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T O T H E
S E R I O U S and C A N D I D
P R O F E S S O R S of C H R I S T I A N I T Y,

On the following Subjects, viz.

- I. The Use of Reason in Matters of Religion,
- II. The Power of Man to do the Will of God,
- III. Original Sin,
- IV. Election and Reprobation,
- V. The Divinity of Christ, and
- VI. Atonement for Sin by the Death of Christ.

Occasioned by an APPEAL, lately published, on the same Subjects.

If the *foundations* be destroyed, what can the righteous do?
Psal. xi. 3.

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, *1 John iv. 1.*

To the law, and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them, *Isaiah viii. 20.*

L O N D O N:

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“THE writer of this Address, will think himself obliged to any person who will reprint it; especially in such a manner, as that it may be sold *very cheap*, or that such persons as think it calculated to do good, may afford to buy a number of copies to distribute gratis.” And he hopes that all the readers of the *Appeal* particularly, will be so impartial and candid, as to read this *Address* occasioned by it.

The author is very sensible that, in this age of scepticism and pertness, he has nothing to expect, but to be accounted a *knave* or a *fool* for what he has written. A *knave*, who only writes to secure the reputation and emoluments of orthodoxy.* or a *fool*, whose *heart* is, *perhaps*, something better than his *head*.† For this is the only alternative given now, by our modern *in-*
A 2 *fallible*

* See a pamphlet called *the Triumph of Truth*, by the author of the *Appeal*, page 23.

† *Appeal*, page 21.

fallible and charitable divines, to an old-fashioned orthodox brother. It is not however on this account he conceals his name, but merely, with the author of the Appeal, to give what he has written a better chance of being read without prejudice. What he has done, is out of a sincere good-will and compassion to the multitude, who are too ready to be *tossed to and fro*, and *carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men*. And if but one Christian should, by this humble performance, be established in the great truths of the gospel, and in that vital humility and holiness which are connected with them, it will yield greater pleasure to the unambitious author, than the highest applause could have afforded him, had he published a work of the most pompous and popular nature.

A N
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To the SERIOUS and CANDID
PROFESSORS of CHRISTIANITY.

My dear fellow Christians!

WHEN I reflect upon the repeated attempts which have been made, particularly of late, to unsettle your minds respecting the principles of religion, and to excite you to reject with *abhorrence* that faith for which your pious ancestors earnestly contended, I am filled with the most painful anxieties concerning you. I am afraid lest, in this superficial age, these unwearied efforts should prove but too successful. Could I, indeed, look upon the principles of religion in that *merely speculative* light in which they have too often been represented, I should not be at all concerned about them. But the *principles* of religion, it is certain, enter deeply into the *practice* of it, its *doctrines* are closely united with

its correspondent *duties*, nor can the *divine life* be expected to flourish, when those truths which are the great support of it are disdainfully rejected. Permit me therefore, dear brethren, in the spirit of fervent love, seriously to address you on so interesting an occasion. Permit me freely and affectionately to exhort you, to hold fast the *form of sound words* which you have long since heard of Christ and his apostles, and to contend earnestly for that *faith* which is clearly and *once* for all delivered to you in the sacred records. *Buy* the truth, but *sell* it not. Let no man take your crown.

The manifest design of the Appeal which hath been circulated amongst you with such uncommon assiduity, is to overturn the very *foundations* of your faith and hope. It is not levelled merely against some of the less important and more *disputable* points of Christianity, but at those *capital, essential* truths, which have hitherto been esteemed the *distinguishing peculiarities* of the gospel. The intention of it is to persuade you, that you are *not*, in consequence of the original apostacy, become *guilty* and, in yourselves, *helpless sinners*. That Jesus Christ is *not* the person you have hitherto supposed him to be, but a *mere man* like yourselves. That you are *not* to be saved by *his merits*, but merely by your own *repentance and reformation*. Your *repentance*, I suppose, *if* you should happen to commit any sin, and *reformation*, *if* you should chance to do
wrong.

wrong. That as to Christ he did *no more* than was *his duty* to do, and the doctrine of atonement for sin by his death is a *popish invention*. And then, after all, because the happiness of heaven is modestly supposed to be rather *more* than our good works absolutely *deserve*, we are persuaded to believe, that this doctrine of salvation by our own repentance and reformation, is the gospel doctrine of salvation by *free grace*.

If the *foundations* be thus destroyed, what shall the righteous do? The patron of these unscriptural tenets appears indeed to be a very sincere and honest man, and God forbid! we should think or represent him otherwise. Judge not, that ye be not judged. But what then? Did not *Paul* himself before his conversion, *verily think* that he *ought* to do many things *contrary* to the name of Jesus of Nazareth? And though an *angel from heaven* were to publish any *other* gospel than that which we have in the new testament, are we not commanded to reject it? Believe not then, dearly beloved, every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God. Try them by the *law* and by the *testimony*. - If they speak not *according* to this word, this *unerring* word, this only *infallible* standard of truth, it is because, though what they speak be ever so specious and plausible, there is *no light* in them.

By this rule I wish you to judge of the contents of the Appeal, which treats

I. *Of the use of reason in matters of religion.*

It has always been customary with those who have wanted to set aside some of the most *obvious truths of revelation*, as they are generally esteemed, mightily to cry up human *reason*. But the *sober* use of reason no protestant hath, that I know of, ever opposed, if we except a few palpable enthusiasts. And to wish for *any other* use of reason, is certainly in itself, very *unreasonable*. It is readily allowed that we are to use our reason, in judging both of the evidence of the scriptures themselves, and the true intent and meaning of what they contain. But if we think ourselves at liberty to reject any truth that is apparently taught in the scriptures, because it appears to us *irrational* and *absurd*, this is not a *sober* and *right use* of reason, but a very great *abuse* of it. And from this abuse of reason, it is more than probable, most of the corruptions of Christianity have arisen. When our modern divines talk of improvements in *religion* as well as *philosophy*, they seem to forget that the sacred code has been compleat for more than seventeen hundred years, and that it is at our peril we presume to alter it. They seem to forget that noble maxim of the great *Chillingworth*, which yet upon other occasions they can readily enough remember, that

that "The *bible*, the bible only is the religion of protestants." I do not wish, my brethren, to have you yield an implicit faith to any fallible men, nor to be deterred from embracing truth by the authority of names ever so great and respectable. I am sensible that though *Plato* may be a friend, and *Socrates* a friend, *Truth* is a greater friend than all. But surely a man of common modesty, will not hastily, nor without the fullest conviction, reject such principles as have had the sanction of the wisest and best of men, such principles as have had a *Howe*, a *Watts*, a *Doddridge*, and a cloud of other witnesses to support them. Our predecessors had the *same bible* we have, and, it may be presumed, as good capacities, as much integrity and piety, and as large a measure of the influences of the Spirit of God. And though they might nevertheless be mistaken, as perhaps we all are in some respect or other, yet there seems to be as little reason to suppose, that *because* we of this age understand *philosophy* better than our ancestors, we must therefore understand the *bible* better, as there is to suppose we must understand the *thirty-nine articles* of the Church of England better than those who drew them up, or who lived nearer than we do to the age in which they were compiled, *because* we are better *philosophers* than they were, and know a great deal more than they did of *electricity*, and other philosophical subjects. Indeed the doctrine of scripture is,

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that

that those things which are righteously *hid* from the *wise* and *prudent*; it pleaseth God mercifully to reveal unto *babes*. It is much to be lamented that men ever have been, and, it is to be feared, ever will be proudly desirous of being *wise above* what is written. Instead of saying, when they look into the bible, "Speak Lord, thy servant heareth," they are ready rather to say, with *Nicodemus*, "How can these things be?" Instead of saying, "What I know not, teach thou me!" they are ready haughtily to cry out, "Where mystery begins, religion ends." But are we not expressly assured that the *natural man* * receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, neither can *know* them, because they are *spiritually* discerned? And is it then at all to be wondered at, that many things should be found in the scriptures that are *foolishness* to such persons?

Let *reason* be under the *absolute guidance* of *revelation*, and we cannot err; but if we think to mould *revelation* according to the caprice of our un sanctified *reason*, we shall lose the benefit of both. To set up reason, in any respect, above revelation, is to prefer the glimmering of a taper, to the light of the noon-day sun. And however we may be ready in the pride of our hearts

* That by the *natural* or *fleshly* man in this passage, we are to understand a man in his *natural* or *unrenewed* state, seems very evident from *Rom. viii. 9.* where the same apostle observes—*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be the Spirit of God dwell in you.*

hearts to *boast* of reason, it becomes us to remember, that *the world by wisdom knew not God*, and that *except we be converted, and become as little children, we shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven*.—The next subject to be considered, is

II. *The power of man to do the will of God.*

There is no one subject, I believe, more frequently misunderstood, or more egregiously misrepresented than this. You are told, for instance, by the author of the *Appeal*, that the doctrine of man's *inability* to do the will of God, represents the Divine Being in such a light, that if we were to suppose he really acted agreeably to it, we should * *want words to express our abhorrence of his cruelty*. That it is as though a man's children were shut up in a building that was on fire, while he himself was without and had the key; and that instead of opening the door, to favor their escape, he only calls out to them to flee out of the place, in order to avoid instant destruction; and that, as the necessary consequence of this, they all perish in the flames before his eyes. A dismal story indeed! Well may the author of it cry out, *What would you think of such a father?* And for my own part I am very ready to answer for myself, that I should think him a cruel, vile, bad man. . . But I am far from supposing

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this

* *Appeal*, page 7th.

