

**A REPLY TO "THE
ACADEMY'S" REVIEW OF "THE
WINE QUESTION IN THE LIGHT
OF THE NEW DISPENSATION."**

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A Reply to "The Academy's" Review of "The Wine Question in the Light of the New Dispensation." by John Ellis

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JOHN ELLIS

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TO
"The Academy's" Review
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"THE WINE QUESTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE
NEW DISPENSATION."

BY

JOHN ELLIS, M. D.,

AUTHOR OF "THE AVOIDABLE CAUSES OF DISEASE, INSANITY, AND
DEFORMITY," "AN ADDRESS TO THE CLERGY," "SKEPTICISM
AND DIVINE REVELATION," "PURE WINE, FERMENTED
WINE," "THE WINE QUESTION IN THE LIGHT
OF THE NEW DISPENSATION," ETC.

"By the blood out of the wine-press is meant the juice (mustum), and wine (vinum) from the clusters that were trodden, and the juice of the grape (mustum) and wine have a similar signification (or by must and wine like things are signified)."—A. R. 653.

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1883.

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A copy of this work, in a paper cover, will be sent free, postage paid, to any reader of and believer in the doctrines revealed by the Lord in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, who does not receive a copy soon after it is published, who will send his or her name and address to Dr. John Ellis, 157 Chambers street, New York, N. Y., during the year 1883. The author desires that none but New Churchmen should apply, and he desires to send but one copy to a family.

09/13/85

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PREFACE.

THIS volume, like the preceding one on the wine question, has been written amid the cares and responsibilities of an extensive business. It has required much reading of a variety of works, and the reading and writing requisite have taxed the time and strength of the author to the utmost. But he has been sustained and encouraged in his work by kind words of cheer, sympathy and good will from a number of the clergy and a large number of the laity of the Church; and more than this, he has received many helpful suggestions from both, and also has had his attention called to important passages in the Writings of the Church, some of which would probably have escaped his own observation, and without which the reply would not have been as complete and satisfactory as he has aimed to make it. While the writer desires thus publicly to express his thanks for the valuable assistance which he has received from those entertaining views in accordance with his own, he is neither unmindful of, nor ungrateful for, the words of kindly criticism which he has occasionally received from those entertaining opposite opinions. In so far as they have disclosed objections to, or misapprehension of, the author's views that might not have occurred to him, they have enabled him to present his argument in a clearer light than he would otherwise have done.

As the reader of the following pages will perceive, the great misfortune of the writers of "The Academy" has been either a lack of knowledge of the Sacred Scriptures in the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin languages, and of the testimony of the ancients, and of Swedenborg's writings

in Latin, or an almost total neglect to consult carefully the above sources of information before writing upon a subject of so great importance to the Church and the world. It seems especially unfortunate for the New Church that men, either so unqualified or so entirely unprepared, should attempt to write dogmatically upon a subject which involves so intimately the welfare and happiness of such vast multitudes of their fellow-men. Webster and Worcester, they say, define wine to be the fermented juice of the grape. The word wine is very generally used for the juice of the grape in the English Bible, and in the English translations of Swedenborg's writings. "The Academy" writers do not go back to the original languages in which the Word and the Writings were written, to find what word or words were used, nor do they go to the writings of the ancients to ascertain what meaning was attached to the words, but they assume that any word translated into wine always means fermented wine. This is a fearful mistake, and one which has involved the peace and happiness of many a family of the New Church, and even the good name of the Church itself. It is also certainly most remarkable that persons familiar with the writings of Swedenborg should so ignore the science of correspondences, in the consideration of this subject, as "The Academy" writers have done; and it is strange that they should be so destitute of a knowledge of the light which is thrown upon this question by the recent discoveries of science, for, knowing the facts, we cannot suppose that they would ignore them.

In concluding this preface, the writer desires especially to acknowledge, with feelings of thankfulness, the assistance, in the preparation of this work, of Dr. J. Harrison Forbes, a good Latin scholar, familiar with Swedenborg's Latin works, who, in the preparation of several chapters, and especially the one on Must, has rendered the most valuable assistance, and without whose aid the work would have been less perfect than it is.

→* A REPLY *←

—TO—

“The Academy’s” Review of “The Wine Question in the Light of the New Dispensation.”

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

IN a recent issue of “Words for the New Church” (No. X.) there is a review of “The Wine Question,” etc., in which the book and the author are treated with but scant courtesy. This would be of small moment in itself, if the review were written in that spirit which shows a loving desire to set mistaken men right by valid argument; and rather examines a question to see where the truth is, than to find sophistical argument to uphold an erroneous assumption, or confirm a preconceived notion. Nothing has been further from the mind of the author than a desire to excite personal controversy; and his book was written and published under a deep sense of the obligations resting upon him, as a New Churchman, to point out the erroneous teaching of “The Academy” and others, in so far as it encouraged the use of intoxicating drinks, both socially, and at the Communion table. The writer felt that he would be justly liable to blame if he failed to set forth what he believed to be the true teaching of the Word and the Writings of the New Church on the