and, being so, we are justified in concluding, that the Author of this system is the Creator of our frames, the Former of our mental constitution.

Well then may the Christian disciple adopt the language of Paul and say, “ For though there be indeed what *by the heathen* are called Gods, whether in heaven or on earth ; as there are in their estimation many Gods and many Lords : yet to us there *is but* one God, the Father, from whom all things are, and we are formed for him ; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom all things are, and we *are saved* by him.”—1 Cor. viii. 5, 6.



## PART II.

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HAVING proved that the unbiassed decision of the intellectual faculties leads to the approval of the God of Christianity as the object of adoration, and having shown that man, instead of bowing in reverence before this his Maker, has bended his knee before a Venus, a deification of lust; a Mars, an emblem of war and all its horrors; a Jupiter, a similitude of a buccaneer, despising laws civil, domestic, and religious; and others equally bad; it naturally arises as a question, how has this taken place? And when we see, in addi-



tion, that man still bows before the creatures of his lust, before some fancied object of perfection, the question is still more powerfully pressed home, and an impulsive feeling leads to the inquiry, how it is that the world by wisdom knew not God.

The replies to these inquiries, as well as other important points, will be treated of in this, the second part of the dissertation ; and, in order that this paradox may be unravelled, the argument drawn from the particular character of God, as exhibited in the means for obtaining and preserving his favour, coinciding with the constitution of the human mind as demonstrated by Phrenology, will be brought forward and illustrated.

The third proposition to be examined is,  
 THAT MAN NATURALLY CAN DO NOTHING  
 GOOD IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, AND THAT  
 CHRISTIANITY RECOGNISES THIS INABILITY.

It has been hinted, that in the earlier ages of Greece and Rome, some faint ideas of one wise and intelligent Being are perceptible. This, no doubt, was the result of the faculties, which, unbiassed, lead to the God of Christianity as the fit object for



adoration, not being totally overpowered by the animal propensities. Still the ignorance respecting the Supreme was general : so much so, that Lactantius says of Plato, “ *Plato somniaverat Deum non cognoverat ;*” “ Plato had dreamed about, but had not known God.” And Seneca remarks, “ *Nemo novit Deum : multi de illo malè existimant et impunè,*” Ep. xxxi. “ No one knew God : many think wickedly and without punishment respecting him.” So great, however, was the blindness, that even the Jews themselves, who were favoured by revelations from the God of Christianity, continually forgot him, and fell into the idolatries of the surrounding nations.

Seeing, then, that the faculties, unbiased, lead to the choice of the God of Christianity, and bearing in mind the fact, that none have ever chosen this Being, we must conclude in the existence of a general change in human nature, and that for the worse. Indeed, in any way to account for this ignorance of man, we must conclude that some evil change has taken place in his mental constitution : and the des-



perately wicked nature of this is shown in the effect, that it has alienated his mind from God.

In order that we may be enabled to understand more fully the matters treated of in the fourth proposition, a few remarks will be made upon the nature of this change.

In order to investigate this important subject, it is necessary to remark, that Phrenology proves we have certain mental faculties, belonging also to animals, and others, peculiarly our own. The former form what has been called the "*animal nature*;" the latter, the "*human nature*;" and the principal of these latter to be noticed are Benevolence, Veneration, Conscientiousness, and the intellectual faculties: and through the following pages the terms are used in these senses. A similar distinction exists in the Bible: the "*animal nature*" being designated by the word "*flesh*," "*the human*," by the name "*spirit*." The animal nature is, according to the observations of phrenologists, the predominating, and calls into obedience to its dictates all the other faculties. This, intended to give force to the *human*, and to



be under its sway, has, as is proved by the fact that no one has chosen the God approved of by the faculties constituting the latter nature, gained the ascendancy; has taken the rein, and lashes man on to misery and destruction. The effect of this is, that the moral sentiments, Benevolence, Veneration, Conscientiousness, &c. constituting an important part of the human nature, instead of being directed to God, as being love, the proper object of Benevolence; as being just, the suited end for Conscientiousness; as being above all, the lawful outlet of Veneration; as being unchangeable, the delight of Hope;—are made to be subservient to Adhesiveness, so as to make us supremely attached to friends; to love of Approbation, to render us obsequiously kind to the great; and to Caution, to make us just. And, from the evidence of the fact already established, such is the sway these animal propensities have gained, that, unless man is delivered by some *extraordinary* power from their thralldom, he cannot direct the human nature to the proper object. It appears, then, that our animal nature is continually opposing our human, and the one prevents



the other from following its own course. Thus the Author of Christianity observes, "That light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil ;" or, in phrenological language, a being came into the world, who was actuated by Benevolence, Conscientiousness, and Veneration in the highest degree ; that men, who lived and acted under the influence of their animal nature, did not love this exhibition of the supremacy of the human ; and, that being so biassed, would not receive the deliverance offered, but preferred to remain under the thralldom of the animal dispositions. And the continual opposition between these two natures is testified to by an apostle, who says, the "flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh ;" and who informs us also, that "the carnal mind is enmity against God, and is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." And, so powerful is the effect of the animal nature, that "there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God," Rom. iii. 2, as has been shown.

As long, then, as the supremacy is main-



tained by the animal nature, so long man can do nothing good in the sight of God : for it has been proved by phrenology, that, unless actions are performed from the motives arising from Benevolence, Conscientiousness, and Veneration, there is in them nothing *virtuous*. The reason of this depends upon a phrenological principle, that all the faculties, but the three just mentioned, have *self* for their object. For illustrations, see Phrenological Journal, Vol. iii. No. 12. Now, it is well known, that wherever self is concerned, no virtue can exist ; for virtue is ascribed only to those actions which result from Benevolence, Veneration, and Conscientiousness, faculties not having self as their aim. These three have a relation to God, producing in their unbiassed exercise love to God ; and, in their relation to man, love to man ; the two great principles of the moral law. We here see the superiority of the human nature over the animal ; and have the most striking evidence of the change in man, and of the fact, that he can do nothing good in the sight of God, when we consider that the animal nature holds over these an almost unlimited sway, preventing



the moral sentiments free exercise in loving God and in loving man.

The necessity of these three faculties being exercised in doing any thing good in the sight of God, is borne witness to by the Christian revelation. The prophet Micah thus writes, "he hath showed thee, O man, what is *good*, and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to *do justly*, (the dictate of Conscientiousness,) and *to love mercy*, (the dictate of Benevolence,) and *to walk humbly* with thy God, (the dictate of Veneration,) ch. vi. 8. Jesus Christ gives the same interpretation of what is good in the sight of God. He is reproving the Pharisees, "Woe unto you, Scribes, Pharisees, Hypocrites, for ye pay tithe of mint, anise, and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, *judgment, mercy*, and *faith*, (an outgoing of Veneration and Hope;) these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the others undone." Matt. xxiii. 23.

Herein is a striking coincidence between the decisions of phrenological science and the dicta of Christianity: the former, affording a positive proof of the doctrine of



the latter, that man can do nothing good in the sight of God ; an inability dependent upon the fact, that the animal propensities rule ; a dominion constituting a corrupt bias, the effect of the misdirection of Benevolence, Veneration, and Conscientiousness, by the proper direction of which only good can be brought out.

It thus appears that man can do nothing good in the sight of God. But this is not the whole extent of the evil ; for man is of necessity evil : and though some maintain that man can love and worship God, when he likes so to do, this is a false position, as will be immediately shown.