this is the light in which “*many Christian divines represent their God.*” Much less, that this is a *favorite opinion* with them. Who ever supposed that *God* locked up the house? Or that at the same time he called to his children to come out, he determined *not* to let them out, if they should discover ever so great a *desire* to come out, and do *every thing in their power* to escape? The misrepresentation arises from the author of the Appeal’s making no distinction betwixt a *natural* and a *moral* inability to do the will of God. A distinction of more consequence to the right understanding of the divine dispensations towards fallen man, than many seem to be aware of. Were the inability of man to do the will of God a *natural* inability, or the same kind of inability a man has to walk when he has a broken leg, or to attend to business when he is delirious in a fever, nothing can be conceived of more absurd or more cruel than it would be, to call upon him to do the will of God, and to threaten him with punishment if he did not. But if the inability of man be only a *moral* inability, an inability of the *will*, a *criminal* and a *punishable* inability, then what can be more properly or suitably addressed to him, than the calls and invitations, the promises and threatenings of the word of God? These are means which every one knows are, in their own nature, adapted to remove a *moral indisposition* of the mind, just

as much as the prescriptions of a physician or the operations of a surgeon are suited to remove any *natural disorder* of the body. It is indeed often said that men *naturally* have *no power* to do the will of God. And it is very true. But the meaning is not, that men have *no NATURAL power* to do the will of God, but that men *naturally*, or in their natural unconverted state, have *no such power* as is necessary in order to do the will of God, which is a power of the *will*. No divine, I believe, ever meant to say that man is *lock'd up in a house*, and *fast bound* there, so that he *cannot* come out *if he would*: but rather that he is so attached to the house (to keep to the simile in the Appeal) and so fond of his companions there, that there is no *moral possibility* of *persuading* him to come out, even though you tell him that immediate destruction hangs over him. Or, to drop the simile, that he is so *alienated* from the life of God, so *averse* to that which is spiritual and holy, so *infatuated* by sin, that he *will not* come to Christ that he might have life. That he is, in short, *spiritually dead*, dead to divine things, dead in trespasses and sins, and that no one but God himself can effectually *persuade* him to escape for his life. But there is all this while no *natural inability* in man to do the will of God; he has all the members of the body at his command, and the faculties of the soul. The only defect is in the *will*. All he wants is
a heart

a *heart* or *disposition* to do the will of God. And it is therefore with the utmost propriety that sinners are exhorted to beg of God to create in them a clean *heart*, and to renew within them a *right spirit*. And till they have this, it is as *impossible* in a *moral* sense, that they should do the will of God, as though they labored under a *natural* incapacity of doing it. But yet reasonings, expostulations, promises and threatenings, it is very evident, are highly proper in the one case, though they would be absurd and cruel in the other. They are adapted to *produce* a *moral power*, but do not in the least contribute to a *natural* power of doing the will of God. And yet these reasonings and expostulations with men, are so far from supposing them possessed of any other than a *natural* power to do the will of God, which no one disputes, that they imply in the strongest manner the *want* of a *moral* power, since it is this alone which renders such means necessary. And these means therefore, as well as others of a more extraordinary nature, the great God, in his infinite wisdom and mercy, is pleased to make use of in the moral government of the world. And they, no doubt, answer the several great and important ends for which they were designed.—The degrees of guilt amongst the finally impenitent will be undoubtedly various, according to the moral and religious privileges they enjoyed, and their use
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or abuse of them ; and for some it will be more tolerable in the day of judgment than for others. Nor is it to be supposed that any man shall be finally condemned for *not* doing what he was absolutely *incapable* of doing, be that what it will, but merely for *not* doing what, in the circumstances in which he was placed, he *might* and *ought* to have done. The next point to be considered, is

III. *Original sin.*

And however easy it may be to misrepresent and calumniate this humbling doctrine, it will be found, I am persuaded, extremely difficult, whilst any regard is paid to scripture or plain matter of fact, to overturn it.

That we *suffer by the sin of Adam*, even the author of the Appeal himself is obliged to allow. But why should we *suffer* by the sin of Adam, if we had no share, in any sense at all, in *his sin*? Can we suppose a righteous God to inflict sufferings upon any of his creatures without a *cause*? Or if the *sin of Adam* be the *cause* of any of the sufferings inflicted on his descendants, does not this imply in the strongest manner that his descendants are, upon some account or other, considered as partakers of his sin? Is it reasonable to suppose that a righteous God involves them in the *penal effects* of this sin, without their being at all concerned in the *sin* itself, which yet is the
acknowledged

acknowledged *cause* of these effects?—Now all that is pleaded for by those that maintain the doctrine of original sin is, that as all mankind most evidently *suffer by the sin of Adam*, there must have been some original constitution settled by God, in consequence of which it is *right and just* that they should so suffer. But that it should be right for mankind to *suffer judicially* for the sin of Adam, as it is certain they do, without, at least, the imputation of that sin to them, they look upon as totally inconceivable. But then, by the imputation of Adam's sin, they do not mean that the great God supposes the posterity of Adam to have *actually* committed that sin, which we know is impossible; but that Adam, who was necessarily the *natural* head and root of his posterity, was also, for wise and good reasons, constituted their *federal* or covenant head, and that therefore the sin committed by him in that capacity, by which he broke the covenant made with him, became chargeable upon his posterity. And is not this the evident language of scripture? Do we not there read, that *by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men*, for that, or more literally, *IN WHOM i. e. in Adam, all have sinned*? That *death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, i. e. had not actually sinned in their own persons*? That *by one man's offence death reigned by one*—that by
the

the offence of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation—that by one man's disobedience many were made sinners—and that death is the wages of sin? Now surely the meaning of these scriptures is very obvious, and the truth contained in them easy to be understood, however reluctant an un-humbled heart may be to receive it.

The sufferings of children in consequence of the sins of their *immediate* parents, appear to be a remote operation of the original constitution relative to the *first* parent and all that should descend from him. Nor is it in my opinion possible to account for this obvious fact, in any tolerable manner, upon any other supposition. It is indeed one of the greatest intricacies in the subject of providence, that not only the happiness but the *moral conduct* of most rational beings, should depend so much as it evidently does, in ten thousand instances, upon the good or bad behavior of others. It is a difficulty which, I believe, in the present dark state, we shall never be able perfectly to solve. It is not however a difficulty *peculiar* to any sect of Christians, but which equally belongs to *all* who acknowledge the being and providence of God. And in the general, we have the utmost reason to be satisfied that it is right it should be in this respect as it is, or that it certainly would be otherwise; and that this method of proceeding is so over-ruled by the great governor of the world, that no one is really injured by it, or rendered more unhappy than

than he might or would have been under a different constitution. And even with respect to the *Adamical covenant*, which is so often painted out in the most horrid colors, is it not reasonable to suppose, when we consider the perfection of the first man's nature and the advantageous circumstances in which he was placed, that if we had been all present upon the occasion, we should have thankfully accepted it and gladly ratified it?

But perhaps it will be said that though mankind *suffer in consequence of Adam's sin*, yet the sufferings of this kind which they endure are not of a *penal* nature, but *salutary medicines* calculated to promote their spiritual health and happiness. To this it is natural to reply, even *medicines* suppose *sickness* and disorder, for the whole need not a physician but they that are sick. But, not to insist on this, what can be conceived of more absurd than to suppose *blessings* of any kind communicated to us in *consequence of sin*? And if the calamities brought upon mankind by the sin of Adam be indeed of a *salutary* nature, how can we be said to *suffer* by the sin of Adam? Suffer! No, we are *benefited*. And if so, it would not only be hypocrisy, as the author of the Appeal intimates, to pretend to be *sorry* for this sin, but it would be gross impiety and ingratitude not to be thankful.

But if the sufferings of mankind in consequence of Adam's sin be *real evils*, must we not allow either that *Adam* was constituted *the federal*
head

head of his posterity, or else, that God does a piece of *injustice* for the present, because he intends somehow or other to make it up hereafter. That is, he *does evil*, that good may come. The most dishonorable thought, perhaps, it is possible for us to entertain of the Divine Being; and for my own part, sooner than I could admit such a sentiment, I should embrace * *Manicheism*, or, I had almost said, *Atheism* itself.

Besides, are we not *depraved* in consequence of Adam's sin, as well as exposed to a variety of external calamities? And can we imagine *this* to be a benefit? Can we look upon this as a *salutary medicine*? Perhaps you'll deny the fact, and insist upon it that man when he is born into the world now, bears upon him as fair an impress of the *divine image*, as the first man when he came out of the hands of his maker. That he is not born in the image or likeness of *fallen sinful man*, but in the upright image of his God. But if this were really the case, must it not appear strange that amongst all the millions of men that have ever lived, *no one* hath ever lived without sin? And it will not be pretended that any one ever has. If *any man* say he hath *no sin*, we have apostolical authority to pronounce him a liar. Besides, if man is now born into the world in the image of God, what reason can there be for his being *born again*? And yet we are expressly assured that *except a man*, any man, *be born*

* The *Manichees* taught that there are two *coeternal* principles or Gods, *independent* on each other, the one the author of all *evil*, the other of all *good*.

born again, born from above, born of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven. That we must be saved by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. And baptism, whereby this spiritual washing is figuratively represented, is accordingly made the initiating ordinance of the Christian religion.—And indeed: what more natural in itself, than that depraved parents should have depraved children? Can any man bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Doth any man expect to gather grapes from thorns? And when the first man by his apostacy had totally disordered the frame of his own mind, and, in a manner, driven away his God from him, what reason can be assigned why God should return to him again, or interpose to prevent the natural consequences of his apostacy with respect to his posterity,—but what is founded on his free and sovereign mercy?—It is not however supposed that, in consequence of the original apostacy, men are laid under any thing like a natural or mechanical necessity of sinning, but only that they are much more inclined to sin, and in less advantageous circumstances for the pursuit of holiness than they would, possibly, have otherwise been. All men, it is readily allowed, might act much better than they do, and will be accountable only for not acting, as they might and ought to have done. And therefore, whatever alteration may be made in the state of things by the fall, and whatever may be the immediate
or

or *remote* consequences of it with respect to any of the posterity of Adam, we are assured that we shall all be judged at last according to *the deeds done in the body*, whether they be good, or whether they be evil. Yes, in that tremendous day, *every mouth shall be stopped*, and the righteousness of the divine proceedings be universally acknowledged.

That man is however, upon the whole, in his present fallen state, in such circumstances as *will* certainly terminate in his utter destruction, if *grace* prevent not, is most clearly the doctrine of scripture. We there read, that the son of man came to seek and to save *that which was lost*. That God so loved the world as to give his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him should *not perish*, but have everlasting life; plainly intimating that our *not perishing* is the fruit of God's *love*, and not what we could in *justice* have claimed. That *Adam* was a *figure* of *Christ*, and that as *death* came by the *offence* of one, so life came by the *righteousness* of the other. And finally, that as the wages of sin is *death*, so *eternal life* is the *gift*, the free gift of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Indeed without supposing man to be in a *fallen ruined lost* state, were we ever so unable to account for it, nothing can well be imagined more inexplicable or absurd, than the scripture doctrine of *redemption* and *salvation* by the *free grace* of God through Jesus Christ. To talk of
pardoning

pardoning a rebel never *attainted* would not be more absurd, than it is to talk of *saving* sinners that were *never lost*, or *redeeming* those that were *never enslaved*. Nor is it more ridiculous and contradictory to style that an act of *grace* which is merely a *piece of justice*, than to pretend that the salvation of sinners is by *free grace*, at the same time that we do not allow they would have been *lost*, if *grace* had not interposed on their behalf.

