

THE
CHRISTIAN'S MAGAZINE;
ON A NEW PLAN.

No. VIII.]

AUGUST, 1810.

[Vol. III.

Few Biblical critics have acquired higher reputation than Michaelis. His Introduction to the New Testament is an elaborate performance, extremely useful to the theological student. It is, however, with all its excellences, replete with unwarranted censures upon different parts of the sacred text. The following Dissertation is a seasonable corrective to the objections which he has offered to the authenticity of the Apocalypse, or book of Revelation. "We consider it," say the editors of the *Christian Observer*," (vol. i. p. 726,) and we heartily concur in opinion with them, "We consider it as important, not only because it rescues from undeserved condemnation a very valuable part of the sacred volume, but more especially because its influence will extend to the whole body of canonical Scripture, and will serve as a check to the temerity of the German professor in other instances. Whatever deference the reader may be disposed to pay to the authority of so profound a scholar, on the very subject of his profession, he will suspect that the evidence upon which other books (of Scripture) are rejected or questioned, has as little foundation as that which has produced the rejection of the Apocalypse."—p. 723.

A Dissertation, in which the evidence for the Authenticity and Divine Inspiration of the Apocalypse is stated, and vindicated from the Objections of the Late Professor J. D. Michaelis; by JOHN CHAPPEL WOODHOUSE, M. A.

CHAP. I.

OF THE METHOD PURSUED IN THIS INQUIRY.

IN the following pages I propose to review the evidence which has been adduced, for the authenticity and divine in-

Vol. III.—No. VIII.

3 H

We call upon you, christian brethren, as the professed disciples of Christ, to consider the important crisis, and the momentous object, which are now brought to your view.—You acknowledge that you are not your own, but that you are bought with a price, and are bound to glorify God in your bodies and spirits, which are his.—If it be so, *your silver and your gold are the Lord's*; and you are under obligations to employ them in such a manner as will most effectually promote the glory of Him, by whose bounty they were given you.—With this great principle in view, consider the pressing calls of large and flourishing Churches, who solicit in vain for ministers to break to them the bread of life. Consider the loud and affecting cries of many destitute settlements, which know nothing of those precious privileges with which you are surrounded. Consider the honour of the Church, with which you are connected; the interests of religion for which you profess to feel; the infinite value of immortal souls, who are perishing for lack of knowledge; the authority of that God who commands you to compassionate them; and the guilt which you will contract if the health of the Church should languish, or souls perish, by your negligence or parsimony. Consider these things; and then say, whether you can consent to withhold a portion of your substance, when called upon to aid in one of the most important concerns ever presented to your consideration.

Brethren, we leave this subject for your solemn and prayerful deliberation.—Praying that He who has the hearts of all flesh in his hands, may dispose you to do that which is well pleasing in his sight, and honourable to your Christian profession; and that grace, mercy, and peace, may be multiplied unto you, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, we are, in the bonds of the Gospel, your friends and brethren.

Signed by order of the Assembly,

JOHN B. ROMEYN, Moderator.



THE PLAN OF THE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL, &c.

THE Presbyteries were called upon to state what they had respectively done with respect to the recommendation of the last Assembly, relative to the establishment of a Theological school.

The committee appointed to present to the Assembly a plan for the establishment of a Theological school, reported, and the report was laid on the table.

The committee appointed further to consider the subject of Theological schools, reported, and the report, being read and amended, was adopted, and is as follows, viz.

That after maturely deliberating on the subject committed to them, they submit to the Assembly the following results.

1. It is evident, that, not only a majority of the Presbyteries which have reported on this subject, but also a majority of all the Presbyteries, under the care of this Assembly, have expressed a decided opinion in favour of the establishment of a Theological school or schools in our Church.

2. It appears to the committee, that, although, according to the statement already reported to the Assembly, there is an equal number of Presbyteries in favour of the first plan, which contemplates a single school for the whole Church; and in favour of the third plan, which contemplates the erection of a school in each Synod; yet, as several of the objections made to the first plan, are founded entirely on misconception, and will be completely obviated by developing the details of that plan; it seems fairly to follow, that there is a greater amount of Presbyterian suffrage in favour of a single school, than of any other plan.

3. Under these circumstances, the committee are of opinion, that as much light has been obtained from the reports of Presbyteries, on this subject, as would be likely to result from a renewal of the reference; that no advantage will probably arise from further delay in this important concern, but, on the contrary, much serious inconvenience and evil; that the present Assembly is bound to attempt to carry into execution some one of the plans proposed: and that the first plan, appearing to have, on the whole, the greatest share of public sentiment in its favour, ought of course to be adopted.

4. Your committee, therefore, recommend, that the present General Assembly declare its approbation and adoption of this plan, and immediately commence a course of measures for carrying it into execution, as promptly and extensively as possible; and for this purpose, they recommend to the Assembly, the adoption of the following resolutions.

Resolved,

1. That the state of our Churches, the loud and affecting calls of destitute frontier settlements, and the laudable exertions of various Christian denominations around us; all demand that the collected wisdom, piety, and zeal of the Presbyterian

Church be, without delay, called into action, for furnishing the Church with a large supply of able and faithful ministers.

2. That the General Assembly will, in the name of the Great Head of the Church, immediately attempt to establish a seminary for securing to candidates for the ministry more extensive and efficient theological instruction, than they have heretofore enjoyed. The local situation of this seminary is hereafter to be determined.