Necessity is a word, which, on account of the different meanings attached to it, needs explanation. By necessity, I mean, that man acts from certain fixed principles, the laws of his nature. These laws have such an influence, and are so unbending, that, whenever actions are conformable thereto, happiness is the result ; when not, misery is the consequence. The physical world is guided by fixed laws ; or is, in other words, under necessity. Thus, as long as the law of gravitation acts, the earth



and other planets must roll round the sun. So it is in the mental world. Certain laws have been fixed upon our faculties, and we must act according to them. Let not the reader be startled : for, with all humility be it said, the Creator himself is under this kind of necessity ; for, He *cannot* look upon sin but with the greatest abhorrence and detestation. It has been seen, that the animal nature gives its dictates contrary to the dictates of the human ; an evidence of an evil change ; and it has been proved by observation, that the power of the former is supreme. As long then as it retains this supremacy, so long must man act in a way contrary to the dictates of the human nature ; and as it is only when the actions are dictated by the latter that they are good, it is evident that man is, of necessity, evil.

It may perhaps be said, that, by cultivating the moral sentiments and intellectual faculties, and adopting every method to diminish the animal propensities, we may at length rear up a power capable of resisting the predominating influence of the last class of faculties. The insufficiency of



such means will be shown in the examination of the fourth proposition ; wherein the means, which God has proffered for this purpose, will be investigated. Man, therefore, is a creature, of necessity, evil ; and this part of the subject will be closed by an example, wherein the impossibility of him changing the evil direction, and consequently the necessary evil tendency of his nature, are most strikingly seen. It is taken from Jewish History. The people of Israel had been delivered by wondrous miracles from Pharaoh's power ; the sea had separated in their presence ; manna had been showered upon them from heaven ; they had seen water gush out of the solid rock ; yet, in spite of all these exhibitions of Divine power, they, after the absence of Moses in the mount for forty days, called upon Aaron to make a calf that they might worship it. Can there be a stronger evidence of the necessarily evil tendency of the mind of man ?

The second part of this proposition, THAT CHRISTIANITY RECOGNISES US IN THIS STATE, is now for consideration. In proof of this, all that is necessary will be to bring



forward a few statements contained in the volume in which this system is embodied. So abundant are these, that, the only difficulty is, which to select. The Apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, makes the following statements, not, as his own, but as the words of inspiration: "We have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they all are under sin: as it is written, "there is none *righteous, no, not one*. There is none that understandeth; there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way; they are together become unprofitable; there is *none* that *doeth good*, no not *one*. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace have they not known. There is *no fear of God* before their eyes." Rom. iii. 9—19. And it is related in Genesis vi. 5, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that *every* imagination of the thoughts of his heart was *only evil continually*." The word, translated imagination,



embraces not only imagination, but also the purposes and desires. No language can be more special; and when we add to the above the forcible inquiries, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?" it cannot be doubted that the doctrine of man being necessarily evil, is a feature of the Christian system. And as an additional proof, the Christian is taught, that he is unable to do any thing good of himself. John xv. 4.

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The fourth proposition is now to be considered. It is this,—**THAT THE MEANS TO BE EMPLOYED TO OBTAIN AND PRESERVE GOD'S FAVOUR ARE IN CONFORMITY TO THE CHARACTER OF MAN, AS NECESSARILY EVIL.**

It has been already stated, that the end of all religions is to obtain the favour of God, and that their subject consists of the means to be employed for the obtainment. How then shall a creature, necessarily evil, obtain the favour of his Creator, who is necessarily good? If we review the black pages of ancient history, we shall find



many means made use of, alike repugnant to reason, as well as to humanity. Men, not content with sacrificing their flocks and herds to appease and propitiate the offended deity, have immolated their children, a practice, which our mental constitution will never permit us to consider as suited to satisfy the justice of a just and good God. Our Benevolence cries out against the latter ; and, against the former, Causality and Comparison protest the absurdity of offering to God, as an atonement for offences, that which is God's own.

As to man doing any thing for himself, this is impossible. All that he does is evil. He cannot be justified by the deeds of the law, because he cannot do them, his very constitutional corruption leading him continually to violate the first commandment, which enjoins a perfect love of God ; the duty, to the performance of which, his unbiassed faculties lead. If, then, man does obtain the favour of God, it must be in a way that requires nothing to be done on his part : it must be something that will overcome the enmity of his heart, and make all his affections run into that origi-



nal channel in which they flowed when he was first created. Is the plan which Christianity recognises as efficient to obtain the Divine favour, in accordance hereto? It is : nothing is required of man but what the most degraded is capable of : man is commanded to BELIEVE THE TESTIMONY OF GOD. This is all in all : this is the first step to favour, indeed it is the only step. The testimony is this : “ God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Such is the nature of this testimony, that whosoever accounts it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, is so changed, that he is said to be born again. The carnal mind, or animal nature, is made to fall under the dominion of the spiritual or human nature, and the man thus renewed, from being a hater becomes a lover of God. Being thus brought under the sway of the moral sentiments and intellectual faculties, actions now spring from these sources ; Benevolence, Veneration, and Conscientiousness, conjoined with the Intellect, being busily engaged in ex-



citing to pursuits, having the love of God and the love of man for their source, and the glory of the Creator and the happiness of the creature for their end.

A question now occurs, how can it be proved that these means are efficacious in producing this change, and its effects? For, lamentable indeed it is, if we were to judge on this point from the lives of many of the professed disciples of Christ, the conclusion must be, that the means are unable to bring about the end : but we shall leave these characters, to consider the doctrine. Phrenology demonstrates, that, in the human mind, Benevolence, Veneration, Conscientiousness, Hope, and Causality, Comparison, and other intellectual faculties, exist ; and, that these, their proper excitement being applied, must act. Kindness must excite Benevolence ; a deed of justice must awaken Conscientiousness ; and so, with the rest. The emotion produced, moreover, will have a strength just in the proportion in which the faculty is large, and the exciting object influential ; which influence will depend upon the object being clearly perceived. It has been shown, in addition, that the



human is under the influence of the animal nature. Now, in order to deliver the former from the thralldom of the latter, it is necessary that such an influential exhibition of goodness, justice, and wisdom, should be presented to the human nature, consisting of the above faculties, as to change the bias of the animal. The facts of Christianity, regarding the means of obtaining God's favour, present this exhibition, and this must act in the way required from the very constitution of the mind. This is boldly averred; as, from this constitution, Innocence, suffering for the guilty, pleads to Benevolence with a force that is irresistible; the Lawgiver, bearing the punishment due to those who had broken His law, obliges Conscientiousness to be no longer dormant; and the deliverance from the curse of the broken law, makes Hope to rejoice, and Cautiousness to cease its anxieties: except in so far, that now the fear is one dependent upon Benevolence and Veneration, a filial fear; whereas, formerly it depended upon the faculty itself, and on Conscientiousness, being a fear of bondage. It thus



appears, that the facts of Christianity must produce the effects stated, and that the force of these facts is so great as to overcome the bias of the animal nature, and to enable the human to bring into subjection every thought to God.

It was remarked that the influence of these facts depended upon their being clearly perceived. The want of their clear perception has made many persons professing Christianity to remain with their hearts unchanged ; or, in other words, still to live under the power of their animal nature ; the imperfect view they received not being sufficient to overcome the bias of the said nature. This shows the necessity of some enlightening influence, to free the eyes from the scales which cover them ; and, in this view, Christianity coincides ; for we are perpetually told of the necessity of the Holy Spirit, who convinces “ the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.” A man on the brink of a precipice, and perceiving that he is about to fall, is thankful to his deliverer, or to one who offers deliverance : but one lying in a state of torpor, is angry that he is disturbed,



though the next moment his limbs should be scattered to the winds. So it is with men, respecting the truths of Christianity. One principal part of their animal nature is self-esteem : this, biassed, leads to self-confidence and pride, and prevents man from perceiving his real condition. In order to overcome this blinding influence, and to enable him to see the danger to which he is exposed, the spirit of God is necessary to convince him of sin : or, in other words, so much to alter the bias of this faculty as to prevent it from impeding his view. Hence it is, that humility is the characteristic of every one who has been so delivered : and the Author of the Christian system remarks, “ Except ye be as little children, ye cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.” How strikingly the natural laws agree with the revealed !