And after all, unless it could be made to appear that we *are not guilty depraved creatures*, however we became so, it is of infinitely more consequence to know how we may *obtain deliverance*, than to be able with metaphysical nicety to explain how we came to stand in need of it. And it is indeed a mercy not to be described, that whilst we are assured we have *destroyed ourselves*, in God there is *help found*.—The next article of the Appeal, treats

IV. *Of the doctrine of election and reprobation.*

This doctrine so effectually destroys the pride of man, and so entirely ascribes *all* the glory of his salvation to God, that it is not at all surprizing it should meet with vehement opposition. The carnal mind, and alas! is there not too much carnality in all our hearts? is enmity against God. The bitterness and rancor generally

ly discovered in the opposition made to this doctrine, do, I think, too plainly manifest from whence that opposition proceeds. Seldom, I fear, from a genuine concern for the *glory of God*, but, too often, from a proud concern for *our own*. It has been, indeed, of late years, so customary to represent this doctrine in the most shocking colors, that I know it will be very difficult to gain the *least attention* to any thing that may be said in favor of a tenet so exceedingly unpopular. But I hope, my dear friends, you will for once endeavor to lay aside your prejudices, and, whatever may be your present sentiments of this doctrine, at least give it a calm and candid hearing.

That Christians are spoken of in the word of God as having been *chosen* or *elect*ed of God, and that *from all eternity*, cannot be denied. See *Eph. i. 4*, where the apostle Paul speaks of the believers at Ephesus as having been *chosen in Christ, before the foundation of the world*. And *2 Tim. i. 9*, he speaks of *grace given to Christians in Christ Jesus, before the world began*. — It is further evident that such as are spoken of in scripture as chosen or elect^d of God from all eternity, are expressly said to be chosen *to salvation*, and that they *shall certainly be saved*. See *2. Theff. ii. 13*. We are bound to give thanks to God for you, brethren, *beloved* of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning *chosen you to salvation*. And *Rom. viii. 29, 30*. For whom he did foreknow, he

he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren. Moreover, *whom he did predestinate*, them he also called, and whom he called, them he also justified, and whom he justified *them he also glorified*. See also, *John vi. 37.—39.* All that the Father giveth me, *shall come to me*. And this is the will of him that sent me, that of all which he hath given me, I should *lose nothing*, but raise it up again at the last day.—The scripture farther informs us very clearly, that such as are *chosen* or *elect* to salvation, are not chosen from a *foresight* of their faith, or repentance, or good works, but that they are chosen *to be first holy*, and then *happy*, and that they are chosen *according to the good pleasure of his will* who chuseth them. See *Eph. i. 4*, where we are assured that God chuseth his people not *because* they were, or because he *foresaw* they would of themselves be holy, but *that they should be holy*. And *1 Pet. i. 2*. the apostle Peter styles the people of God, *elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father*, through sanctification of the Spirit, *unto obedience*. They are not chosen *because obedient*, but *unto obedience* here, as preparatory for glory hereafter. They are not chosen to salvation, let them live as they list, as the enemies of this doctrine are for ever affirming, but they are chosen *unto holiness* as the *means*, and *unto salvation* as the *end*. And in *Eph. i. 5, 6*, the people of God are expressly said

said to be *predestinated to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, and to the praise of the glory of his grace.* And 2 Tim. i. 9. they are said to be saved and called with an holy calling, *not according to their works, but according to his own purpose and grace,* which was given them in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Now what shall we say to these things? Like the noble *Bereans*, let me earnestly recommend it to you to *search the scriptures*, that you may be able impartially to judge for yourselves, whether these things *are* or *are not* as they have now been represented to you. Indeed, to an *unprejudiced* mind I should think it must appear as clearly, that the writers of the New Testament and particularly the apostle *Paul*, were *Predestinarians*, as that the writer of the *Appeal* is, and glories in being a *Socinian*.

And after all the frightful pictures which have been drawn of this doctrine, what is the sum of it, but—*let him that glorieth glory in the Lord?* Pride was the root of the apostasy, and the whole scheme of salvation by Jesus Christ seems therefore to be admirably calculated to eradicate and destroy this evil accursed temper. Are any ready to *boast* of what they are, or of what they have done? They are taught rather meekly and thankfully to say, *by the grace of God I am what I am.* Instead of being suffered to boast, they are

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addressed in this humbling strain. * *Who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? By grace are ye saved through faith, and that NOT OF YOURSELVES, it is the gift of God. Not of works, LEST any man should boast. And again, even so then at this present time also, there is a remnant according to the election of grace; and if by grace, then it is no more of works, otherwise grace is no more grace; but if it be of works, then it is no more grace, otherwise work is no more work.*

But it will be said, perhaps, what becomes of the *reprobate*, the *non-elect*? And the old question will be asked, *did God make men to damn them?*

I answer, if God *fore-knew* whatever comes to pass, and there are any of the human race damned, then God did most certainly make men that he *foreknew* would be damned. There is no possibility of avoiding this conclusion, but either by a flat *denial* of the *foreknowledge* of God, or else by *asserting* the *absolute universality* of *final salvation*. The author of the Appeal says indeed very peremptorily that "a good and merciful God would have put a stop to the propagation of such a race of creatures, rather than suffer them to be born in such shocking circumstances, in which he infallibly forefaw, that the *greatest part*

of

* 1 Cor. iv. 7.—Eph. ii. 8. Rom. xi. 5, 6.

of them must be exposed to, and even actually suffer remediless destruction." But whatever be the *final state* of the greatest part of mankind, this writer should have remembered it is not *altered* by a denial of the doctrine of predestination. Whether this doctrine be true or false, the *righteous* only shall be *saved*, and the *unrighteous* shall not inherit the kingdom of God. And whether the *greatest part* of mankind will be found at the day of judgment, in the former class, or in the latter, the predestinarian has no other rule to judge by than the rest of his fellow Christians, who may be enemies to this doctrine. If therefore it be allowed that God *foresaw* what *would be* the final state of his creatures, then, whatever that state may be with respect to the greatest or the smallest part of them, it is an undeniable fact, that with a foresight of this, he was pleased to permit their being introduced into the world, and not to put a stop to their propagation. The fact itself is not at all affected by one hypothesis more than another, and if there be ever so great a difficulty in accounting for it, it is a difficulty that belongs as much to the *Jocinian* as the *predestinarian*.

And even with respect to *the means of salvation*, it is undeniably evident that they are not *equally* distributed. The gospel is sent to one nation and not to another; a zealous faithful minister is raised up to preach the gospel in one place, and not in another; some are providentially brought

under the ministry of the gospel, and not others. There's a *sovereign variety* indeed, in all the divine dispensations, in those of *nature, providence, and grace*. All have not an equal share with others of *reason, of wealth and other natural enjoyments, nor even of moral and spiritual advantages*. The gospel, we know, was sent to *Chorazin and Bethsaida*, and not to *Tyre and Sidon*; and yet, which may perhaps be thought more astonishing still; it was known that the inhabitants of *Tyre and Sidon* would have improved this privilege if *they* had enjoyed it, and that the inhabitants of *Chorazin and Bethsaida* would only aggravate their condemnation by the abuse of it. If it should be supposed that those who have not the gospel sent to them, are yet in as fair a way for salvation without it, what distinguishing favor can there be in having the gospel, or how can the abuse of it aggravate our guilt and condemnation? Now if all these and such like things come to pass according to the *foreknowledge* of God, there must be, in some respect or other, a *design* that they should so come to pass; for however casual and accidental we may suppose these events to be in themselves, yet if God *foreknows* them, he certainly would by some means or other *prevent* them, if he did not, upon the whole, think it proper to *permit* them to take place. The great God acts, most evidently, in a *sovereign way* in the distribution of his free favors. That is, according to the *good pleasure* of

of his own will. Not from caprice and humor, or to gratify an arbitrary disposition, as the enemies of this doctrine will have it we suppose;— (no, far be it from us to entertain such *impious* thoughts of our God!)—but he acts, we have no doubt, from reasons the most just and wise, though to us *unknown*. And it would be happy were we more disposed to remember, that our *not knowing* the reasons of the divine conduct, differs widely from the great God's acting *without reason*.

But instead of confessing our own ignorance, and humbly leaving secret things to him to whom they belong, shall we fly in the face of our Maker, and arrogantly say unto him, what dost thou? Or, because we know not how to reconcile the mode of proceeding which the great God is pleased to make use of, to our narrow conceptions of things; shall we raise a violent outcry, and talk of the doctrine of predestination, which is so clearly taught in the bible and so exactly corresponds with the *actual* dispensations of providence and grace, as making God worse than the devil? It really makes me tremble when I think with what indecent rage, and in how very unguarded a manner, many serious, but, as I verily believe, mistaken persons, have expressed themselves upon this subject. The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. And indeed, were the doctrine to be calmly and candidly considered, what occasion would there be for such a *violent*

and *outrageous* opposition to it, even though it should not be true?—Does the doctrine of reprobation suppose God to be the author of sin? No. Does it suppose that any are reprobated who yet did all they could to obtain salvation, and *would* have escaped that awful doom if they *possibly* could? No. It supposes that *none* are reprobated *but on the account of wilful sin*, or such as, it was foreseen, would most justly deserve the wrath, to which they were *therefore* appointed. Does it suppose that all the reprobate will be dealt with alike in the day of retribution? No. It supposes that for some it will be *more tolerable* in that day than for others. That all will be judged according to the dispensation under which they lived, the privileges they enjoyed, and the improvement they made of them. That such as ** have sinned without law, shall also perish without law, and that as many as have sinned in the law, shall be judged by the law*. Finally, does this doctrine suppose that God makes men to damn them? Certainly it does not. Reprobation is grounded solely on the *foresight of sin*, and is governed in its effects by the *different degrees* of guilt. And to suppose that the doctrine of reprobation implies that *any one man would* have repented and been saved, if by the decree of reprobation he had not been prevented, is one of the grossest fallacies that can be imposed upon the human mind. God delighteth not in the death

* Rom ii. 12.

death of a sinner, but had rather that he should repent and live, yea, would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. And therefore he hath done as much to prevent their death, in all his dispensations, as was consistent with his infinite wisdom; and that he has not done what he knew would be *effectual* for the salvation of all, or done as much for some as he has for others, is by no means to be attributed to his *delighting* in the *death* of a sinner, any more than it can be attributed to his *delighting in sin*, which we are certain he *abhors*.

