

(E, Fig. 1, Frontispiece)\* moving in a circular orbit around the sun, (S,) by a proper equilibrium of the two acting forces, and at a certain point of its orbit (say E) to receive a new impulse in the direction of its motion. The consequence would be to change its orbit from a circle to an ellipse. It would, however, return to the place where the additional force was given; and when it reached that point, which would be the perihelion of its orbit, suppose it to receive another new impulse, and at each return another. The effect would be to make it revolve in orbits more and more eccentric, until at length they could not be distinguished from what the mathematicians call a parabola—a curve which never returns into itself. In other words, the earth would at last go off to a returnless distance, or beyond the control of the centre around which it had revolved.

Make another supposition. Imagine the earth, when revolving in a circle, at a certain point of its orbit (E, Fig. 2) to come under the influence of an impulsive force which, like gravity, shall ever afterwards continue to act upon it. The effects will be, that it will receive a constantly increasing velocity, and consequently will be continually receding farther and farther from the centre, describing a sort of helix, which never returns into itself. Thus would the body be carried an infinite or returnless distance from the centre.

These two cases, it appears to me, afford a good illustration of professed Christians who act under the influence of impulses derived neither from the Bible nor the Spirit of God. So long as they are controlled by the divine Spirit, or by motives derived from the Bible, they will move around the

\* In all the figures, the body colored yellow represents the sun, the green one the earth, and the red one the moon.