An important question now presents itself ; can this deliverance from the thralldom of the animal propensities be effected by any other means ? Philosophy has boasted that it can. By cultivating the intellect, and studying works of taste, the wise man of this world refines his charac-



ter : a delicacy is acquired, which makes its possessor scorn every thing gross in manners and base in principle. He pursues the path of morality, not so much from loving it, as from an opposite journeying being beneath his dignity. Thus his self-esteem is his grand support ; and though “ he is as far removed from the grade of the sensualist as the lion is from that of the mole, still both are unregenerated animal nature.” According to this system of deliverance, no Benevolence is excited, no Conscientiousness is awakened, no Veneration is called forth. These are allowed still to wander from their proper object : and the man, instead of being humbled, is puffed up : for “ knowledge puffeth up, but love edifieth.”

If the supremacy of the animal nature depended upon a superiority of *power* merely, it is evident that, by cultivating the Moral Sentiments and Intellectual Faculties, such an accession of strength might be given to the human nature, as would enable it to overpower the animal. But the supremacy does not rest principally upon this : but consists in a *bias*



which this has received. That the animal nature has received a bias is evident, when we consider how it has led men to forget, or rather, has never permitted them to find out, the true God ; and also, when we remember that a faculty, whether large or small, has the same direction, although its functions may vary in *degree*.

It will be thus seen, that modern philosophy and phrenology cannot change the bias : and we have sufficient evidence, that ancient philosophy did not produce any such renewal : and we must therefore conclude, that as Christianity will, it is the only system that can have this effect. Indeed, bearing this in mind, we may with justice say of those philosophers, who try to bring about this change by mere human means, “ Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks : walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand ; ye shall lie down in sorrow.” Isa. l. 11.

Christianity, then, produces its effects by enlightening the mind, and gives such a powerful impulse to Benevolence, Vene-



ration, and Conscientiousness, as to enable them to overcome the power of the animal propensities, which not only weaken, but blind the former. This change being produced, man is enabled to do good in the sight of God: that is, as long as he acts from his human faculties. But as the animal propensities still remain, and are ever inclined to wander in the old direction, to assume their original sway, it is necessary that the objects presented by Christianity should ever be kept in view; because it is only by attending to this, that the power necessary to the human faculties to resist the attempt of conquest over them can be preserved. In conformity to this view, the Christian is commanded “to live by faith;” that is, he is continually to bear in mind the glorious truths forming the foundation of the Christian system. It thus appears, that faith is the beginning of every thing good in the sight of God; and Christianity testifies, that, “whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Rom. xiv. 23: and Christians are further commanded to *add* to their faith virtue. Indeed, so necessary is this faith, that it must be the prin-



ciple of life ; for a person cannot be said to live by it, unless it acts in him as the source of all his actions.

This proposition is thus established ; and the accordance between Phrenology and Christianity has been seen, in examining the last proposition, to be seen more fully.

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The obtaining of God's favour is therefore the first step towards the right performance of any Christian duty. The love to God, and the love of man, produced by faith, induced an earnest desire to preserve the favour thus obtained. Benevolence, having been excited, rejoices in obedience : and, in order to obey, the Christian attends to the command of the Being, whose love has excited his faculties to love, to study the word of God ; to take it as a lamp to his path, and a light to his way. The believer, in examining the Scriptures, finds his own feelings embodied in the two short sentences, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind ;" and "thou shalt love thy neighbour as



thyself." And, to prevent him from erring in the application of these precepts, the word of God is full of instructions, adapted to every circumstance of life. In the performance of these two duties, the faculties which are supreme, are Benevolence, Veneration, Conscientiousness, Hope, and Ideality, with Causality and Comparison. These have now obtained the sway ; but still the animal nature exists, and, though now brought under the power of those faculties constituting the human, is continually inclined to run into the old channel ; to rush into the service of SELF, rather than to be drawn into the noble employment of GOD and MAN. Indeed, though the power communicated by belief is sufficient, by the use of the means appointed, to overcome the animal nature, yet the power of the latter is not totally destroyed. The old man is crucified, not dead : indeed, he cannot expire till this corruption is put off, and incorruption put on. The combat therefore must be continual. Christianity recognises this ; the life of the Christian being compared to a fight, a race. The Christian is told, moreover, that " the



flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh :” and one of the most remarkable disciples of Christ exclaimed, in the agony of the conflict, “ O ! wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death ?”

The enemies of the Christian are not confined to himself. He has other foes ; and it is now to be shown phrenologically, that as long as the Christian is such, and the world is the world, he must suffer persecution : so long must the assertion of inspiration be verified, “ Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2 Tim. iii. 12.

It appears from the observations made upon the third proposition, and the former part of this, that the animal nature preponderates over the human ; and, that as long as this holds the supremacy, so long does man act from motives purely selfish. It is evident, then, that as in the majority of the human race the animal nature is predominant, the institutions of society will be opposed to the human nature. This applies less to the fixed laws of justice, than to the customs and modes of society. For



the very safety of the commonwealth makes legislators to frame laws upon the broad principles of equity ; although, even in our legal code, we find maxims, regulations, and practises recognised, quite opposed to sound reason, and to liberty. Reference is made to test acts, game laws, and the sanguinary punishments inflicted upon offenders. But, at present, the opinions, modes, and customs of general society will be the limit of illustration.

It is an opinion generally held, that the love of distinction, honour, and fame, is proper, ennobling, and worthy of man. Every public building teems with images, before which, as representing illustrious dead, the youth of our land are taught to bow, and aspire at imitation. A Nelson is deified in one place ; a Pitt in another ; and a Fox in another. A Mansfield has a niche in the Legal Temple ; a Curran, another ; and a Broughan, a third. Indeed, every thing is presented to the sight, and through it, to the imagination, to cultivate a longing for immortality, not in the pure regions of never-ending bliss, but in the memory of man, itself to cease. To



the bold and adventurous, fortune hangs out all her laurels : the path of peaceful virtue is the way of silence, and the destructive conqueror holds the highest pinnacle of fame. Christianity forbids seeking these honours, or desiring for this fame, which comes from man. Higher objects are presented to the grasp of the Christian. He is commanded to seek not the honour that cometh from the world. Yet, in passing through this state of existence, many and powerful are the temptations, having the tendency to lead his mind in the improper channel, and to make him seek the approbation of men, rather than of God.

Again, the world holds that it is just to retaliate injuries. Christianity maintains quite a different sentiment. "Love your enemies" is *its* precept. "Do good to them that despitefully use you" is another of its injunctions. In the world, duelling is fashionable ; for, although denounced in the public press, as a general practice, yet, in individual cases, the duellists meet with approbation ; the excuse being, that they were obliged by circumstances to attempt



to precipitate one another into the presence of a holy, good, and just God !