Nevertheless, the great God sees fit to give to his *apostate creatures*, (not his *innocent offspring* as the author of the Appeal would suppose mankind to be,) one, two, five, or ten talents; as it pleaseth him; and as may best answer his infinitely wise and good designs, in his moral government of the universe. Now shall the man that has but *one talent*, reflect upon his God because he did not give him *two talents*, and tell his maker that if he had given *him* two talents as well as his neighbor, he should then have been *effectually* saved; and that it is plain he made him *merely to damn him*, or else he would have given him as many talents as he gave to some others, *as great* a chance of salvation as any of the rest of his fellow-creatures? Or shall the man that has *five talents* complain that he has not *ten*, or the man that has

then, reflect upon his God for giving him so many, which he *foreknew* would be the means of *aggravating* his condemnation?—The obvious answer to such impious arrogance would be,—shall I not do what I will with my own? Is it not sufficient that none of you are *injured*, except by your own sin and folly, that you all have in every respect more than you deserve, and that you are to give an account at last of no more than you have received?—With respect to the popular outcry of God's creating men to *damn them*, it is certain that neither this, nor even the *salvation* of men, is to be considered as the *ultimate design* of any of the divine dispensations, but both the one and the other only as subordinate parts of the *grand drama*, if I may so express it, of God's moral government of the world, and designed to promote that *one capital end*—THE GLORY OF GOD, the glory of all the divine perfections. Or, if you chuse to have it expressed more philosophically, to promote *the good of the whole*, or, as I think it best to say, to promote *that end*, whatever it be, which the *all-wise God knows* to be *most fit and proper to be promoted*.*

That the great God *could* have effectually saved all mankind, if he had seen fit so to do, cannot

* If this be not the genuine doctrine of the New Testament, concerning this point, how could the apostle Paul suppose it *possible* to make such an objection to it as he mentions *Rom. ix. 19*. *Thou wilt say then unto me, why doth he yet find fault? for who hath resisted his will?*

cannot be reasonably doubted. Nor is there any reason to believe, but that if it had been *best* it should have been so, he *would* have done it. If it had been really better, more wise or more worthy of God, to have granted to any of the reprobate *greater advantages* than they have, *doubtless* they would have had them: God does nothing by chance; or at random, but *worketh all things according to the COUNSEL of his own will*. And till we are able to inform our Maker how he might have done *better* than he has, it becomes us, instead of quarrelling with his dispensations, humbly to acquiesce in all he hath done, meekly saying, † *even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight*.—The inference from the whole is this. Every man's salvation is of God, and of his free discriminating grace; and every man's damnation is of and from himself. And were we to consider the matter properly, instead of wondering that so many perish, and that God does *no more* for them that perish, we should rather wonder that *any* are saved.

But the author of the Appeal insists upon it that this ‡ “is certainly a doctrine of *licentiousness*, and that let divines employ all the ingenuity they are masters of, it is impossible for them to clear this doctrine from being the cause of *fatal despair* in some, and as *fatal a security* in others.”

B. 5.

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† Matt. xi. 26.

‡ Appeal page 12th.

I cannot pretend to account for the operations of another man's mind, but I am clearly of opinion, that it requires *much more ingenuity* to make good this assertion, than to prove that it has no foundation in truth to support it.—How can the doctrine of *election* be a *licentious doctrine*, when it supposes the elect, chosen to *holiness* as the *means*, as much as to *happiness* as the *end*? Or how can the doctrine of *reprobation* be a *licentious doctrine*, when it supposes the reprobate to perish *entirely on the account of sin*? It is far from supposing any decree that they *shall sin* in such a manner and degree, and then be damned for it; whereas, if it had not been for such a decree, they would not have sinned as they did, and consequently would not have been damned. Nor does it suppose that the reprobate *shall* be damned, do what they *will*, or even do what they *can*; but it supposes that they *will not* do what they *might* and *could* have done, and that, on this account, they shall be punished. If the divine *fore-sight* of their wilful impenitence, of their filling up the measure of their iniquities, be supposed to fail, the decree built upon it must of course fail also. How then can it be pretended that the doctrine of *election and reprobation*, leads to *licentiousness*? Does it lead to licentiousness to say,—none but *renewed holy souls* shall be saved, and *all impenitent unholy* sinners shall be damned? If it does, then this is a *licentious doctrine* indeed; but, if
not,

not, surely it must be allowed that, whether true or false, it is nevertheless, a doctrine *according to godliness*.

But it leads to *despair*? I ask, how? Why, I suppose, because it is *possible* for a man to be so absurd and impious as to say, “ if I am *not elected*, do whatever I will, I shall not be saved, and therefore I’ll not concern myself about salvation.” But supposing a man to act upon this principle; and in consequence of it to abandon himself to all manner of wickedness; how easy would it be for a *fellow creature* to convict and confound him? And with how much greater ease may we suppose the great God who knows all things, able to do it? Might it not with propriety be said, to such a man,—It was impossible for thee to *know* thou wast *not* elected, and therefore thy *not being elected* could not have any *influence* upon thy conduct. However, know, thou art *condemned*, not *because* thou wast *not* elected, but *because* thou hast wilfully and wickedly abused the privileges granted thee; and thy misery thou wilt find proportioned to thy guilt? A farmer might as well refuse to plough and sow his ground, because he is not *sure* of a crop, as a sinner refuse to concern himself about salvation, because he is not *sure* that he shall be saved. And this objection seems the more absurd from an opposer of the calvinistic doctrines, because no man can ever be sure of salvation, upon any other plan, till he is actually saved; whereas the Calvinist professes

to believe, that wherever a good work of grace is *begun* in the soul, it *shall* be completed. And supposing a poor sinner to be *really concerned* about the salvation of his soul, what discouragement can he meet with, at his first setting out any more than in his future progress, from the doctrine of election? Does the doctrine of election *contradict* the *invitations* and *promises* of the gospel? When Christ, says, *Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest; and him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out;*—does the doctrine of election teach us to put in, *if ye are elected*? No, my brethren; the doctrine of election leaves these and all such like passages of scripture in their full force and meaning, not throwing one grain of discouragement in the way of any one contrite-awakened sinner. All the doctrine of election does in this case is, when the sinner is brought savingly to Christ and created anew in him, it teaches him to ascribe it, not to himself, but unto God and his free grace. It teaches him to conclude, that had he been left entirely to his own will he should never have come to Christ but have obstinately continued estranged from him. In short, it teaches him to conclude, with the apostle Paul, * *it is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.* That is, that none do effectually will nor run of themselves

* Rom. ix. 16.

themselves, but that such as are made willing are made so in the day of divine power, and have reason therefore to cry out, not unto us, not unto us, but unto thy name be all the glory.

Nor can the doctrine of election lead any to a *fatal security*, any more than to *despair*. What *security* does this doctrine give to a man that loves and lives in sin? The elect of God are chosen *unto obedience*, and *through sanctification of the spirit*; how then can any that are prevailingly *unholy*, have the least evidence of their being elected?

Upon the whole, whether you receive this doctrine or reject it, it may be proper for you to bear in mind the following observations concerning it.

It does by no means make any one man more *sinful*, or more *miserable*, than he would have been otherwise. It *alters not* the cause or reasons of men's perishing. It *adds not* to the number of those that are supposed to perish. And therefore the *predestinarian* may, with just as much propriety as the Socinian, become the father of children.† All that can be fairly said of this doctrine is, that it supposes, what is plainly matter of fact, that the great God, who is good to all and whose tender mercies are over all his works, for *infinitely wise* but to us unknown reasons, does *more* for the salvation of some, than of others. That he does what *he knows will be effectual*

† See the Appeal, page 11.

fectual for the salvation of some, but that he leaves others in such a state as *he knows will terminate*, through their own fault, in perdition. And that he cannot be supposed to act in this manner by *chance*, but *design*. That he calls however none to an account but for the abuse of privileges they actually enjoyed, and for not doing what it was strictly *just* in him to require them to do. In short, it only supposes the *absolute unlimited fore-knowledge of God*, and that God has some *design* in what he does. That this design, nevertheless, is not to circumvent, ensnare, or deal in any respect *unjustly* or *unkindly* with any of his creatures, but so to conduct himself with respect to them all, them that are saved and them that perish, as may best serve to promote, as I have before observed, his own *glory*, or *that end*, whatever it be, that is most worthy to be promoted, and from which the *greatest good* will be ultimately derived.

Nor can this doctrine be consistently denied, how *mad* soever men may be in their opposition to it, unless we *deny*, as the candid will allow, the *fore-knowledge of God*. And yet, to deny the foreknowledge of God, what is it, in its apparent consequences, but to deny, I had almost said, the *existence of a God*? For if you take away the *absolute unlimited prescience of God*, you have a God that is liable every moment to be *disappointed* in his intentions, *surprized* with *unexpected* occurrences, and *confounded* in his *wisest* schemes.

schemes. And even then, before any advantage is gained in this argument by the *denial* of God's prescience, we must suppose; what appears to me impious in the highest degree to suppose, that if God had *foreknown* how things would have come to pass, *he would have acted otherwise* than he has done.

The author of the Appeal has a hint upon the doctrine of perseverance, which, like all the other doctrines, he levels with a stroke. He asks, "What reason the apostle Paul had to exhort Christians to *take heed lest they should fall*, 1 Cor. x. 12, when none that ever did stand could possibly fall?" The answer to this, and every such question, is ready. Because *taking heed* is as much the *appointed means* of Christians not falling, as their *not falling* is the *appointed end* to be answered by those means. And that a man of understanding and candor, (and such I am willing to suppose the author of the Appeal,) should be capable of deluding himself by such superficial reasoning as that which is grounded on the supposition of the *means not being connected with the end*, is really astonishing.

But I may be thought, perhaps, to have been *too prolix* upon this metaphysical subject already, and must not therefore enlarge. Nor should I have said so much upon it, but that I have long been convinced the doctrine of election and reprobation is a doctrine which has been somehow

or other *strangely misrepresented*, and very *little understood*; and it appears to me, the *humble reception* of it would have the happiest influence upon the tempers and lives of sincere Christians. There are however, I am sensible, many *eminent* and *amiable* Christians who have strong prejudices against this unpopular notion. And perhaps they may find it difficult to admit me to their Christian friendship because I have attempted a defence of it. But whatever may be their sentiments of me, I do from the bottom of my heart embrace all of them, with the sincerest affection, as my fellow Christians and brethren in the Lord; and, conscious of my own fallibility and many imperfections, am ready to say, whereunto we have attained, let us walk by the same rule; let us mind the same thing. It is not long e'er that happy day will arrive, when every error shall be chased away, and we shall all see as we are seen and know as we are known.

In the mean time, it is a sincere pleasure to me to think that many of my fellow Christians who may not approve of what I have said concerning *election*, will yet cordially harmonize with me in what I may offer under the next head to be treated of, which is

V. *The Divinity of Christ.*

Few christians are entirely unacquainted with
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the many unhappy debates there have been in the Christian church, in every age, upon this important subject.