3. That in this seminary, when completely organized, there shall be, at least, three professors; who shall be elected by, and hold their offices during, the pleasure of the General Assembly, and who shall give a regular course of instruction in divinity, oriental and biblical literature, and in ecclesiastical history and Church government, and on such other subjects as may be deemed necessary. It being, however, understood that, until sufficient funds can be obtained for the complete organization and support of the proposed seminary, a smaller number of professors than three may be appointed to commence the system of instruction.

4. That exertions be made to provide such an amount of funds for this seminary as will enable its conductors to afford gratuitous instruction, and, where it is necessary, gratuitous support, to all such students as may not themselves possess adequate pecuniary means.

5. That the Rev. Drs. Green, Woodhull, Miller, and Romeyn; the Rev. Messrs. Archibald Alexander, James Richards, and Amzi Armstrong, be a committee to digest and prepare a plan of a theological seminary; embracing in detail the fundamental principles of the Institution, together with regulations for guiding the conduct of the instructors and the students; and prescribing the best mode of visiting, and of controlling and supporting the whole system. This plan is to be reported to the next General Assembly.

6. That the Rev. Messrs. Jedediah Chapman, Jonas Coe, William Morrison, James Carnahan, and Mr. Isaac Hutton, of the Synod of Albany; the Rev. Drs. Samuel Miller, Philip Milledoler, John B. Romeyn, and Aaron Woolworth; the Rev. Messrs. James Richards, David Comfort, and Isaac Vandoren, and Col. Henry Rutgers, of the Synod of New-York and New-Jersey; the Rev. Drs. Ashbel Green, John M'Knight, and James Muir; the Rev. Messrs. Nathaniel Irwin, John Glendy, Archibald Alexander, John E. Latta, John B. Slemons, John B. Patterson, and James Inglis, and Mr. Robert Ralston, of the Synod of Philadelphia; the Rev. John D. Blair, William Williamson, Samuel Houston, Samuel

Doake, and Benjamin Grigsby, of the Synod of Virginia; the Rev. Samuel Ralston, James Guthrie, William Speer, and James Hughes, of the Synod of Pittsburgh; the Rev. Robert G. Wilson, James Blythe, Archibald Cameron, and Joshua L. Wilson, of the Synod of Kentucky; the Rev. Drs. James Hall, and Henry Kollock, and the Rev. Messrs. Malcham M'Neir, James M'Ilhenney, and Andrew Flinn, of the Synod of the Carolinas—be, and they hereby are, appointed agents, to solicit donations in the course of the current year, within the bounds of their respective Synods, for the establishment and support of the proposed seminary; and if any of said agents should be unable or unwilling to act in this case, it will be his or their duty to inform the Moderator of his or their Synod, for the time being, who is hereby authorized, if he think proper, to appoint a substitute or substitutes, as the case may require. These agents are to report to the next General Assembly.

Resolved, That the members of this Assembly generally, and all the clergy of our denomination within our bounds, do aid the exertions of those who shall go on this business.

7. That, as filling the Church with a learned and able ministry without a corresponding portion of real piety, would be a curse to the world, and an offence to God and his people; so the General Assembly think it their duty to state, that in establishing a seminary for training up ministers, it is their earnest desire to guard, as far as possible, against so great an evil. And they do hereby solemnly pledge themselves to the Churches under their care, that, in forming and carrying into execution the plan of the proposed seminary, it will be their endeavour to make it, under the blessing of God, a *nursery of vital piety*, as well as of sound theological learning, and to train up persons for the ministry, who shall be lovers, as well as defenders, of the truth as it is in Jesus, friends of revivals of religion, and a blessing to the Church of God.

8. That as the constitution of our Church guarantees to every Presbytery the right of judging of its own candidates for licensure and ordination; so the Assembly think it proper to state, most explicitly, that every Presbytery and Synod will, of course, be left at full liberty, to countenance the proposed plan or not, at pleasure; and to send their students to the projected seminary or keep them, as heretofore, within their own bounds, as they may think most conducive to the prosperity of the Church.

9. That the professors in the seminary shall not, in any case, be considered as having a right to license candidates to

preach the Gospel, but that all such candidates shall be remitted to their respective Presbyteries to be licensed as heretofore.

10. Resolved, finally, that Dr. Samuel Miller, and Rev. James Richards, be a committee, to prepare a draught of an address from this Assembly to the Churches under our care; calling their attention to the subject of a Theological School, and earnestly soliciting their patronage and support, in the execution of the plan now proposed.

Certified by

JACOB J. JANEWAY, Stated Clerk.



REPORT of the Trustees of the Missionary Society of Connecticut to said Society, convened at Ellington on the third Tuesday in June, 1810.

REV. FATHERS AND BRETHREN,

Your Trustees have the happiness to lay before you a report, exhibiting great encouragements to continue, and as far as practicable, to increase your charitable attention to our destitute *friends* and *neighbours* in the new settlements.

In this report, only a general view of the condition and prospect of your missions can be given. For an account in detail, of the number and names of your missionaries, together with the particular fields of labour allotted them, of the books distributed, of the expenditures of the Society, and of the state of the Funds, we must refer to the printed Narrative for the year 1809, copies of which are transmitted for distribution among the brethren of the Society.

The attention of your Trustees has been directed to fields of missionary labour according to the necessities of the people, the prospect of usefulness, and the ability of the Society.

Wherever it appeared, from correct information, that missionaries were needed, the most probable mode of benefiting them has been sought. And none, whose circumstances called for help, have been left without attention, if it were in our power to afford them assistance.

You will rejoice with us to learn from the communications