

**ONESIMUS: OR, THE APOSTOLIC
DIRECTIONS TO CHRISTIAN
MASTERS, IN REFERENCE TO
THEIR SLAVES, CONSIDERED**

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Onesimus: Or, The Apostolic Directions to Christian Masters, in Reference to Their Slaves,
considered by Evangelicus

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EVANGELICUS

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Q N E S I M U S :

OR THE

**APOSTOLIC DIRECTIONS TO CHRISTIAN
MASTERS, IN REFERENCE TO THEIR
SLAVES, CONSIDERED. —**

BY EVANGELICUS.

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P R E F A C E.

The following essay is not designed to subserve the interests of any party. It aims to treat of the duty of masters, in the light of apostolic directions. In order, however, properly to apply these directions to the case of masters in our slaveholding States, it was necessary to show the similarity between the slavery now existing in those States, and that which formerly existed among those to whom the directions were originally given. An essential similarity between the two cases has been called in question. It was, plainly, incumbent on the writer to devote a portion of the essay to that topic.

Without meaning to bespeak favor, it may yet be proper to say, that injustice is often

done to an author's sentiments by dissociating the different parts of his work, and placing sentences, or paragraphs, either in an insulated position, or in wrong connections. A wholly unauthorized use may thus be made of his sentiments, or statements. The subject on which this essay treats, particularly requires that its different parts be viewed together.

It only remains for the writer to say, that he considers himself throughout as addressing *professed Christians*.

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THE
APOSTOLIC DIRECTIONS.

PART I.

INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS.

THERE is not, nor could we justly expect there would be, a definitely settled state of public opinion on many questions connected with the existing system of American slavery. Northern Christians differ widely among themselves as to their opportunities of information respecting the facts in the case, and as to the various influences which, however insensibly, do really and strongly affect the judgments of individuals. And though they may be united, to a man, in an utter disapproval of the essential principle of slavery, yet many feel unable to form an established opinion respecting the immediate duty of