Some, acknowledging the *divinity* of Christ, have denied his *proper humanity*, supposing that he only *appeared* as a man but was not *really* so. —Others, *denying* his divinity, allow him to have had *only humanity*, making him, as the author of the Appeal does, a *mere man*, the same kind of being with ourselves, and *no more*. Others again, not able to reconcile either of these opinions with the scripture account of the Savior, take a middle way, and suppose the Lord Jesus Christ to have been a *compound being*, neither *God* nor *Man* absolutely, but a being by himself, made up of a *human body*, united, not to a *human soul*, but to a *superangelic spirit*. And these opinions have been compounded and subdivided into many lesser and subordinate ones.

Now it is very certain these *contradictory opinions* cannot be *all* true, nor all taught in the word of God. And yet, without some *appearance* of truth to support them, how can we account for it upon the principles of candor and charity, that such contrary tenets should be held by those who *all* profess to receive the *bible* as the common rule of their faith, and the only standard of their religious sentiments?

It is not surely *improbable*, that *each* of these tenets may contain *some* truth as well as falsehood,
and

and that from them all, the *whole truth*, as it is revealed to us in God's word, may be fairly collected.

The first opinion allows the *divinity* of Christ, and we may suppose is so far true; but *denies* his *humanity*, and therein appears to be erroneous. For if *Christ* was not a *real man*, how shall we be able to prove there ever was, or now is any such being in the world? He *appeared* as a man, he is *called* a man, he endured *bodily hunger*, thirst, pain, was grieved in *spirit*, wept and rejoiced; and if, notwithstanding all this he was not a *real man*, what proof can we bring that there is any such being now in existence? "Christ's being made by the immediate hand of God, and not born in the usual course of generation, is no reason (as the author of the Appeal very justly observes,) for his not being considered as a man, for then Adam must not have been a man."—But yet the persons who entertained this notion concerning Christ, knew not how to reconcile the idea of his *real humanity* with that of his *proper divinity*, and therefore, being fully convinced of his divinity, were led to imagine his humanity was only *phantasial* or *in appearance*.

The second opinion is exactly the reverse of this. It supposes the *humanity* of Christ to have been real, and so far is true; but denies his *divinity*, insisting upon it that he was a *mere man*: and *no more*, that he had no existence till
born.

born of the virgin; and therein, it appears from scripture to be false.

Could a *mere man* that had no existence till he came into this world, have said of himself with any truth or propriety, what Christ says of himself? **Before Abraham was I am. I came forth from the father, and am come into the world, again, I leave the world and go to the father. I am alpha and omega, the ROOT and offspring of David, the bright and morning star. Father glorify me with the glory I had with thee before the world began!* Surely this is strange language for a *mere man* to make use of concerning himself, and the bible must be a *prodigiously figurative* and an *amazingly obscure* book, if all these expressions in it are to be accommodated to a *mere man*. But this is not all. We read in scripture that Christ being in the form of God, *took* upon him the form of a servant. Now these expressions seem naturally to intimate, that the form of a servant was a form that did not originally belong to him, but a form which he *voluntarily assumed*. Yet, if he was no more than a *mere man*, what form *but* that of a servant could belong to him; or with what propriety could he be represented as *taking* this form upon him, and his doing so be mentioned as an instance of his *humility*? If he was no more than a *mere man like ourselves*, and had *no existence* till born of the virgin, how could he be *in the form of*
God

* John viii. 58.—xvi. 28. Rev. i. 8.—xxii. 16. John xvii. 5.

God antecedently to his taking upon him the form of a servant? which yet he is expressly said to have been. And even if the words in this passage of scripture, he thought it no robbery to be equal with God, were to be rendered he did not think of the robbery of being equal with God; can any thing be more strange, than to have it urged as an example of humility, and a pattern for our imitation, that Jesus Christ being a mere man, and very well knowing himself to be no more, did not think of such an impious robbery as being equal with God? Let us see how the apostle's reasoning will run upon this supposition. Look not every man on his OWN THINGS, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus; who being a mere man like yourselves, not an angel or like any super-angelic being but a mere man, was far from thinking of such an impious robbery as being equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, that is gave up what he never had, and took upon him the form of a servant; it never having been put to his option whether he would be of any other form, this being the only form which as a mere man could possibly belong to him. Because Christ being a mere man did not aim to be a God which he had no right to, therefore do you learn not to look on your own things, nor to insist on what you have a right to.—Is this the reasoning of the great apostle Paul? At the feet of Gamaliel, and in the school

school of inspiration, did he learn to reason
 after this manner? Let him speak for him-
 self. And his language is, * Let this mind
 be in you which was also in Christ Jesus; who
*being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to
 be equal with God: but made himself of no repu-
 tation, and took upon him the form of a servant.*
 The same apostle, in another place, † represents
 the grace and love of the Lord Jesus Christ as
 strikingly exemplified, in that *though he was rich
 before he came into this world, yet for our sakes
 he became poor, that we, through his poverty, might
 be rich.* But how absurd would this passage be
 upon the supposition of Christ's being but a *mere
 man* like ourselves? Ye know the *grace* of our
 Lord Jesus Christ, how that though he was not
 an angel or superangelic being but a *mere man*,
 and consequently *before* he came into the world
 not only *had nothing to lose* but had not even *ex-
 istence*, yet, *for our sakes*, he became, having ne-
 ver been otherwise, *poor*, that ye, *through his
 poverty*, which he could not help, might be rich.
 More astonishing still, upon the supposition that
 Christ was a *mere man*, as the author of the Ap-
 peal peremptorily avers, are the words of the
 apostle John concerning him. *In the beginning
 was the word, and the word was with God, and
 the word was God. The same was in the beginning
 with God. All things were made by him, and with-
 out*

* Phil. ii. 5, 6, 7.

† 2 Cor. viii. 9.

out him was not any thing made that was made. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory of the ONLY BEGOTTEN of the Father, full of grace and truth. How are all these things to be reconciled with the idea of Christ's being but a *mere man*?—He had no being till he was born of the virgin about 1770 years ago, and yet was *in the beginning* with God. He was a *mere man*, and yet absolutely GOD. *All things* were made by him, and without him was not *any thing* made that was made: and yet *he himself* was made, and many millions of men and things were made before him. The world was made *by him*, and yet the world was made 4000 years *before him*. The *word* that was in the beginning with God and was God, *was made flesh*; and yet Christ was not made and had no existence, *till* he was born of the virgin, and appeared *in flesh*. His disciples *beheld* his glory as the glory of the *only-begotten* of the Father, whilst he dwelt amongst them; and yet he had *then no peculiar glory* for them to behold, nor was he *the only begotten* son of God *till* he had entitled himself to that dignity by his exemplary obedience, nor did he enjoy it till after his resurrection from the dead.—How these palpable contradictions may strike your minds, my brethren, I cannot say. But for my part, I freely acknowledge, that if I were once to suppose it possible the *scriptures* should

should be thus *glaringly inconsistent*, I should despair of learning any one truth from them with any kind of certainty, and should therefore be ready, with the Rev. Mr. *Venn*, to commit my *bible* to the flames as an useless unprofitable book, how much soever the author of the Appeal might divert himself at the ceremony.

The third opinion, endeavors to avoid the absurdities of the two preceding ones, and seems to aim at *compromising* the matter by taking a *middle way*. The patrons of this hypothesis acknowledge that Christ is *more* than a *mere man*, that he had an *existence* long before he came into the world, but that nevertheless he is not *God*, unless by office or as an inferior God to the Father, nor yet, strictly speaking, *man*, except only by his having a *human body*. They suppose him to be an *intermediate* being betwixt God and man, a super-angelic *divine spirit* united to a *human body*. *More than man, less than God*. —But, plausible as this scheme may appear to many, it will not stand the test of a scriptural examination. It allows to Christ neither *Deity* nor *humanity*, but makes him a strange *mysterious compound of both*, and at the same time does not admit him to be, properly speaking, possessed of *either*. Now all those passages of scripture which speak of the *humanity* of Christ, do as much contradict this notion of his person as those which speak of his *Deity*. Is Christ stiled
a man

a man of sorrows and the *man* Christ Jesus; and do we read that as by *man* came death by *man* came also the resurrection from the dead? Then certainly Christ was a *real man* or he would never have been stiled so. But to constitute real proper *humanity*, a *human soul* is as necessary as a *human body*. And it is very evident Christ was as much possessed of the one as of the other. We read that his *soul* was exceeding sorrowful even unto death, as well as that his *body* sweat great drops of blood to the ground. He was then *really man*, not so in *appearance* only, or but *partly* so as having a *human body*, but truly and properly so, as much so, which the author of the Appeal very justly observes, as any of the Jews were, or as we ourselves are. This *half-way* scheme, as *Arianism* may be fitly called, will never reconcile the scripture account of Jesus Christ. There seems to be no room from scripture to *doubt* of the *full* and *proper humanity* of the Redeemer. The most material questions that can fairly arise upon this subject, are these two. Whether Christ be possessed of any *other nature besides* the human? and, if so, *what* that nature is? Now that Christ is possessed of *another nature besides* the human, all those passages which have been already mentioned, and which speak so fully of his *pre-existence*, clearly prove. The *human nature* he possessed not till his *incarnation*, but he *existed* long before his incarnation,

incarnation, or, when the Jews said to him thou art not yet fifty years old and hast thou seen Abraham? he would never have replied as he did, — * *Verily I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am.* The only remaining question is, *what nature Christ possessed before his incarnation, or who he was antecedent to his appearance in human nature.* Whatever he was before, he then became also man, it is readily allowed, but the *turning point* in this controversy is, *who became man?* or, what nature did he possess *before* he became man?

In answering this question, we have *nothing* to do with the *exaltation* of Christ, subsequent to his incarnation obedience sufferings and death, and as the reward of his acquired merit, but are simply to attend to what is said concerning him *previous* to his entrance upon the stage of mortality. In whatever sense *he was* afterwards *abased*, he must certainly be capable of exaltation. And the mediatorial kingdom which as *Mediator* he *received*, may undoubtedly be *delivered up* again. But the question is, *who was first abased and then exalted?*

And were we to divest ourselves of prejudice, how easily might we obtain satisfaction upon this important and interesting point? As to the preexistence of the *human soul* of Christ, which some very good men have warmly contended for, I would beg leave to observe, that there

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seems

* John. viii. 58.

but little propriety in calling a glorified spirit a *human soul*, which is supposed to have been created, and to have acted in a separate state, thousands of years before it was united to a *human body*; or, if we should allow of this, it is certain that *many* passages of scripture which speak of the preexistence of Christ, cannot be understood as referring to the preexistence of his *human soul*, but must be understood, as the favorers of this peculiar notion concerning the person of Christ were ready to acknowledge, in an infinitely higher sense. The scriptures are indeed very full and express in assuring us, that he who *took human nature into union* with that *original nature* he possessed before, was the *eternal son of God, the son of the Father in truth, the only-begotten son of God, not the person* of the Father, but fully of the *same nature and essence, yea, the BRIGHTNESS of his GLORY*, (what expressions can be stronger?) and the *express image* of his PERSON. That *previous* to his incarnation he was as fully and truly *the son of God*, as he was afterwards *the son of man*.

