

**CAMPBELLISM EXPOSED,  
OR, STRICTURES ON  
THE PECULIAR TENETS OF  
ALEXANDER CAMPBELL**

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Campbellism Exposed, or, Strictures on the Peculiar Tenets of Alexander Campbell by William Phillips

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**WILLIAM PHILLIPS**

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OR,

STRICTURES ON THE PECULIAR TENETS

OF

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL.

BY

REV. WILLIAM PHILLIPS,

FORMERLY ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,

A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR.

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The following chapters were first published in the *Western Christian Advocate*, in twenty-six numbers. The first number was dated, January 30th, 1835, the last appeared in April 1836. In consequence of the estimation in which they were held, many persons from different parts of the West, requested to have them collected and published in a volume. The Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, at its last session held in Chillicothe, September 28th, 1836, unanimously requested our book agents to publish the strictures on Campbellism, as they are presented in this volume, now before the reader.

That the work possesses real merit, every competent person who peruses it, will freely acknowledge. It must not, however, be forgotten, that it is a posthumous work and of course has more defects than though it had issued from under the author's own correcting hand.

Indeed the writer did not contemplate, that what passed from his pen, in the haste of the weekly press, would afterwards be collected and formed into a volume. Had he lived, large additions would have been made, fewer inaccuracies would appear, and a much more perfect work would now be presented to the public. As it is, we are fully of the opinion that it will serve as a timely and effi-

cient check on one of the most pernicious systems of the present age, though couched under the imposing title of *the Ancient Gospel*.

The editors have made no alterations in the following pages from what they were when published in the *Western Christian Advocate*, except a very few verbal amendments, or the omission of those concluding or introductory clauses in the numbers, by which they are reduced to the form of chapters under appropriate heads. A table of contents is also added which the reader will find very convenient as an aid to reference.

C. ELLIOTT,  
L. L. HAMLINE.

Book Room, Cincinnati, January, 1837.



## MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR

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The Rev. WILLIAM PHILLIPS, author of the following work, was born of pious parents, on the 7th day of May, 1797, in Jessamine county, state of Kentucky. He was religiously educated, was frequently impressed with the necessity of religion in early life, and often thought he would become a christian. When he was a youth, after laboring through the day, he would spend the evening in writing the effusions of his mind, both in poetry and prose. Many pieces of these early productions are still in possession of his family. When he arrived at mature age, he turned his attention to political affairs, resisted the divine impressions, and abandoned his youthful employments. To free himself from religious restraint, he read sceptical books, till infidel sentiments made considerable impression on his mind; though he still retained a high regard for morality. In this state of mind he lived till he was settled in life, and had the charge of a rising family. The following account of his conviction for sin, was related by himself at lovefeast, as a part of his religious experience, and communicated to us by one who heard him at the time.

“One morning,” said he, “I returned home in a melancholy state of feeling, after having

spent the night from home, engaged in some political feats. I took my seat in a room by myself. Very soon my eldest son, about eight years old, came to me, and said, *B.—has experienced religion*; and then inquired, *What is religion?* Here conviction seized my mind, for I could not answer the questions of the child. I said,—Is it possible, that I, who was blessed with a religious education, have raised a child to this age, who inquires of me what religion is, and I cannot tell him! I then resolved to reform my life, and examine the evidences of christianity."

He did not, like too many, delay this great work, but set about it with his usual diligence. He was soon thoroughly convinced of the divine reality of religion, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, as a seeker. He earnestly sought the Lord with bitter sighs and tears; but his mourning was soon turned into joy. Five days after he joined the church, he received the evidence of his acceptance, at Old Fort meeting house, in Montgomery county, Ky. It was manifest to all, that he was the subject of a great change. He shortly after felt intensely the worth of souls, and believed that he was moved by the Holy Ghost to preach the gospel; of which he afterwards gave ample testimony. On the 27th of December, 1828, he was licensed to preach as a local preacher, by the quarterly meeting conference of Mount Sterling circuit. In this capacity he labored with success, till he found that his field of labor

was too circumscribed. He was duly recommended and received into the Kentucky conference in the fall of 1831, at its session at Louisville, after he had labored as a local preacher for nearly three years. He was appointed successively to Winchester and Lexington circuits, and Newport and Covington station; having been reappointed to the two last places, so as to serve each two years in succession, except the time that elapsed between his appointment by the General conference and the termination of his conference year, which was still shortened by his unexpected death. He received deacon's and elder's orders at the regular periods in which these offices are usually conferred. He performed the duties of assistant editor to the Western Christian Advocate one year before he was appointed to that office by the suffrage of the General Conference in May, 1836. He was selected by this body, under the conviction that his talents and attainments qualified him for the duties of an editor, and in full expectation of much efficient editorial usefulness. But alas! how uncertain are human expectations. For three weeks and two days only, after the adjournment of conference was he permitted to serve the church.

On the 22d of June, 1836, he was confined to bed by a violent attack of fever. For several days previous to this, he felt manifest indications of an approaching assault of severe sickness. During his confinement of six weeks and two days, he suffered much pain of body.