

Your publishing the following Lines in your next Paper, will, I'm persuaded, be very acceptable to many of your Readers, as well as

Your humble Servant,

A. W.



THE Confession and Retraction of Mr. Davenport being somewhat extraordinary, as well as unexpected, has occasioned many and various Speculations.

I believe all sober Men will agree, that it is much to his Honour that he has gone so far as he has done, and declar'd his *Humiliation and Repentance* in so full and publick a Manner. And indeed that *Sorrow and Abasement* must be great and deep, which will bear any Proportion to those Dishonours he has done to the Name of God, and that vast and extensive Mischief to the Interest of true Religion. I hope his Repentance is sincere and hearty, and that his future Conduct and Behaviour will fully evidence the same.

And as for those other Ministers among us, who have been led away with the same false Spirit of Error, Disorder and Delusion, and have unhappily occasion'd Divisions and Separations in many of our Churches, it would be much for their Honour and Reputation, if they would make as free and open an Acknowledgment of their Misconduct as Mr. Davenport has done. The Reverend and Venerable Dr. COLMAN, in his excellent Letter to the Rev. Mr. Williams, I think has set them a worthy and laudable Example, whose truly Christian Spirit, and hearty love of Peace and Truth, with Holiness, are highly worthy their Imitation.

Mr. Davenport's Distinction of the Work, and the Appendages of it, may not perhaps be so clearly understood by some: His Meaning, I think, may be gather'd from his Enumeration of those Things which he must be suppos'd to intend by the Appendages of the Work; and they are these, viz. rash judging and censuring Ministers, advising and urging Separations, from them, following Impulses and Impressions, private Persons preaching and exhorting, in an authoritative Manner. Now, that these, and several other Disorders are not Appendages, but essential Parts of what has been accounted *The good Work*, is certain, and have been fully prov'd to be so, in your Paper, Numb. 443. to which the Reader is referred.

These Reflections, I think, will naturally lead up our Thoughts to the first Itinerant, the grand Instrument of these Disorders, the great Master-Builder in the Babel of Confusion which has been erecting in the four preceding Years: For certainly He it was who laid the Foundation, on which many others have been building Wood, and Hay, and Stubble. And the sad Effects of his Ministrations are seen and felt among us to this very Day. At the same Time, our Thoughts must be directed to the great Instruments which at present are employ'd to propagate and perpetuate the same Delusions. The G--st--n History, a Paper the profess'd Design of which is, to serve a Party, and keep up a religious Faction, I look upon to be the grand Engine of fomenting Divisions, and making Separations in our Churches, and of continuing the false Spirit of Error and Delusion in the Land. It was thought by many, that the real Author would have been so just and impartial, as to have published Mr. Davenport's Confession and Retraction in the G--st--n History, and I have heard he was solicited by some Friends to do it; and no doubt the Rev. Mr. Williams design'd it should be so: But could there be any Rational Expectation of this, when those Errors and Delusions which Mr. Davenport confesses and retracts, are THE VERY THINGS promoted and recommended by that History?

It is therefore unquestionably the Duty of all, both Ministers and People, who have a Regard to the Interest of true Religion, the Unity, Peace and Prosperity of our Churches, to endeavour by all possible Means to discourage and discountenance a Paper of such a pernicious Tendency.

But I think I cannot conclude this Letter, without observing, that those Ministers among us, who have steadily opposed these Errors and Delusions, and every Thing tending to them, from the Beginning of the late Times, are to be accounted worthy of double Honour; and I doubt not, but on this Account, they will be esteem'd and reverenc'd by their People.