

**POPULAR OBJECTIONS TO
UNITARIAN CHRISTIANITY.
CONSIDERED AND ANSWERED
IN SEVEN DISCOURSES**

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Popular Objections to Unitarian Christianity. Considered and Answered in Seven Discourses by
George W. Burnap

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GEORGE W. BURNAP

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W. B. B.
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IN SEVEN DISCOURSES.

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By GEORGE W. BURNAP,

PASTOR OF THE FIRST INDEPENDENT CHURCH OF BALTIMORE.

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves."
PAUL.

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BOSTON:
CROSBY, NICHOLS, AND COMPANY,
111 WASHINGTON STREET.
1853.

P R E F A C E .

THE following Discourses were delivered in the First Independent Church of Baltimore, immediately after its re-opening, having undergone extensive repairs. The author took the opportunity presented by the concourse of strangers which resorted to the church during some of the succeeding Sundays, to answer some of the leading objections which are everywhere current against the faith which is there inculcated. He conceives that there is much need of such publications.

Since the first promulgation of Christianity, nothing has been more misapprehended and misrepresented than Unitarianism at the present day. It is not allowed to make its defence. It cannot

obtain a hearing. It is classified with every thing that is bad, and then people are warned against looking into it, or even hearing an exposition of its doctrines.

Unitarians are accused on all occasions of being unbelievers, — of setting reason above Scripture, — of expecting to be saved by their own merits, — of denying the Atonement, — of mutilating and explaining away the Scriptures, — of being merely moral men, and preaching mere morality, — of not being Evangelical Christians, — of advocating a system which tends to infidelity, &c.

It was the object of these Discourses, to meet and answer these objections. After their delivery, it was suggested to the author that they would be useful when published in the form of a book. It is with the hope that they may do good, in removing prejudice and in enlightening the minds of the inquiring, that they are now given to the public.

In the concluding Discourse, on the Unitarianism of Doctor Watts, there will be found some interesting facts relating to the religious opinions

PREFACE.

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and theological inquiries of that eminent Christian and devout Psalmist. It will be objected by some, perhaps, that the extracts are *ex parte*, and taken out of their connection. It may be answered, that the space of a single discourse did not permit the subject to be treated in any other way. I merely ask the reader to consider with himself whether such paragraphs could have been written by a Trinitarian in any connection. The extracts are made from the London edition of the year 1810.

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DISCOURSE I.

THE POSITION OF UNITARIANISM DEFINED.

JESUS SAITH UNTO HER, WOMAN, BELIEVE ME, THE HOUR COMETH WHEN YE SHALL NEITHER IN THIS MOUNTAIN, NOR YET AT JERUSALEM, WORSHIP THE FATHER. YE WORSHIP YE KNOW NOT WHAT. WE KNOW WHAT WE WORSHIP; FOR SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS. BUT THE HOUR COMETH, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH; FOR THE FATHER SEEKETH SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM. GOD IS A SPIRIT; AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH. — John iv. 21-24.

THESE are some of the sublimest words which were ever uttered on earth. It is in partial fulfilment of them that we, at the distance of more than eighteen centuries, “with half the convex globe between,” are assembled to worship God in the name of Christ in this beautiful temple built upon this distant shore, when the temple of Jerusalem, which then glittered afar in Oriental splendor, has long ago been razed to its foundations. I shall not attempt to describe the joy with which we again assemble in this sacred place. To many of you it has become endeared by the most tender and holy associations;