* “ That good men are often called in scripture the children and the *sons of God*, (to use the words of a masterly writer upon this subject,) and that all intellectual beings whatever may, in one sense, be said to be his offspring, is undeniable : but there is nothing more evident,

* See a letter to Mr. Harwood, of Bristol, printed for Rivington at St. Paul's Church-yard, 1768.

“ dent, than that the whole tenor of scripture
 “ represents the sonship of the Messiah as *pecu-*
 “ *liar* to himself. In both Old and New Tes-
 “ tament he is constantly represented as heir by
 “ right of geniture, not by adoption; begotten,
 “ the first-begotten, and the only-begotten heir
 “ of all things, visible and invisible: essentially
 “ distinct from all the celestial spirits, for to
 “ which of them says the apostle (Heb. i. 5) did
 “ God ever say at any time, thou art my son,
 “ this day I have BEGOTTEN thee? And hence
 “ the Messiah is always mentioned as a son of
 “ the same nature with his Father. The human
 “ nature of a son is equal to that of his father:
 “ and perfectly analagous to this is that *equality*
 “ *to God*, which the apostle tells us the Messiah
 “ thought no acquisition. That the Jews had
 “ the same ideas of the sonship of the Christ, and
 “ that our Savior claimed such sonship, is cer-
 “ tain. The Jews sought to kill him, the apostle
 “ John tells us, because he said God was his father,
 “ making himself equal with God; that is, mak-
 “ ing himself the *literal* son of the divine nature.
 “ But did our Savior ever endeavor to refute
 “ this idea of the Jews? So far from it, he con-
 “ firmed them in it. When the high-priest ad-
 “ jured him to tell him, *art thou the Christ the*
 “ *son of God?* which in the mouth of a Rabbi
 “ of that age expressly means, art thou the
 “ Christ, the person whom the prophecies call
 “ the begotten son of God, whose goings forth
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“ have been from the days of eternity, (Mic. v.
 “ 2.) and equal to God in the divine nature?
 “ (See *John* v. 18, and x. 33.) To this our Savior
 “ replies in the Jewish affirmative, *ὡς ἔπας*. *It*
 “ *is as thou hast said*; and alludes to the pro-
 “ phesy of Daniel, (Dan. vii. 13, 14.) and the
 “ 110th psalm, both distinguished predictions of
 “ the greatness of the Messiah. The high-priest
 “ on this rends his cloaths, (Matt. xxvi. 65.)
 “ and exclaims, *he has spoken blasphemy!* What
 “ farther need have we of witnesses? Now, if
 “ they did not esteem the sonship of the Christ
 “ as different from that of all other beings, par-
 “ taking as a son of the essence of the Deity,
 “ where were the *blasphemy*? The inference is
 “ evident: Christ was crucified for asserting his
 “ divinity. I do not remember (the author adds)
 “ to have seen the argument drawn from the
 “ opinion of the Jews urged before, though it is
 “ of the greatest consequence; for of however
 “ little importance their opinion may be when
 “ considered merely as their own idea, it receives
 “ the greatest weight when we find our Savior
 “ not only agreeing to it, but his claiming the
 “ sonship of the Christ according to their own
 “ ideas of it, the only accusation on which they
 “ could condemn him. In this view the ideas
 “ of the Jews, as to the sonship of the Messiah,
 “ become completely decisive.”* Indeed,

* The truth and propriety of the following quotation from a lit-
 tle tract called, *The Triumph of Truth*, page 19, published by the
 author of the Appeal, I refer to the judgment of the reader.

Indeed, were we content to receive the plain declarations of scripture, what could be more evident than the true and *proper divinity* of our blessed Savior? Are we not as fully informed that *before* he came into the world he was *in the form of God*, as that *when* he came into the world he sustained *the form of a servant*. That he who was, after his incarnation, *in the world as man*, made the world as *God*. That he was *as truly* in the beginning with *God*, and *God*, as that he *was made flesh*. As truly the *mighty God*, as an *infant of days*. The *root* as well as *offspring* of David. And that Moses was faithful only as a *servant* in the house of God, but Christ as a *SON* over his *own* house?

It is easy to talk and complain of the ambiguity and obscurity of scripture concerning this doctrine, but the fault is in our own minds, not in the scripture which is exceeding plain and easy to be understood, could we be content without being wise *above* what is written.

That Christ as man and mediator is inferior to the Father, is as certain as that he took upon him the form of a servant. And as it is in this form we have principally to do with him, we

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cannot

“ If Christ had not satisfied the Jews that he did not mean to make himself equal with God, *would they not have produced* it against him at his trial, when he was condemned as a blasphemer, because he confessed that he was *the Christ only*; and yet no Jew expected any thing more than *a man* for their Messiah, and our Savior *no where* intimated that they were mistaken in that expectation.”

cannot justly wonder that so much should be said of him in this character. But to imagine that what is said of him *in the form of a servant*, implies that *no other form* belongs to him, is to overturn from the very foundation the whole of that *amazing love* which the scriptures constantly represent as being strikingly exhibited in *the incarnation and obedience* of the son of God. And how much soever some men may ridicule the attempt to solve the difficulties that arise upon this subject, by having recourse to the distinction of the two natures in the person of Christ, 'tis a distinction the scripture authorises, and there are many passages which cannot be consistently explained without it.

But the grand objection to this doctrine is its mysteriousness and incomprehensibility. The author of the Appeal, as many have done before him, so that the simile is worn quite threadbare, puts it upon a level with transubstantiation itself. "After exalting a *man* into a God, he says, they made a piece of *bread* into one also." But this writer mistakes the matter. No *Athanasian* pretends to exalt a *man* into a God; this is a *Socinian* fiction. 'Tis the Socinian who whilst he maintains that Christ is by *nature* only *man*, yet supposes that as the reward of his obedience, he is exalted to the dignity of a *God*, or, at least, a *demi-god*. However, when the author of the Appeal brings as convincing proof of *transubstantiation*, as the scripture furnishes of the *divinity*

unity of Christ, I shall certainly embrace that doctrine. But, laying aside the frightful representations which have been given of the doctrine I am pleading for, and examining impartially into it, shall we not find that much of the pretended mysteriousness of it arises rather from the confusion of our own minds in conceiving of it, than from any real obscurity in the doctrine itself? At the same time that there is but *one God* who is principally made known unto us under the character of *the Father*, and we are certain that the pretended deities of the heathen are by nature *no gods*; why should it be thought incredible that this *divine Father* should have a *Son* of the *same nature* with himself, not of *another*, much less of an *opposite nature*, but partaking of the *same nature* with him, the *brightness* of his glory, and the *express image* of his person? But perhaps it will be said parents must necessarily exist before their children, and the idea of *sonship* necessarily involves in it that of *derivation*. To this it may be replied, similes ought never to be strained, and it is exceedingly clear, that if *the Father* ever existed *without the Son*, it is *impossible*, in the case before us, that the *Son* should be of the *same nature* with his *Father*, the *Son of the Father in truth*, or the *express image* of his person, as the *Son of God* is expressly said to be. And further, should there be a third person revealed to us as proceeding from the *Father* and

the Son, known by the name of the *Holy Spirit*, and whose *oneness* with the Father and Son is supposed to be as real as the oneness betwixt the spirit of a man and a man; what is there contradictory and absurd in the idea? Or if the *Son of God* is represented as taking *human nature* into union with his own *original nature*, so as to become, without confounding the two distinct natures, *truly man* or truly possessed of the human nature, as much as he was before *truly god* or a partaker of the *divine nature*; what is there *contrary* to reason in this representation, how much soever it may be, as almost *every thing* is, *above* our reason?

It will still be said, you hereby make *three gods*, and you might as well make *three hundred*; for it is positively asserted in scripture, that unto us Christians there is but *one god* the *Father*, and *one mediator* betwixt god and man, the *man* Christ Jesus. Now it is readily allowed we make the Son and Spirit partakers of the *same nature with the Father*, and consequently maintain that there *are three* that bear record in heaven, (whether this much disputed text be genuine or not) even the *Father*, the *Son*, and *Holy Ghost*. * But then it is well known we as strenuously maintain, whether

* Mr. Holwell, in his *interesting historical events relative to the province of Bengal*, though he professes himself a *Unitarian*, yet when speaking of what he calls *primitive truths* which had forcibly been impressed on the mind of man in the beginning, has this remarkable observation concerning the doctrine of a *trinity*.
 “ One of the *most important* of these primitive truths was, the

whether our conceptions of the matter be just or not, that these three are *not* three jarring rival contending deities of *different natures* from one another, *not*, properly speaking, *three gods*; but that though they are distinct in *person* and relative character, yet in the most *essential* respect, even as to their *nature* or *essence*, they are *one*. And there is therefore unto us but *one God*, the *Father*; the *Son* and *Spirit* not being, *with respect to Deity*, distinct from the Father, nor setting up any claim to deity in opposition to him, but claiming under him, if I may so speak, and hav-

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“ notion of *three prime created celestial beings*, either *confounded with*,
 “ or, exclusive of and subordinate to the Deity. Thus the *Bra-*
 “ *mins* have their *Birmah, Bishnoo, and Sieb*; the *Persians* their
 “ *Oromazes, Mythra, and Mythras*; the *Egyptians* their *Osyris, Isis,*
 “ and *Orus*; the ancient *Arabs* their *Allat, Al. Uzza, and Manah*;
 “ the *Phenicians* and *Tyrians*, their *Belus, Urania, and Adonis*;
 “ the *Greeks* and *Romans* their *Jupiter-Olympus, Minerva, and Apollo*;
 “ the *Americans* their *Otkon, Messou, and Atahauta*; the *Christians*
 “ their *Father, Son and Holy Ghost, &c. &c.* And we doubt not,
 “ says Mr. *Holwell*, but a similar doctrine might be traced among
 “ all the different nations of the earth, had we authentic records
 “ of their primitive religious institutes.” He adds, “ To a no-
 “ tion so universal in the first times, we think ourselves war-
 “ ranted in giving the title of a *primitive truth*; which must have
 “ had *unerring fact*, and a *divine revelation* for its source and foun-
 “ dation, as well as the other primitive truths, of the *rebellion,*
 “ *fall, and punishment of part of the angelic host, &c.*”

'Tis true, Mr. *Holwell* calls the three beings he speaks of, *created*, but how they could then be *confounded with* the Deity he does not explain. And if *all three* were *created*, what celestial being did any of these nations acknowledge, it might be asked, as *uncreated*? Who was deemed by the *Bramins* higher than their *Firmah*, or by the *Persians* than their *Oromazes, &c.*?

ing no pretence to divinity but what arises from an *union* or *absolute oneness*, in point of nature, with the Father. And as in the œconomy of our salvation the Father alone *personally* acts in the *supreme* character, (the Son and Spirit in consequence of the eternal counsels of peace relative to the salvation of sinners acting in *subordinate* characters,) there seems to be the more propriety, in speaking of the *unity* of God as opposed to the polytheism of the heathen, to express it in the manner the apostle does in the passage referred to. * *Though there be, says the apostle, that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be GODS many and LORDS many); but UNTO US there is but one GOD, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one LORD Jesus Christ, or, as he expresses himself more fully in his epistle to Timothy, † one mediator between God and men, the MAN Christ Jesus.* Christians, and to such the apostle wrote, could never be supposed to mistake the meaning of what is here said, as though the apostle intended by it to deny the unity of the Son and Spirit with the Father. All he affirms is this. In the first place, that whilst the heathen nations acknowledged *many* gods of different ranks and orders, Christians acknowledge but *one* God, the *Father*; not however to the exclusion of the *Son* and *Spirit*, as it would be unnatural and totally inconsistent with many other scriptures to suppose this to have been

* 1 Cor. viii. 5, 6.