“ It is remarkable,” says Dr. Spurzheim, (Philosophy of Phrenology, p. 50.) “ that all codes, revealed or profane, with one exception, have declared the *amor patriæ*, or love of country, a principal virtue. The Christian doctrine alone acknowledges no exclusionary patriotism ; it alone commands universal love.” Herein we see another point in which Christianity differs from the general opinions of mankind. And here we meet with an important confirmation of the necessity of faith previous to attempting the performance of any Christian duty ; for, in order to feel this universal love, taught so simply and beautifully in the parable of the good Samaritan, it is necessary that the human nature be supreme ; whereas in none but Christians it is. The necessity of this supremacy is evident, when we consider that this love of country is the result of a mere animal propensity, common not only to man, but to dogs, cats, and other species of animals.

Again, in Christianity it is a doctrine



that father and mother, brother and sister, are not to stand in comparison with Christ. And the evangelist informs us, that when the mother of Jesus wished to see him, he replied, that all who did the will of his Father, were his mother, his sisters, and his brethren. This doctrine has always sounded harsh to the ears of men ; but when we remember, that the love of parents, children, relations, and friends, is merely the result of the animal nature, and is common to ourselves and beasts ; whereas the love of God and obedience, its effect, are the consequences of the supremacy of the human nature, we see the justness of the command.

Another prominent feature in Christianity is, that he that is the humblest is the greatest. This is quite in conformity with the predominance of the human over the animal nature ; for the love of superiority is dependent upon animal desires, namely, love of Approbation and Self-Esteem, whereas Humility originates in Benevolence and Veneration, guided by the intellect.



Indeed, a volume could be filled with instances in which the precepts of the world and gospel are at variance. And so diametrical is the opposition that the God of Christianity asserts, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John ii. 15.

Not only is the world opposed, but the devil also. With respect to the opposition hence arising, this is known that it is great. And, however much the songs of poets, the scoffs of the vulgar, and the moderating and temporalizing doctrines and dignified sneers of philosophers, may have had the tendency to strip this enemy of man of his horrible character, and thereby to blind men to his nature, the Christian holds it as an undeniable truth, because the God whom he loves says so, that this being, as a roaring lion, goes about seeking whom he may devour. The devil is continually on the watch,—he knows every one's weak point,—tries one scheme and then another to seduce the Christian. At one time, he uses poverty and its unpleasant attendants ; at another, presumption ; and when he finds



them to fail, has recourse to prosperity and all its blandishments. This is the series of trials to which he had recourse in tempting Jesus Christ, the Christian's great Exemplar, in the wilderness. It would be inconsistent with the limits of this dissertation to be more minute : and we may close by remarking, that though an enemy to all mankind, he is peculiarly so to the Christian, often transforming himself into an angel of light, to lead the follower of the Lamb from the fold of God.

Such are the enemies with which the Christian has to cope. It now remains to be shown, that the means appointed for defence, are such as will be sufficient to enable him to make a successful resistance.

It has already been hinted that the Christian's life is a fight : in conformity with this he is said "to fight the good fight of faith." How then is he enabled to maintain this combat? It has been proved that man is a creature of necessity, and that this, naturally, is towards evil. It has also been proved, that when a believer of the gospel, his faculties are directed into a different channel ; but that he is still the



same weak character as he was before. He is unable of himself to do any thing good as formerly. For though he loves good and God, yet, without assistance from above, so strong is the tendency of the animal desires, that, though to will is present with him, to perform he finds is not. But, according to the principles of phrenology as regarding necessity, as long as the love of God is the predominating motive, so long must the Christian, as far as he knows it, walk in the path of duty ; for “ the love of God *constraineth* us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to walk soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world.” Hence the necessity of being stedfast in faith, by which this love is continually kept before the mind ; and hence the forcible beauty of the doctrine of the apostle Paul, “ Thou standest by faith,” (Rom. xi. 20.) and of the duty of living “ by faith.”

The love of God is therefore the moving spring in the machinery of the movements of the Christian's life. From the influence, however, of dampening unbelief and the enervating oppressiveness of



the atmosphere of the world, in which the lover of God is, to a certain extent, obliged to move, this spring is liable to want of force and due vigour. How then may its tone be preserved? It may rust; how is its polish to be kept untarnished? Or if tarnished, to be restored? These questions are now to be answered, and in answering them an opportunity will be afforded of showing some striking accordances between Phrenology and Christianity, since, in the means employed, we shall find the faculties demonstrated by the former science, continually appealed to.

These means may be reduced under three heads : *precepts, example, rewards,* and *punishments* : the first, deriving their authority in guiding the Christian from Benevolence, and approved of by the intellectual faculties : the second appealing to Imitation ; and the third to Hope, Cautiousness, and Love of Approbation. With respect to the precepts ; “ All Scripture,” the Christian is taught, “ is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” It is thence that he draws his rules of conduct. One prominent pre-



cept is, the loving of those who show their love to God by obeying his commands : “ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” This leads the Christian to seek out those, who evidence by their obedience to the ordinances that Christ has appointed, and by a profession of faith in his name, their love to Him. His Benevolence is delighted in contemplating them as being sharers together with himself in the Saviour’s love. His Adhesiveness seizes them as objects of attachment, and, urged on by this faculty, he delights in meeting with them upon every favourable opportunity. Thus meeting they form a Christian assembly ; and after attending to the precepts given for the regulation of themselves, they become a Christian church, and meet together on the first day of the week for breaking of bread, (or the Lord’s supper,) for prayers, and other ordinances, appointed by Christ to be observed by his disciples. They do not “ forsake the assembling of themselves together and exhorting one another.” And in obeying these precepts, the Christian’s faith, and consequently his means of



resisting temptation, becomes strengthened. The faculties of his mind become more habituated to the proper but new channel in which they run : and the determination of purpose in the pursuit of what is holy and acceptable in the sight of God, acquired by this communion of soul, is astonishing, and is dependent upon a fixed principle of Phrenology, that the faculties are strengthened by exercise. The faculty of Veneration finds daily more ease in running in its proper channel : the Christian traces the features of his God in every thing ; indeed, he reads his Father's name written on all creation. His Benevolence becomes more active from an increased discovery of the love of Christ, and from the sacred influence of the love of the brotherhood ; and the instructions and exhortations received in the church are such, that he is built up in his most holy faith, and grows in the knowledge and love of God. Daily, he obtains fresh victories over his enemy, and finds, that the attempt “to *keep under* his *whole* body” and to bring it more and more into subjection to the law of Christ, becomes continually more easy. Fresh dis-



coveries are made every day of need of Divine assistance ; of pardon for sins ; and, in the contemplation of the fulness of Christ, the soul feels all its joy to exist, and its possessor rejoices evermore, on finding that where sin hath abounded, grace doth much more abound. His Benevolence is necessarily excited more and more, an enlarged desire to live to the glory of God is produced in the mind, and the soul increases in the abhorrence of what is evil, and in the love of what is good.

The Christian stores his mind well with the word of God, which he finds to be the sword of the Spirit, by the aid of which he is alone able to withstand his enemies. He grows daily in grace, and in the knowledge of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ; and the effect of such knowledge is, that he lives not to himself, but to God's glory. And should he happen to fall into any open sin, his brethren are at hand to deliver him in the spirit of meekness. In this mutual support we see the principles of our nature acted upon : we behold that the effects intended to be produced by this communion of spirit are such as, according to this



nature, must be. But this harmony between the preceptive part of Christianity and our mental constitution, as established by Phrenology, will be more fully seen upon a particular examination of the individual precepts of Christianity : inasmuch as it will be found, that the faculties, demonstrated by the above science to exist as primitive faculties, have precepts given for their proper direction, their existence being thus indirectly recognised by the Author of the Christian system. In this system we are taught “not to look upon women to lust after them.” This preceptive command teems with benevolence : and if attended to, the eye of modesty and the heart of the feeling would not be hurt by the sight of those poor creatures, lost to all sense of shame, who parade our principal streets at noon-day. But Christianity has a positive as well as negative precept regarding the exercise of this faculty : “Love your wives” holds a place among its dicta : and the apostle Paul commands, “Let the husband render to the wife due *benevolence*, and likewise also the wife to the husband.” 1 Cor. vii. 3. The chastity



of expression, or the natural justice of the command, it is difficult to say which to admire the more. And the same apostle gives another preceptive command, "But if they cannot contain let them marry : for it it is better to marry than to burn ;" and this is given on the account, that "every man hath his *proper* gift of God, one after this manner and another after that." 1 Cor. vii. 7, 9. The apostle thus recognises the fact, demonstrated by Phrenology, that some men have the faculty of Amativeness more powerful than others, and gives advice to them thus endowed, so suited to their condition, and so minute as regarding their happiness, that that mind must be but very partially enlightened, who cannot see in all this the wisdom of a kind God, providing for the comfort of His creatures.

