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"Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek thy good."
Psalm cxxii, 9.

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IMMUTABILITY OF GOD.

God is unlike all other beings in the universe. All other intelligences and all created things are subject to change, and are constantly changing. But God is unchangeable. He is the same, yesterday, to-day and forever, without the least variableness or shadow of turning. Angels and the spirits of the just have the image of God, and are in some degree like him in holiness and happiness. But they are still mutable:—although they are confirmed and elect, and exalted above the power of sin and death; they are changeable: for they are no doubt advancing in knowledge and happiness—rising to higher degrees of perfection; and every accession to their knowledge or happiness is a change. Immutability therefore, as well as the perfection of his attributes, distinguishes God from all other beings in the universe. “His ways are not as our ways, nor his thoughts as our thoughts, for as the Heavens are high above the earth, so are his ways above our ways, and his thoughts above our thoughts.”

That GOD IS IMMUTABLE, is a grand and important truth. An enlightened view of this attribute is indispensable to a knowledge of his perfections and government; and a knowledge of the character and government of God is the foundation of all true religion. The greatest mistakes in religion, both in sentiment and practice, among Christians and among Heathen, arise from erroneous or partial views of the character of God. This subject then, is an important one.

Before entering upon the discussion of it, it is proper for us to recollect, that in learning the character of God, in forming ideas of Him, the Bible, and the Bible alone, must be our guide; his Word and Spirit alone can direct us, for his nature and attributes are incomprehensible. They are too high to be attained by reason. They cannot be conceived by human understandings, or comprehended by finite minds. We are creatures of yesterday. We were, but a few days since, called into life, and opened our eyes for the first time on the works of God:—and we have, perhaps, exercised our reason very little, in inquiring about Him, and con-

content with this truth in theory, and do not trouble themselves to put it in practice. As Christianity is gaining ground in our highly favored country, and as God in great mercy is, we trust, preparing the hearts of many to receive its truths; those who have been already called, should manifest their zeal and sincerity, by adorning the doctrine they profess, in the eyes of others. Let them therefore carefully avoid bringing a reproach on the holy cause, and pray ardently and fervently that every wayward disposition of their hearts may be subdued by the power of divine grace, until the fruits of the spirit become manifest in *love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.*

PLAN FOR COLLECTING HISTORICAL RECORDS.

THE principal difficulty in the way of a Historian, is to collect well authenticated facts. Every man who sits down to record the annals of his country, whether civil or ecclesiastical, finds this to be the case. Generations appear and perish, without a record of their origin, their exploits, or their end; and future historians search in vain among the hints and fragments which have escaped the general oblivion, to discover adequate materials for an accurate delineation of the age. Is it not a duty which we owe to our country, and to posterity, to do something towards the removal of this evil?

I have a proposal to make, which appears well calculated to secure the accumulation of historical *data*, for the annalists of our country. It is of general application, but that it may be brought forward in a more palpable form, I shall consider it with reference to our own state. It is briefly this,

Let every friend of science and literature provide a book, to be devoted to this special purpose. Let him from time to time, enter into this book, every hint with regard to the physical, civil, and religious history of his own country. For instance, let him take some pains to discover the exact boundaries of the district to which he directs his attention, the geographical features and physical peculiarities of the country. In this way maps may be corrected, and geographers furnished with new information. A thousand inquiries will here suggest themselves, with regard to the face of the country, the nature of the soil, its productions, the mode of cultivation, its climate, rivers, mountains, caves, and curiosities. Let these inquiries be constantly kept in view, and answered as the information is gradually acquired. The natural history of the country, will be an interesting field of inquiry. The

historian will record the names and characters of the animals, the fruits and flowers, the minerals, and atmospherical phenomena of his neighborhood.

The next topic of interest will naturally be the inhabitants of the land. Who were the Aborigines? Name the tribes, and commit to writing all that can be discovered of their history, language, manners, religion, fate, and monumental remains. Again—who were the first European settlers? Did they migrate directly from the other continent, or from older colonies in the new? What was the date, and what the circumstances of their settlement? Name the leaders in the enterprise, and such families of their descendants as remain. Detail their history, and the history of the country. Proceed to record all that can be learned of their subsequent adventures and fate, including anecdotes of remarkable characters, and important events of the past or present time. The religious history of the country will next demand attention.—Who first introduced the worship of God? What sects have flourished, or now exist? Enumerate the places of worship, and collect anecdotes of the clergy. State the comparative force and prospects of various denominations. The accurate observer will after this be prepared to say, what are the wants of the people; in what respects improvements are needed, and how far they are practicable.

All these particulars may be arranged and methodized under their appropriate heads. The gentlemen of different counties may have a mutual understanding, and joint conference. Associations may be formed, and in time a Historical Society for the state may be matured. Gentlemen of leisure, professional men, ministers of the Gospel, and academical professors, will find in these inquiries abundant recreation; and the archives of such a fraternity would undoubtedly prove a treasure to the country. Each man by thus concentrating his powers, may be accurately and extensively acquainted with his own district, and our public journals will be enriched with facts, which but for this care, would sink into utter forgetfulness.

QUIS?

EDUCATION FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY.

“Are the efforts now making to educate young men for the Gospel Ministry, authorized by Scripture?”

In elucidating this question, our remarks will be arranged under the following heads;—1. The efforts now making to educate young men for the Ministry;—2. The object contem-