† 1 Tim. ii. 5.

been his meaning, and it is acknowledged on all hands that the Son and Spirit are not two beings of a *different nature*, or of a different rank or order from the Father, but, in nature and essence, *absolutely one* with him. In the next place, the apostle affirms that whilst heathens had many LORDS or mediators, many departed *heroes* of whom they boasted, Christians had but *one* LORD or *mediator*, the *man* Christ Jesus. That is, unless we suppose the apostle to contradict himself, he who being *in the form of God* (as St. Paul expresses it in his epistle to the Philippians) became man, or *took upon him the form of a servant*, in order that he might be qualified to act in the infinitely important character under which he is chiefly represented to us, that of *mediator* between God and men. And it is therefore acknowledged without hesitation, that the *general* mode of worship exhibited to us in the New Testament, is *through Christ* as mediator, *by the* assistance of the *Holy Spirit* as the great guide and comforter of the church, *unto the Father*, who always acts *personally* in the *supreme* character; *from whom* therefore every blessing is derived, *through the mediation* of the Son, and *by the agency* of the good Spirit,—and who is, as the scriptures plainly teach us, *with his Son and Spirit, one God* over all, blessed for ever more.

If the *Son* and *Spirit* are not one with the Father in nature and essence, however distinct in person and subordinate in office, to me it

seems passing strange, and what in my opinion, no one has ever yet given any tolerable account of, that they should be joined together with the *Father* in one and the same solemn religious rite; I mean that of Christian baptism. I am sensible it has been urged we read of the Israelites being baptized *unto Moses*, in the cloud and in the sea. But it is easy to reply, this was not *real* baptism but is only spoken of in *allusion* to that ordinance. Or if it were otherwise, it would still be widely different to read of the Israelites being baptized *into the name of Moses*, and of Christians being baptized *into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*. Is it *credible* that two *creatures*, and one of them a *mere man* like ourselves, should be joined together in one and the same religious rite, and that we should be at the same time, and by the use of the same words, solemnly devoted to the *eternal God*, a *mere man*, and a *created spirit*? To me, nothing can appear more monstrously absurd, not to say impious. And indeed, if the Son and Spirit be not truly possessed of the same divine nature with the Father, how we can reconcile their having the *same divine* names, titles, attributes and works ascribed to them, as they most evidently have; or, if Christ be not by *nature* the *Son of God*, how there ever could have been any *adequate* foundation for his *mediatorial* exaltation; it surpasses, I freely own, the narrow bounds;

bounds of *my* limited mind in any measure to comprehend.

But still the author of the Appeal will insist upon it, and hereby seems to suppose he gives a decisive stroke to the *Athanasians*, (for so the Trinitarians must be contented to be called,) that “it is expressly contrary to our reason that *three* should be *one*, and *one three*, and that it can never *appear* to us to be so.” What a play upon words is this! Is it necessary for us at this time of day to repeat, that we by no means think the three divine persons in the Godhead to be *three* in the *same sense* in which they are one, or *one* in the *same sense* in which they are three? How often must we declare, that we believe they are *three* only with respect to *person* and *office*, and *one* in a very different sense, even with respect to *nature* or *essence*. We believe no more upon this sublime subject, than we *understand*. For with respect to the *precise modus* of the divine existence, as we neither have nor can have any determinate ideas concerning it, we do not and cannot believe any thing concerning it.

The *Unitarians*, as those call themselves who maintain the unity of the divine *personality* as well as *nature*, seem to imagine that by rejecting the common received doctrine of the unity of the Son and Spirit with the Father, they get clear of all obscurity, and are enabled to form clear ideas of the great object of their worship. But, I think, they are mistaken. Have they

they *any other ideas* of the Great Being they profess to worship, than the ideas of certain properties attributes and perfections which he is supposed to be possessed of? If they say God is a *Spirit*, and it is absurd to expect any other ideas of a *Spirit* than the ideas of certain essential properties, attributes, and perfections;—then let them acknowledge that these ideas their brethren enjoy in common with themselves, and in every respect to as *much* advantage surely, for all the purposes of *practical* piety. Or, if they are still determined to triumph over us as believing we know not what, and imagine *they* have entirely discarded *all mystery*, because they think they have proved that the *eternal God*, as distinct from all pretended deities, is *one PERSON*, let them give us their *determinate ideas* of the word *person* as applied to the eternal God, and it will be no difficult matter to prove these ideas utterly *inconsistent* with the essential nature of God. The word *person* always carries in it the idea of *limitation*, but the Deity is and must be absolutely infinite and *unlimited*. As to any positive direct conceptions of the great God, absolutely considered, the *Unitarian* and *Trinitarian* are on a level. To the one as well as the other, it may be said with equal propriety,—* *Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?* No. As well mightst thou attempt to measure the waters of the ocean.

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* Job ii. 7.

in the hollow of thine hand, or to mete out the heavens with a span. Without controversy, *great* is the mystery of godliness! But nevertheless it is an irrefragable fact, that *GOD was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Upon the whole, judge my brethren for yourselves, which of the different opinions that have been briefly represented to you, is most consistent with itself, and with the word of God. I have endeavored honestly and without the least intended disguise, to set before you the ideas of my own mind upon this important subject, but have not a wish to influence your minds, any farther than there may appear to be any force in the reasoning I have made use of.

How far the giving up the doctrine I have been pleading for, and which is so clearly and fully taught in the scriptures, might contribute to the conversion either of Jews or Mahometans, or what advantage they would receive from such a kind of conversion, I am not at all concerned to determine. I am sure it cannot be right to *do evil*, though the pretence for it may be *that good may come*. And as to the poor Jews particularly, there seems to be no reason to suppose that the Socinian hypothesis of a *mere man's* being exalted into a god and made the object of *religious worship*, of how inferior soever a kind the worship be; can ever be esteemed by them

as *less* tending to idolatry, than the common received opinion of the Savior, which indeed, as we have seen, corresponds with that of the ancient Jews concerning the Messiah. Besides, be this as it will, we very well know that when the gospel was first preached by the apostles themselves, it was foolishness to many of the Greeks and a stumbling block to many of the Jews; and we cannot therefore justly wonder if the genuine gospel should be looked upon in the same light by Jews and Mahometans now. But when once their minds are enlightened, and their perverse hearts changed, (let us pray for the advent of that happy hour!) the veil will then be taken off, and, with a rapture not to be described, they will be ready to cry out in the language of *Thomas, my Lord!* and *my God!*

But if Christ be *no more than a prophet* who came to instruct mankind into their duty, of what great moment can it be to have right ideas of his person? Whether he be *God*, or only a divinely inspired *man*, what does it avail? In either case, so that his divine *mission* be ascertained, concerning which all Christians are agreed, his instructions are equally important and authentic. This leads me therefore to address you, my friends, on the last and most interesting subject of the Appeal, which is

VI. The ATONE-

VI. *The ATONEMENT.*

The author of the Appeal having first degraded the Savior to the rank of a *mere man*, endeavors in the next place, very consistently, to persuade you that he sustained no other character than that of a *mere prophet*. That he made no *atonement* for sin by his death, nay, that this doctrine is a *popish invention*.

Now I freely confess, if Christ were no more than a *mere man*, it is absurd to suppose that he could make any *atonement* for sin, by his life or death either. If he was a *mere man*, Mr. *Elwall*, is certainly right in affirming,* “ that he never “ did any thing but what was his duty to do, “ and that he therefore *could not* merit any thing for others.” If he was only a *man*, his incarnation itself could not be *voluntary*, and how therefore could there be any thing of *merit* either in that or any other part of his supposed *humiliation*? Merit! no, so far from it that it was *possible* (I tremble to speak it) *he might have himself sinned and perished everlastingly*. And this, as a worthy clergyman assured me, one who called himself a christian asserted was possible. The *triumph* this surely, not of truth, but tremendous error! If however it shall appear that

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* *Triumph of Truth*, p. 11.

Christ hath *actually made atonement* for sin by his death, it will be, I think, no inconsiderable collateral proof of his true and proper Deity; for unless the dignity of his original nature be considered, what merit, what worth, what efficacy can there be supposed to be in his *vicarious* sufferings, to display the enormous *evil of sin*, the awfulness of *the divine justice*, and the infinity of the *divine love*?

Almost all professing Christians, in every age, how much soever they may have disagreed upon other points, have united in acknowledging the doctrine of *the atonement* to be the grand *distinguishing* doctrine of the gospel. And notwithstanding the apparent ease with which the author of the Appeal in a page or two seems to set it aside, you will find it my friends, I am persuaded, if you search the scriptures, to be a truth which shines there as a star of the first magnitude, or rather as *the sun* at mid-day.

It cannot be expected that, in this brief address, I should set before you at large the evidence we have of this capital truth. Nor will it be thought necessary, if I am enabled to give you such a view of the doctrine, as may tend to establish your minds in the cordial belief of it, and enable you to derive that comfort hope and spiritual strength from it, which it is so eminently calculated to administer.

The author of the Appeal allows we read in scripture that Christ died as a *sacrifice* for our
sins.

sins, but then he maintains it was not a *real* but *figurative* sacrifice, in like manner as when Christians are exhorted to present their bodies as living *sacrifices* unto God. That the death of Christ was in no other sense a *sacrifice* than as “ the death of an illustrious martyr, who died in “ the glorious cause of truth and virtue.” But let us see how this agrees with the *scripture account* of the sufferings and death of Christ.