The faculty of the Love of Children or Philoprogenitiveness is directed by Christianity into proper channels. "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath ; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephes. vi. 4. The discipline which parents are to use towards their children is abundantly



pointed out in the Proverbs. "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Chap. xxix. 17. "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." xix. 18. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth betimes." xiii. 24. And this and other duties towards children are urged upon parents by the gracious promises, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it:" and "He shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight to thy soul;" whereas, on the want of attention, the following evil arises, "A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." And we are taught, moreover, "He that careth not for his *own*, especially those of his own house, hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." And those persons, who go about as busy bodies, tattlers, are pointedly condemned, and commanded to stop at *home*, and mind the affairs of their *own house*.

These faculties and Adhesiveness are, as the Phrenologist knows, and as the other



reader will perceive, from what has been said, engaged in concerns principally domestic. They are the links which tie the hearts of a family together. To prevent, however, these links being drawn too tight, and thereby rendering, the laceration which must take place at death excessively violent, Christianity adds, "He that loveth father or mother, wife or children, more than me, is not worthy of me." The Saviour is referred to. This supreme object keeps all others in their proper place ; and when it is remembered that Jesus Christ can never cease to be an object of attachment, since neither life nor death, things present nor things to come, can separate the Christian from the love of his Lord ; how reasonable is it, that the strongest energies of Adhesiveness should run out in that quarter ? The intellectual faculties and Moral Sentiments will give to their fellow, thus journeying, their approving smile, their strengthening support. The one class, seeing the propriety ; the other, feeling the pleasantness of this direction.

Christianity guides Combateness into the proper channel by dictating, "Contend



earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints :” “ Fight the good fight of faith.”

It points out the proper course to Destructiveness, when saying “ Be angry and sin not ;” and the existence of a natural disposition, leading to anger, is acknowledged by Jesus Christ, when he forbids any one to be angry with his brother “ without cause.” We see himself angry against the Scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy, styling them “ vipers :” and, under the influence of this faculty, guided and impelled by a zeal for God according to knowledge, the Son of Man drove the sellers and buyers with a thong of cords out of the temple, overturning at the same time the tables of the money-changers, and stating, in the justification of his conduct, that they made his “ Father’s house a den of thieves.”

Acquisitiveness is guided by Christianity ; which, though condemning the making haste to be rich, and commanding, “ Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and thieves break through and steal,” does



not leave the faculty without a direction, inasmuch as it requires of its disciples to “Lay up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.” At the same time, Christianity does not tell its followers to neglect their worldly concerns: no, but says, “Be not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.” Let the scholar compare this beautiful balancing of directions, with the directions which philosophers have given to this faculty. Some, he will know, taught their followers to despise worldly honours and riches, without giving to the faculty demonstrated by Phrenology to exist, any other direction; thus shewing their ignorance of its existence: whereas the Bible, pointing out its channel, and condemning its improper employment, recognises both the faculty and its liability to mis-direction; another coincidence between Phrenology and Christianity.

Secretiveness, another primitive faculty, has its proper course pointed out, when Christianity teaches its followers to be



“cunning as serpents, but harmless as doves.”

Self-esteem is recognised by the dignified character which the Christian is represented as possessing. He is a son of God ; an heir of glory ; he has a crown ; a priesthood ; is the temple of the living God ; and the apostle appeals to this faculty in endeavouring to convince the Corinthians of their wickedness, and of the necessity of being aware of fornication. “ Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot ? By no means. What ? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, who is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own ? ” 1 Cor. vi. 15, 19.

Love of Approbation, another primitive faculty, is recognised by Christianity. There is an injunction, “ Strive that ye may excel,” and the Corinthian believers were told to “ desire earnestly the best gifts ; ” and of still higher directions of this faculty mention will presently be made.



Firmness is recognised, when the Christian is told to “ remain stedfast in the faith ;” to “ hold fast that which is good.”

This preceptive part of the Christian system cannot be left without a remark being made on the way in which knowledge is communicated in the word of God. Any one reading the Bible with attention, will perceive that comparisons and parables are the most common forms of instruction. Now, it is a fact established by Phrenology, that the faculty of Comparison is one with which men are most abundantly endowed : indeed, if any faculty predominates in the mental constitution, it is this. And in the modes of instruction adopted in the Bible we see so striking a coincidence, the parabolical and the like, being those which abound, and which are the proper food of this faculty ; a circumstance that cannot be attributed to chance, but must be ascribed to this, that the Author of the Christian system is one intimately acquainted with our frames.

In general, it may be remarked of the precepts of Christianity, that they are of



the widest extent, embracing every diversity of character, and persons in every situation ;—the rich, the poor ; the ignorant, the learned ; the noble, the ignoble. The system being of such general application, and pretending, as it does, to come from the Creator of all, it follows as a necessary consequence, that its precepts must be so suited to all, that none can put an unjust interpretation upon them. How is this to be done ? is an important inquiry : what suits one mind is not adapted to another. Christianity, in all the dignity of being a revelation from heaven, commands the proudest, the noblest, the wisest, the mightiest, to bow down as little children, and receive, with the wayfaring man, in the spirit of child-like humility, its instructions. If a system did not come from God, this would be presumption : but so ordering all to be abased, testifies to its divine origin ; and immediately points out a distinction between it and all the systems of philosophy, the teachers of which had one set of doctrines for the rich and another for the poor ; and by requiring all to hear as little children, who believe all that they hear,



the difference of decision arising from different constitution of mind is set aside.

Having thus considered this mean of enabling the Christian to resist the trials to which he will be exposed in passing through the world, the next will be pointed out.

One of the most powerful means of stirring up men to run in the career of duty, is the setting an example. Look at Napoleon at the Bridge of Lodi; Alexander, at the city of Tyre. Example appeals to our Imitation and Self-esteem, which faculties excite the desire of doing what has been done. It seems natural to expect that the God of our nature would not, in a system coming from him, let this powerful motive to action be disregarded. No; the Christian has a glorious example, leading him to aim at perfection. He sees in Jesus Christ his original, and all that he strives is to be made like Him. He beholds Him as the Captain of his salvation, made perfect through sufferings. He holds the world as a theatre of war, (carried on indeed, on his part, with weapons of peace,) on which are unfurled the banner of Him



he loves, and the flag of the evil one. Taking his place under the former, he is comforted by the promise, that, through him He will be more than conqueror; and beholds his own victory in that of his leader. Yes; looking forward by Hope to a future day, the Christian beholds in lively portraiture the triumphs of his Lord: he sees the enemies of his King following as captives: experiences the sweetness of the odours of his Priest's atoning blood: views the triumphal entry of his Captain into the heavenly Jerusalem: beholds the gates of Zion open: hears the resounding and glorious question, "Who is the King of Glory?" and joins in the choral reply, with innumerable spirits, "The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors: And the King of Glory shall come in." Psalm xxiv. 8, 9. Thus the apostle felt, 2 Cor. ii. 14.

