

**FIRST PRINCIPLES: OR, THE
ELEMENTS OF THE GOSPEL,
ANALYZED AND DISCUSSED IN
LETTERS TO AN INQUIRER; PP.1-
155**

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First Principles: Or, The Elements of the Gospel, Analyzed and Discussed in Letters to an Inquirer; pp.1-155 by Isaac Errett

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ISAAC ERRETT

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BY ISAAO KIRKETT.

CINCINNATI:
H. S. BOSWORTH.
1868.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE Letters composing this little volume, originally appeared in the editorial columns of the *CHRISTIAN STANDARD*—a weekly paper, devoted to the advocacy of Primitive Christianity, published in Cleveland, Ohio. At the urgent request of many of the readers of that paper, they are now published in a more permanent form, with the hope that they may redeem many honest inquirers from confusion and doubt, and lead them into a clearer understanding and better appreciation of the scope of the Bible, and of the plan of salvation.

The Letters have undergone a very slight revision—it being thought best to retain the easy and simple epistolary

style in which they were originally written.

Already we have received many encouraging assurances of the good accomplished by these Letters. Were it not that we are thus authorized to hope that they may do still larger good in this permanent form, we could not consent to their reappearance. They are affectionately urged on the attention of all anxious inquirers after truth.

ISAAC ERRETT.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 17, 1867.

FIRST PRINCIPLES,
OR THE ELEMENTS OF THE GOSPEL.

LETTER FROM AN INQUIRER.—I.

To the Editor of the Christian Standard:

DEAR SIR:—I was glad to learn, from a recent number of your paper, that you propose soon to give your readers a course of essays on what your people call "First Principles." Permit me to express the hope that you will begin soon, and that you will not forget your promise to make them plain and easy to be understood; for I assure you there is great need of plain and simple instruction on these important subjects. I have, perhaps, no right to obtrude on you my own spiritual troubles and perplexities, but it may be a help to many others, troubled in the same way, if I tell you some of my difficulties and thereby direct your pen to their removal.

I am not a professor of religion, not because I am not religiously inclined, but because I cannot see how to get my feet on the rock. I was raised religiously, in the orthodox faith, in one of the strictest of Calvinistic Churches. I was trained to study and revere the Bible, and was made familiar with its contents—especially the Old Testament. The venerable preacher to whom I looked in my boyhood with reverence and awe, as an ambassador of God, preached mostly from the Old Testament, and kept us most of the time at the base of Sinai, affirming that the law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Now, I confess to you that religion seemed to me a very awful thing, and very mysterious, too; for I never could learn definitely how to become a Christian. I heard much good preaching, but it failed to tell me how