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*A Letter on the divine inspiration
of the holy scriptures.*

SIR,
“**A**LL scripture is given by inspiration of God.” This is a cardinal truth—the main pillar on which the knowledge of every thing important to man is built. To question this is an attempt to set the world afloat without pilot or compass. By scripture is meant the holy bible in all its parts, without the exception of a single paragraph or word.* The sentence, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God,” is a quotation from the writings of the apostle Paul. He had particular respect to the scriptures of the old-

* This is not to be understood, that every speaker in the holy scriptures, spake as moved by the Holy Ghost ; or that every word or speech narrated in them, is true. The serpent said to Eve, “Ye shall not surely die :” and Job’s friends did not always speak the thing which was right concerning God. The erroneous opinions of even good men, as well as their faults in practice, are often related in scripture. All we understand to be intended is, that the penmen of the bible, in every word of it, were guided by unerring inspiration.

EDITORS.

testament ; for the new-testament was but in part written. It however applies as well to the one testament as to the other. Perhaps the apostle wrote *this* by the spirit of prophecy, and intended to include them both. Both are written by the same inspiration, and equally bear the stamp of divine authenticity. This will appear as we proceed.

The inspiration of God here intended, is a divine, infallible superintendence of every portion that is written, so that God is the author of the whole. There is however some difference with respect to the agency of the Holy Spirit in the inspiration of the various parts of which it is composed. Some part of it was written by an immediate revelation of the things contained to the inspired writers, of which they had been entirely ignorant before. Of other parts the writers had more or less acquaintance of the things recorded, either by ordinary information, or their own personal knowledge. The history of the creation of the world, and most of the events before the flood claim to have been matter of pure revelation. Moses, who has giv-

POETRY.

COMMUNICATED AS ORIGINAL.

Messrs. EDITORS,

IF you think the following little pieces, or any of them, deserving of a place in your very valuable publication, they are at your service.

PHILANDER.

Lynch, (Virginia) Oct. 30, 1801.

HYMN I.

The Christian's review of his former state.

1. **L**ONG in the paths of sin I trode,
And wander'd far away from
God ;

By mercies and by threats unmov'd,
Tho' conscience oft my deeds reprov'd.

2. Chain'd down to earth, a willing slave,
To her vain toys my heart I gave ;
A thousand disappointments found,
Yet still pursu'd the weary round.

3. The gospel oft I heard proclaim'd,
And Christ a precious Saviour nam'd ;
His glory was conceal'd from me,
Because my need I did not see.

4. I heard of God's most righteous law,
But nothing of its beauty saw :
Its curse alarm'd my soul in vain ;
I soon return'd to sin again.

5. To think of death I could not bear,
Because it fill'd my soul with fear :
Immers'd in schemes of earthly bliss,
'Gainst heav'n itself I clos'd my eyes.

6. Thus sinking fast to endless woe,
My dang'rous state I did not know ;
Dreaming that all would yet be well,
I slumber'd on the brink of hell.

7. How great the pow'r, how rich the
grace,
Which snatch'd me from that dreadful
place !

No less than grace and pow'r divine
Could break the death-like sleep of sin.

8. Thy hand, O God, which form'd the
light,

And pour'd it forth thro' ancient night,
Thy hand alone could make me see
And know aright myself and Thee.

HYMN II.

The Lord's-day Morning.

1. **L**ORD, to thy house I now repair,
The house of public praise and
prayer ;

Let this vain world be left behind,
Nor trifling cares distract my mind.

2. O meet me in thy courts to day,
Teach me acceptably to pray ;
And when I join the sacred song,
Let pure devotion move my tongue.

3. Th' attentive ear to me impart,
The humble, understanding heart ;
Thy heav'nly counsels make me know,
And teach my soul to prize them too.

4. Strengthen my trembling faith, O
Lord,

Shine by thy Spirit on thy word ;
Its sacred influence make me feel,
And all my unbelief dispel.

5. This dulness from my heart remove,
Reanimate my drooping love ;
Let my best treasure be on high,
And ev'ry sinful passion die.

6. Then in the midst of deep distress,
When pain and sorrow me oppress,
I'll call thy promises to mind,
And there sweet consolation find.

HYMN III.

The cross of Christ.

1. **B**LEST Jesus ! when thy cross I
view,

That myst'ry to the heav'nly host,
I gaze with grief and rapture too,
And all my soul's in wonder lost.

2. What strange compassion fill'd thy
breast,
That brought thee from thy throne on
high

To woes that cannot be express'd,
To be despis'd, to groan, and die !

3. Was it for man, rebellious man,
Sunk by his crimes below the grave,
Who, justly doom'd to endless pain,
Found none to pity or to save ;

4. For man didst thou forsake the sky,
To bleed upon th' accursed tree :
And didst thou taste of death to buy
Immortal life and bliss for me !

5. Had I a voice to praise thy name
Loud as the trump that wakes the dead ;
Had I the raptur'd seraph's flame,
My debt of love could ne'er be paid.

6 Yet, Lord, a sinner's heart receive,
This burden'd, contrite heart of mine,
(Thou know'st I've nought beside to
give.)

And let it be forever thine.

HYMN IV.

The dying Christian.

1. **T**HOU' on the bed of death I lie
Opprest with pain and care,
Yet in the Lord I put my trust,
And find sweet comfort there.
2. What tho' I sink in sorrow low,
I never will complain ;
My God will raise my spirit up,
Nor let my hope be vain.
3. Sore trials now my Father sends
To prove my faith and love ;
His grace supports and fits my soul
For rest and joy above.
4. There is a glorious world to come,
I view it from afar,
Where sin and sorrow are no more,
Nor peace is mixt with fear.
5. The grave shall not confine me long ;
This feeble flesh shall rise ;
Then shall I fly with raptures new
To dwell where Jesus is.
6. There free from interposing clouds
Shall I behold his face ;
And endless ages be too short
To sing redeeming grace.

HYMN V.

On Time.

1. **T**IME flies apace,
In ceaseless race
Man hurries to the tomb,
In bliss or wee,
Ere long to know
His everlasting doom.
2. Then let thy heart,
Whoe'er thou art,

To wisdom's voice incline ;
" Use well this hour
While in thy pow'r,
The next may not be thine."
PHILANDER.

On the late Revivals of Religion.

1. **H**OW dreadful was our wretch-
ed state,
Ere Jesus did appear ?
Heedless of our impending fate,
We thought no danger near.
2. We took the road of sin and death,
Despis'd a Saviour's love,
Nor fear nor hope, nor grace, nor
wrath
Our harden'd hearts could move.
3. Thy people, Lord, did only weep ;
Sorrow had drench'd their eyes,
Had laid their faith and hope asleep ;
Their days were spent in sighs.
4. But God in mercy heard their groans,
How gracious are his ways !
Rebuk'd these unbelieving moans,
And turn'd their sighs to praise.
5. See sovereign mercy wake the dead,
And crouds of sinners rise !
The Holy Spirit on them shed,
Immortal life supplies.
6. They fix their streaming eyes on God,
Repentance in their souls,
And love, praise, wonder form a
flood,
Which o'er their spirits rolls.
7. This is thy work, Almighty Lord,
And thine be all the praise.
Thine holy name shall be ador'd,
Thro' everlasting days.

MIKROS.

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