The remaining means recognised in the word of God, as enabling the Christian to resist temptation, and to overcome the many and powerful enemies with whom he



has to contend, consists of rewards and punishments.

In a human government it is impossible to give virtue a positive reward. Vice, it is true, may be punished ; and punishment is the only sanction, a powerful one indeed, possessed by an earthly government. Individuals may be rewarded ; but the ribbon and the star await only a few. For whence are rewards to come but from a tax upon the community ? and whence the means to bestow a premium on every one who abstains from murder, theft, and other misdeeds ? But the faculties recognise, as the God fitted for adoration, a Being in whom Omnipotence is a prominent feature. They acknowledge that in Him there exists a power to reward all. In his very attribute of Omnipotence, they behold an exhaustless treasury to employ in rewarding those who do well, and in punishing them who do ill. In the Christian system God is represented as dispensing rewards and punishments ; and these are so many motives appealing to Love of Approbation, Acquisitiveness, Cautiousness, and Hope, faculties existent in our nature. To the three first the glorious prospects held forth



in the Bible appeal with a mighty energy, while the dismal futurities that await those who disobey the commands of God appeal to the last mentioned faculty with a peculiar force. And to point out the nature of the former prospects, images the most glorious are employed ; while, on the other hand, to show the terrors of the other condition, the most dreadful similitudes are used. Indeed, to exhibit the happiness of the good, every thing lovely, beauteous, and grand in nature and art is collected : and to show the misery of the bad, every object the most horrible, terrific, and unpleasant is presented.

These means, recognised in the Christian system as necessary for the effectual aid of man, imply an excessive weakness on the part of him by whom they are needed. Indeed, this peculiar state of human nature, proved by phrenology in demonstrating that man is of necessity evil, is one which Christianity most boldly avers, but against which all philosophy but phrenology rises in opposition. Indeed, this humiliation of human nature philosophers have ever held to be opposed to the practice of what is good : and they, in their wisdom,



have thought fit to adopt another plan ; and have, in their pretended anxiety for the interests of mankind, talked loudly about the dignity of human nature. It is a delightful thing to see that phrenological science testifies to the accuracy of Christianity. Indeed, it is a matter continually pressed home on the Christian's mind, that he is weak, and on this account he is told to flee from temptation ; begs of God to "lead him not into temptation," and is taught, that "as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine," no more can he, except he abide in Christ. Indeed, without continual faith in Christ, he can do nothing, so strong is the evil tendency of his nature : and though the apostle could do all things, as he himself says, yet it was "through Christ that strengthened him."

Thus the means, which Christianity professes as such as will enable the Christian to come off more than a conqueror, have passed in review ; and the coincidences which have been pointed out between them and the faculties on which they act, existing in the mind, are so numerous as to lead to the conviction, that both Christ-



ianity and man's self are the work of the same author.

That this conclusion is just, and that the means are efficacious to the end, will be more fully established by contrasting these means with those of philosophy ; and secondly, by some examples of their efficacy. The philosopher subdues his meaner passions by the power of reason ; of this notice has been taken. His self-esteem is his chief defence against enormities of every kind ; and, though he pretends to despise the approbation of his fellow-men, it is for this, in a great measure, that he is outwardly moral. He adores himself, a more corrupted object of worship than the stocks and stones before which the savage bows. These two faculties, combined with his Moral Sentiments and his Intellect, have to resist the impetuous torrent of his animal propensities. A weak barrier indeed !

This method of inducing morality is one, which man has devised ; and which, like all other human institutions, must, from its very nature, be confined to a few ; because by few the opportunities of the phi-



losopher are possessed. What must become of the poor, the ignorant, the hard-working class of society? How must they subjugate their passions? They have no philosophy, no languages, no sciences, no opportunities of studying the fine arts. Some other plan must be for them. Christianity suits their case; and produces in them a higher morality than that possessed by any philosopher. It is by the belief of a testimony, which is attended with a love of God as its consequence. This is the foundation of real morality; and, when we review the commencement of a holy life, and the means for its successful prosecution, as exhibited in Christianity, and consider the source of philosophical morality together with its effects, we see how the apostle might well ask, "Hath not God shown the wisdom of this world to be foolishness?" Indeed, contrast the means of defence belonging to the philosopher with that of which the Christian can boast. Weigh the relative powers of the coat of mail, formed by Self Esteem and Love of Approbation, in which the philosopher is incased, and of the "breastplate of faith



and love," and of the "helmet, the hope of salvation." Estimate the resisting influence of the sayings of antiquity with the word of God, "the Sword of the Spirit." Consider whether it is better to have the armour of philosophy, or "the whole armour of God," in order to "be able to withstand in the evil day;" whether, "to have the loins girt about" with philosophy, or "with truth;" whether to have "on the breastplate of righteousness," or the targe of pride; whether, "to have the feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace," or with the Stoical doctrines of philosophic speculation; whether, to use the language of "prayer," or the proud utterance of determined independence. Phrenology says that we are weak, evilly-inclined creatures; and, being such, approves of the Christian's armour.

The philosopher may perhaps boast that he has before him as an object of imitation, Virtue. But what is this? She is a plaything to be looked upon in the days of prosperity; but, in the days of adversity, Hope turns away from her with disgust. The Stoics may deny what they like; but



their boasts are insults upon human nature, and contradictions to common experience. Their conduct belied their doctrines : Brutus, one of their noblest, cried in the agonies of death, that Virtue had forsaken him.

In the illustration of the efficaciousness of the means which Christianity recognises, a few examples may be given.

One of the most striking circumstances connected with the promulgation of Christianity is the meanness of its preachers. Several of them were but fishermen : men of low birth, having little education, and as such, generally very obsequious to the great. Yet, such persons were boldly to state the truths of Christianity before kings and rulers. Among the number, Peter stands pre-eminent, not only for the conspicuous place which he holds, but for his forwardness. No doubt he was a blunt, warm-hearted man ; meant to do all that he said, not aware of the difficulties in the way of putting his resolutions into execution. Under the influence of this warm-heartedness, he asserted, that though all deserted his Master, he would not. But Jesus knew the nature of the fear of man,



and seeing into futurity, warned him that he would deny him. Peter followed his Lord, who, after being betrayed by Judas, was taken before the Chief Priests. Peter followed, and when warming himself by the fire, a person charged him with being one of Christ's disciples. He denied it; and so influenced was he by the love of the approbation of his fellow-men, that he even testified to his ignorance by an oath. Yet this same Peter, after being strengthened from above, and learning to put all his trust upon God, stood before the Jewish Sanhedrim, and, in spite of their threats boldly stated, that he was determined to preach the gospel; adding, "whether it be right to obey God or men, judge ye." Here we see the same faculty, Love of Approbation, differently directed, and the effects are widely diverse. Indeed, I know no change more striking: when directed to man, Peter lied for fear of a menial servant: when directed to God, all the terrors of the Jewish Sanhedrim could not move him. Peter was Peter with his faculties misdirected in the first case: in the second,



was Peter with his faculties in proper direction.

Who has ever equalled Paul? What sufferings he endured for the sake of Christ; and the almost miraculous labours that he performed in testifying to the truth in Christ Jesus; and the glory he took to himself in being so honoured, as to be permitted to suffer in defence of the truths he stated, are acknowledged by him to have sprung from *faith*. Indeed, in writing to the Hebrews, he gives a long list of those who had, *through faith*, subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens, women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection. Heb. xi.

