

**THE BRITISH CRITIC, AND
QUARTERLY
THEOLOGICAL REVIEW,
VOL. XXXIV**

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THE
BRITISH CRITIC,
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Quarterly Theological Review.

JULY, 1843.

ART. I.—*The Synagogue and the Church, being an attempt to show that the Government, Ministers, and Services of the Church were derived from those of the Synagogue.* By Joshua L. Bernard, A. M. Curate of St. Mary's, Donnybrook. Fellowes, London.

THERE cannot be a greater fallacy (though it is a very common one) than to infer that a matter is really doubtful or disputable, because those influenced in a contrary direction by education, habit, or general custom, find in it innumerable difficulties and perplexities. Let us illustrate this in an instance which none of us are tempted to question. We are perfectly convinced, that if Plato's theory had been carried out to an even greater extent than he proposed, if all the children in some given country were habitually taken from their parents as soon as born, and brought up by the State on definite and uniform principles, those admirers of the ancient paths, who should endeavour to restore the parental relation, might be met by arguments most forcible to the reason, and most impressive to the imagination. The Conservatives of the time would appeal to the record of foreign countries or of past ages, and collect expressions of devoted tenderness in the addresses of ardent and affectionate children to their parents, which to persons unacquainted with the peculiar feelings of that relation, might well appear encroachments on the honour due to God alone. Then they would point out the unsuspecting docility with which in such countries children are found to receive their parents' instructions, by means of which the most noxious errors bid defiance to the voice of reason and the progress of inquiry, and are propagated from generation to generation with undiminished intensity. "Is it found," they might say, "that the wicked have fewer children than the good? or, if that is not so much as pretended, shall we trust our future citizens, at that