

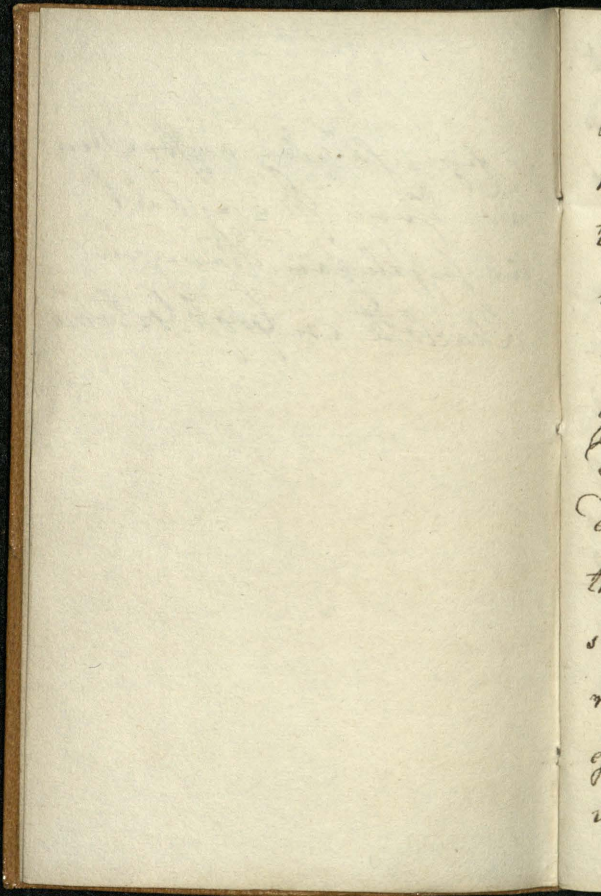
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6 Selbstbeurteilung Blätter?

GEO/ADD 43/22

[Acc. 2318]

Freundschaftlich geschrieben  
von Frau Majestät  
der hochgeliebten Königin  
Charlotte von Großbritannien



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The Religion of Christ, then, is  
an experimental thing. It warms  
the Heart, & governs the affec-  
tions. From its very nature, it  
works upon our hopes & fears.  
it calls forth our love, our  
gratitude, our praise. it pro-  
duces trust, & confidence, in the  
divine mercies. it assuages  
the griefs of the afflicted, it rai-  
ses the desponding, and in the  
midst of darkness, affords a  
gleam of light. When out-  
ward comforts fail, it forsakes

us not: in the storms of life, it  
diffuses a serenity all around us.  
But let us remember, that if  
we rejoice under its comforts,  
it must be with trembling:  
it will bear no foreign mix-  
ture of our own vanity, pri-  
de, & selfishness. The leaven of  
our miserable passions, and  
fanatical conceits, will de-  
form its beauty, & at length  
corrupt it.

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Neither the natural attri-<sup>(3)</sup>  
butes of God, nor the miracu-  
lous works of Christ, fall  
within the compass of our  
power, or the limits of our  
imitation. But the moral  
perfections of both, we are  
invited, and commanded to  
follow. "Be ye followers of  
God, as dear children, and be  
ye perfect, even as your Fa-  
ther, which is in heaven, is  
perfect." And St Peter enjoins  
us, "as he that called You is

holy, so be ye holy, in all manner of conversation." This, then, is our scope & glorious ambition, to aim at, though we can never attain, the summit of such gracious perfections. An ambition this, that aspires not after the renown, that attends on wordly reputation, or the applause of a popular character, but contends for the highest excellency of our nature, and the happiness of be-



coming like the Son of God.  
It is founded, indeed, in poverty  
of Spirit, & the peculiar  
virtues of the Gospel of Christ;  
But it is deeply rooted in  
the heart, & claims an alli-  
ance with heaven. It is not  
subject to the injuries, nor  
is it regulated by the fashions,  
of the time; and though dis-  
countenanced by the world,  
it will survive its ruin, and  
be applauded before men & angels.

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Christ came into the world,  
and became subject to all  
its sorrows. For us he lived,  
for us he bled, for us he died.  
What then shall we do for  
him? The faithfull Christian,  
overwhelmed with gratitude,  
and desirous to express it,  
will freely & gladly conform  
to his divine Original.  
For love naturally begets  
imitation, & Spiritual love  
surpasses all other in this,  
that its object is altogether

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lovely, being no other than  
Jesus Christ, the pattern of  
all excellency, the manifesta-  
tion of divine mercy. How  
strong, therefore, must be  
that love, which is thus  
impelled by gratitude, and  
how successful must be its  
endeavours to resemble so  
blest a pattern!


The Christian, then, has this  
superior advantage, that,  
as his end is incomparably  
the best, so the way that he

has chosen, is the most perfect & secure. Though the road to heaven be a pilgrimage, & the path which he travels beset with danger, he has the light of Christ to direct him, and his steps to guide him in it: & whilst he follows these, he shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Christ, though he appeared in our nature, derived no conjunction from it; though

tempted as we are, yet he was  
without sin. Following him,  
therefore, we have no solici-  
tude about the perfection  
of our pattern, all our concern  
is employed about our own  
faithful imitation of it.  
Should we be inclined to loi-  
ter on our road, one look to  
him urges us forward; should  
we go astray, his example  
warns us, & calls us back. Should  
we be surrounded with difficul-  
ties, we remember him, that

"had not where to lay his head".  
Should we suffer the calamities  
of human life, we remember him,  
that was made perfect by  
suffering. And whilst we  
persevere, in the road which  
he hath appointed for us,  
this will be our great en-  
couragement, "though I walk  
through the valley of the shadow  
of death, I will fear no evil;"  
We shall at length rest with  
him, & that rest will be glorious.



The pious Christian, <sup>(7)</sup> in edifying, and still retirement, though shunned by the voluptuous, and the gay, envies not their boasted happiness. Though placed in solitude, he is not alone: he enjoys the company of those, who are not to be found upon the Theatre of the world, and in conversing with whom, he receives the purest satisfaction. These enliven the departing hours; and when they are fled away, they leave a sweet

memorial behind them. Amidst  
the storms of life he enjoys re-  
pose; he alleviates the evil of  
the present days, by a delightful  
review of what is gone before,  
or a still more charming  
prospect of future worlds.

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