Many might be the instances adduced from those living in later times, but this is not necessary. The best reference is the part mentioned above. But if any wish



others, I would refer them to *Biographia Evangelica*, by Middleton; and to the history of the Waldenses, by Jones.

In coming to a conclusion, it is trusted, that the proposition is completely proved: and that, so strict and so exact is the coincidence between Phrenology and Christianity, as to lead every unbiassed mind to conclude, that a series of evidences to the Christian system has been made out, quite satisfactory of the general statement that the Bible is the word of God.

If some, however, do not think this, they must have the candour to allow that the views introduced throughout these pages have tended to show how science can be applied in the elucidation of Scripture; and to impress on the mind, that the only person, "who overcometh the world," is he, who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John v. 5.

Another important truth which this investigation has tended to show, is, that adoration, unless guided by the intellect, and given birth to by the heart, is vain and unacceptable in the sight of God. And it will, it is hoped, be seen, that that excite-



ment of devotional feeling, produced by a solemn aisle, by grand music, or by the fervid eloquence of a preacher, is no more the spirit of devotion, than the hideous noises with which the inhabitants of another quarter of the world welcome the visit of an eclipse. Indeed, if the reader, on rising from the perusal of this work, should be determined to cast aside all confidence in frames and feelings; to call no man master on earth; and to read the word of Truth for himself, the writer will not have laboured in vain. No: but will look forward in confidential delight, that the persons so stirred up, will, from beholding "as in a glass the glory of the Lord, be changed into the same image from glory to glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor. iii. 18.

To the Christian who may peruse these pages, the author begs to point out how much is dependent upon each one exhibiting the influence of that belief which he professes. The gospel, if believed, *must*, as has been shown, produce the effects stated. If it does not, then it may with certainty be concluded, that the life is not by faith. From



the blinding influence of established religions, it happens that many assume the name of Christians, who do not believe in Jesus Christ ; they believe another gospel, or else do not understand the one to which they have assented ; for, in the parable of the sower, only those brought forth fruit that *understood* the word preached. This may anticipate an objection, drawn from the deficiencies, and even flagrant wickedness of professed Christians, that the gospel does not produce the effects stated. The followers of Christ should be living epistles, known and read by all men.

Theophrastus remarks, “ that the whole aim and credit of philosophy consisted in obtaining a happy life.” This may be the aim of philosophy, but it is the credit of Christianity to induce and secure happiness. Indeed, the belief of the Gospel, the first step in Christianity, brings man into reconciliation with God, the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolation. The Christian thus is permitted to go to the fountain-head of joy. But it is in the hour of death that Christianity is particularly comforting. When the darkness of death be-

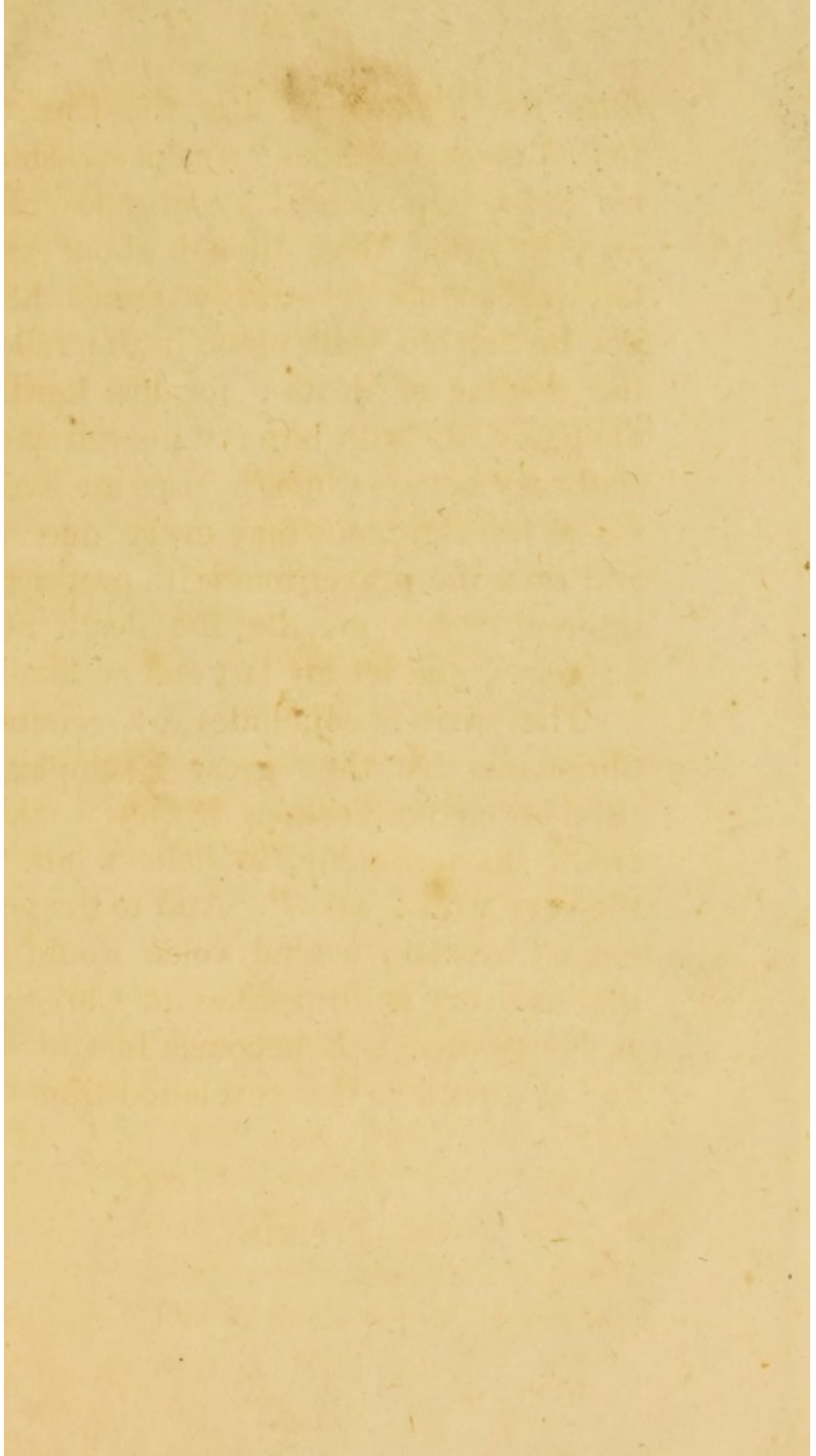


dims the horizon of life, the Christian's soul often experiences "a calm sun-shine ;" his heart is possessed by an indescribable joy ; knowing that, though about to bid farewell to all his earthly friends, he will not be left to walk alone in the valley of the shadow of death ; for his Lord, his Shepherd, is with him ; " his rod and his staff they comfort him." Let me live the life of the righteous may every one seek : and then the prayer may with propriety be uttered, " Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

