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No. 17.

ON
THE NATURE AND NECESSITY
OF
GOOD WORKS.

LONDON :

*Published by the Missionary and Tract Society of the
New Jerusalem Church ;*

SOLD AT THEIR DEPOSITORY BY
W. NEWBERY, 6, CHENIES STREET, BEDFORD SQUARE;
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THE
DOCTRINE OF THE SCRIPTURES
RESPECTING THE
NATURE AND NECESSITY
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1. As, on the one hand, the prevailing class of religious professors have adopted the delusive notion that works have nothing to do with salvation; so, on the contrary, there are not wanting many who go to the other extreme, and, in opposition to the tenet of faith alone, adopt that of works alone, as being all-sufficient to open the gates of heaven. Thus a celebrated poet (who, however, deserves more praise for the harmony of his numbers than the soundness of his philosophy), has said in the well-known couplet :

“ For modes of faith let erring zealots fight :
His can't be wrong whose life is in the right ;”

where he appears to consider a well ordered outward behaviour, independently of the motives in which it originates, as all that is necessary to form the character of a good man. In fact, this seems to be the maxim of all that great portion of mankind, who, without concerning themselves about the doctrines of religion, go to church for form's sake, and frame their own loose notions of christian duty. And these notions are certainly much strengthened by the practice of a large portion of the clergy, who, seldom touching upon doctrinal points, entertain their audiences with topics of mere morality. Thus between the more vehement class of teachers, on