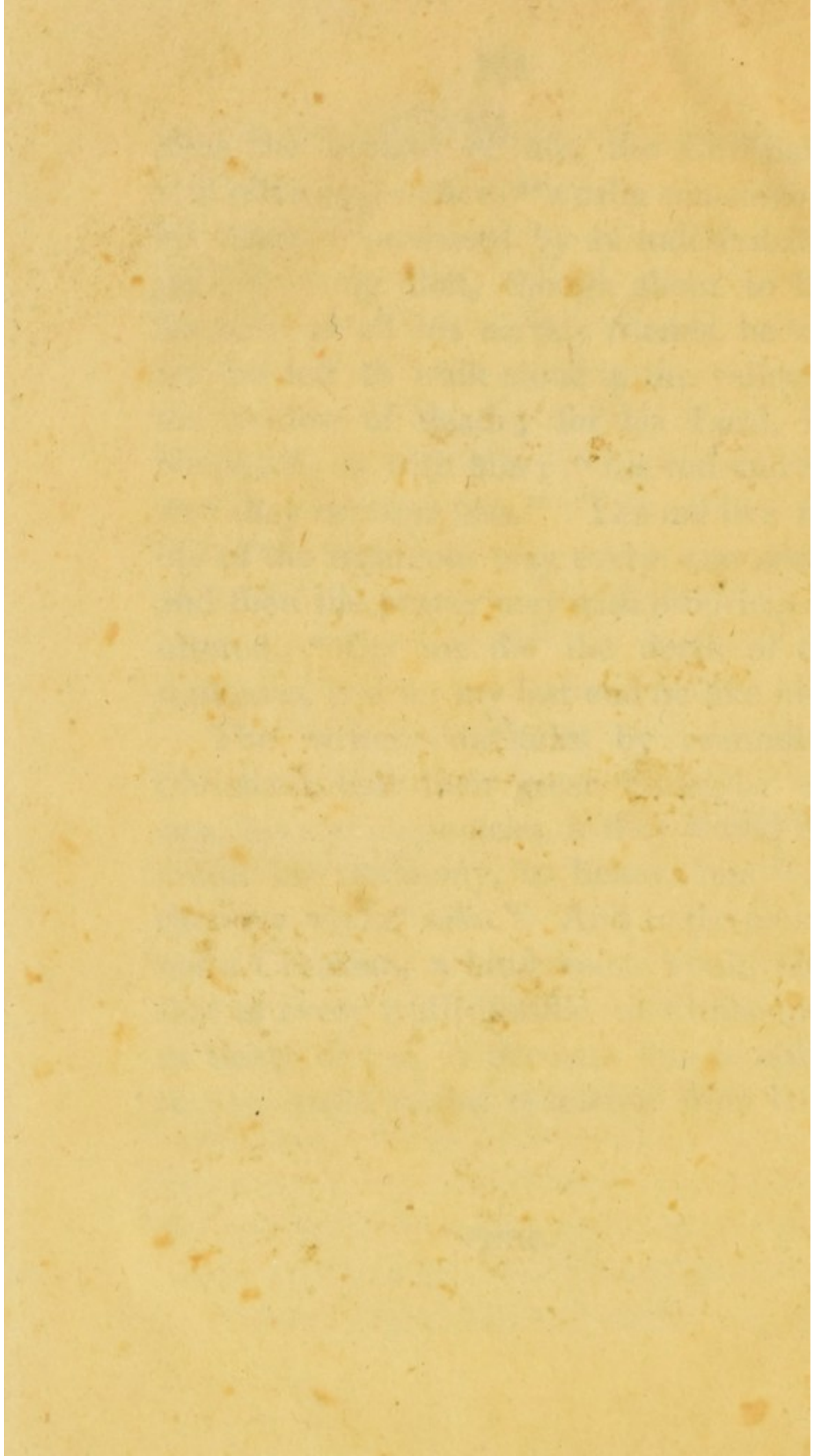
The writer concludes by reminding Christians, that their great Exemplar desired his contemporaries, if they would not credit his testimony, to believe him " for the very works' sake." And to the person not a Christian, a kind voice would hint, that as every truth testifies to Christianity as being divine, it becomes him to study and to attend to this revelation from God.

FINIS.

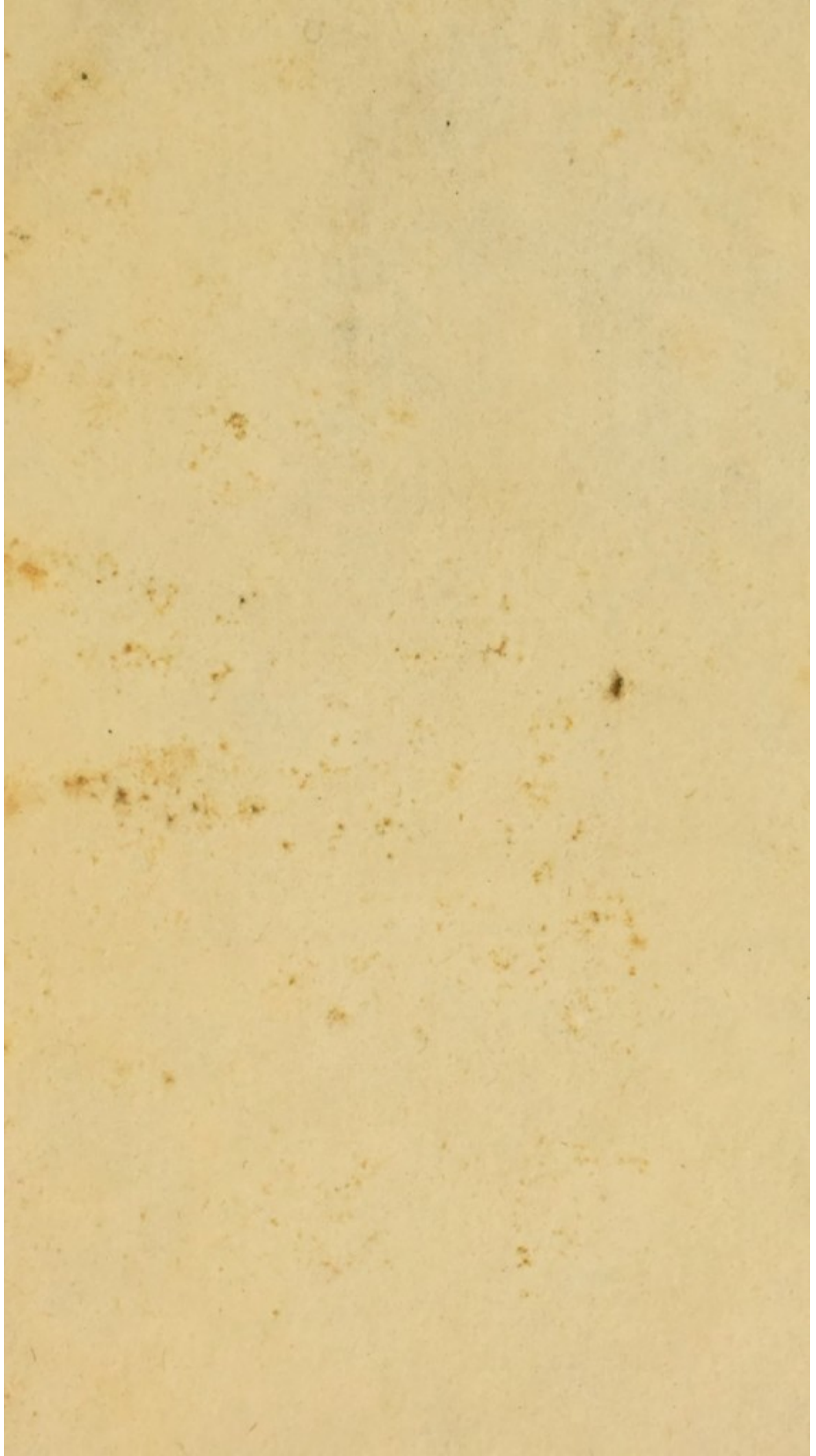














Internal Evidences  
—  
OF  
CHRISTIANITY  
DEDUCED FROM  
Phrenology.