If we look into the *Old Testament*, we there find the sufferings of Christ spoken of in the following manner. **Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him and by his stripes we are healed. It pleased the Lord to bruise him, HE hath put him to grief. He was numbered with the transgressors, and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself. The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*† And is this, can it be thought, the description of the sufferings

* Isaiah liii. 4. &c. Dan. ix. 26.

† In the *Triumph of Truth*, we are told (page 22.) that “ if any of the Jews had had the least notion of the necessity of any atonement for the sins of mankind, they could not but have expected a *suffering Messiah*; and yet it is plain that the very best of them had no such idea.” And it might have been added they had in general no idea of a *spiritual Messiah*, any more than a *suffering* one; they expected a great *temporal* prince to lead them forth to victory and triumph. But must not that mind be strangely warped by prejudice, that can suppose this to
prove

sufferings only of a martyr? Did it *please* the Lord to bruise an innocent person? Did *he* put him to grief? How can we explain such language as this, but by acknowledging, that on the Messiah were laid, as the prophet assures us, the iniquities of us all?

In the *New Testament* we have the *history* of Christ's sufferings, which it will be proper to survey in order to see how far, from this account of them, they appear to have been the sufferings only of a martyr.

And when the hour was come in which, as our Lord himself expresses it, (Luke xxii. 37.) the things concerning him were to have an end or be accomplished, how deep and awful were the sufferings he endured! *My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death*, is the language he uses when his agony began. And then falling prostrate upon the ground, he breathes forth these pathetic words; *Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not as I will but as thou wilt; Father, save me from this hour, but, for this cause came I to this hour; O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, thy will be done!* And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground

prove any thing more, than that the ancient Jews *greatly erred, not knowing the scriptures?* And notwithstanding the fine things said of the modern Jews, those *faithful servants of God* as Mr. Elwall styles them, (p. 15. 16.) may it not be justly feared, they *too much* resemble their ancestors in ignorance and unbelief?

ground. At length he is crucified. And at his crucifixion, *from the sixth to the ninth hour there was an awful preter-natural darkness over all the land.* In the midst of this tremendous scene, the suffering Savior cries out, in language quite startling and astonishing,—*Eli, Eli, lama sabac-thani? My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* With a loud voice he once more cries out, **IT IS FINISHED!** Then bows his sacred head and dies. And behold! in that *awful moment*, the veil of the temple is rent in twain from the top to the bottom, the earth quakes, the rocks are rent asunder, the graves are opened, and the bodies of many sleeping saints arise! And is this the history of the death only of a *martyr*? Were the agonies we have been surveying and the tremendous death we have just beheld, the agonies and death of a *martyr only*? Was the sun darkened, all nature convulsed, the graves opened and the dead raised, only to aggrandise a *martyr's* death? It cannot be! How much more natural is the exclamation of the Roman centurion who attended upon the dreadful occasion, —*truly this was the son of God!*

If Christ suffered not as a sacrifice or *propitiation* for sin, in the strict and proper sense of the words, whence proceeded his dreadful agony in the garden, and his awful complaint upon the cross? He was in himself holy harmless and undefiled, had no sin, and could not therefore, abstractedly, dread the divine displeasure: And can
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it then be supposed the *prospect* only of his sufferings, had his sufferings been no more than the common sufferings of a martyr, would have thrown him into such an agony as to cause him to sweat great drops of blood to the ground? Whatever may be said of the keen sensations of the Redeemer, and the affecting view he had of the ingratitude and guilt of his countrymen the Jews, who were so base as to become his murderers; yet still, unless the sufferings of Christ are allowed to have been *preternatural*, we sink his character beneath that of many of his followers, who have met death in its most terrific forms and under every aggravating circumstance of a natural kind, with unshaken fortitude. And what tolerable account can we give of God's withdrawing from his son in the depth of his sufferings, and thereby extorting from him that affecting complaint, expressive of the deepest anguish humanity could possibly endure, *why hast thou forsaken me?* Or how could Christ have spoken of his sufferings, with any truth or propriety, as the cup which his *Father* gave him to drink; if we do not allow that his sufferings were preternatural and vicarious, the sufferings of the *just* for the *unjust*?

And is not this the *uniform language* of scripture concerning the sufferings of Christ? If it be not, surely we must despair of understanding scripture upon any point whatever. If the sufferings of Christ were not *vicarious* and *propitiatory*

atory what meaning can there be in such passages as these?—* *Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world! † I lay down my life for the sheep.* The son of man came, to give his life a RANSOM for many. Who was made sin for us, that is a sin-offering. Who bare our sins in his own body upon the tree. Who suffered the just FOR the unjust. Was once offered to bear the sins of many. ‡ By one offering hath forever perfected them that are sanctified. Who appeared—to put away sin, by the sacrifice of himself. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hadst no pleasure; then said I, lo I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will O God—by the
which

* John i. 29. X. 15. Matt. xx. 28. 2 Cor. v. 21. 1 Pet. ii. 24. iii. 18. Heb. ix. 28.—X. 14. IX. 26. X. 6, 7, 10. Rom. viii. 32. IV. 25. V. 8. Rev. v. 6. VII. 14. v. 9.

‡ When the priest under the ceremonial law laid his hands on the head of the sacrifice and confessed over it the iniquities of those for whom it was offered, the sacrifice is said to bear those iniquities; in consequence of which was a discharge from guilt: and this is called *making atonement* for sin. Now there is in the scripture above cited, and in numberless other passages in the New Testament, a plain allusion to this ceremony. And supposing this ceremony to have been typical of the atonement for sin by the death of Christ, there is a manifest propriety in the allusion. But if in this ceremony there was no reference to the vicarious sufferings and death of Christ, then the writers of the New Testament were greatly mistaken in alluding to a custom to illustrate the subject they treat of, which had no reference to it at all.—But is it reasonable or, I had almost said, possible to suppose the apostles did not understand the design of the ceremonial law better than the author of the Appeal, and the rest of our modern Socinians?

which will we are sanctified, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. God spared not his own son, but freely delivered him up FOR us all. He was delivered FOR our offences, and raised again FOR our justification. God commendeth his love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died FOR us. IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE stood A LAMB as it had been slain. These are they which came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Thou art worthy—for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us unto God by thy blood. * Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things—but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare I say at this time his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. Without shedding of blood there is no remission. The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin. If the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh; how MUCH MORE shall the blood of Christ who through the
eternal

* 1 Pet. i. 19. Eph. i. 7. Rom. iii. 25, 26. Heb. ix. 22.
1 John i. 7. Heb. ix. 13, 14. Rom. x. 4.

eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your consciences from dead works, to serve the living God? Christ, is the END OF THE LAW for righteousness to every one that believeth.— But I had need transcribe almost all the New Testament, were I to enumerate all those passages of scripture, which more immediately or remotely, speak of the sufferings of Christ as vicarious and propitiatory. It is in my opinion *impossible* for any language to express more clearly and fully than the language of scripture hath already, the necessity and importance of the sufferings of Christ, and that his death was a real and proper sacrifice for sin, and is available in the sight of God as the great meritorious procuring cause of our *compleat redemption*. When we want to communicate our ideas of these things, where can we find words so full, striking, and proper for the purpose, as in the New Testament?

How amazing then must it be to the serious humble Christian, to be told that “it is only from the literal interpretation of a few *figurative* expressions in the scriptures that this doctrine of *atonement*, as well as that of *transubstantiation*, has been derived?”*—But at this rate, what shall we have left that is *not figurative*, or how shall we be able to distinguish that which *is* figurative from that which *is not* so? Was the agony of Christ in the garden, when he sweat great drops of blood, a *real*, or was it only a *figurative*

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* Triumph of Truth, page 23.

tive agony? Was his *death* real or was it only *figurative*? Did he die *for sin* really, or only *figuratively*? Was he *really* wounded for our sins and bruised for our iniquities, or only *figuratively*? Did he *really* by one offering for ever perfect them that are sanctified, or did he do it *only figuratively*? Did he *really* obtain eternal redemption for sinners, or did he only obtain it *figuratively*? Was this *eternal redemption* he obtained, a *real* or was it only a *figurative* redemption? What shall we make of the scriptures, or how shall we be able to learn any thing from them with certainty, if we are to be thus perplexed about the meaning of some of the plainest and most positive assertions contained in them?

If the death of Christ was only a figurative sacrifice, how comes it to pass that his death is spoken of in a manner so *entirely different* from the death of any other person, and in such language as cannot, without the most flagrant impiety, be applied to any person but himself? *Paul* was a martyr in the cause of truth and virtue as well as his divine master. But did *Paul* bear *our sins* in his own body upon the tree? Was *Paul* wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities? Did *Paul* obtain *eternal redemption* for us? We are exhorted, it is allowed, to *yield our bodies living sacrifices, to offer the sacrifices of praise continually, and even to lay down our lives for the brethren.** But is this suffering

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* Appeal, page 19.

the just for the unjust, being delivered for the offences of sinners, and raised for their justification, or shedding our blood for the remission of sins?

Besides, if the death of Christ was only a *figurative sacrifice*, what shall we make of the sacrifices under the law? Surely they could be no more than *figurative* sacrifices neither. The sacrifice of Christ *superfeded* all the legal sacrifices, which ceased when Christ had offered up himself without spot to God. Indeed the principal design of the sacrifices appointed under the law, seems to have been to *typify* or *shadow* out the *great sacrifice* that was to be offered up *once for all* under the dispensation of the gospel. This point is proved to us at large in the epistle to the Hebrews. The legal sacrifices could not therefore be superior to the sacrifice of Christ. No; the reasoning of scripture is, that if *the blood of bulls and goats purified the flesh*, MUCH MORE shall the blood of Christ purge the *conscience*. But if the sacrifice of Christ was only a *figurative* sacrifice, how could the conscience be purged by it *much more* or any more than by the legal sacrifices? Or if the sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifices under the law were both *figurative*, we have then *figures of a figure, shadows of a shadow*, unsupported by any substance, any proper reality.

In like manner, if the sacrifice of Christ be only a *figurative* sacrifice, what shall we make of the ordinance of the Lord's supper? * *Take eat*, says Christ, when he took the bread, *this is my*
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body,

* Matt. xxvi. 26, 27, 28. 1 Cor. xi. 28.

body, that is, as every *Protestant* allows and common sense obliges us to suppose, an emblem *figure* or memorial of my body, *which is in design and purpose, and will soon actually be broken for you.* And taking the cup he says, *drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the New Testament, that is a figure or emblem of it, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.* The bread and the wine in this ordinance it is evident are *figures* of the body and blood of Christ, and of the breaking of the one and the pouring out of the other, *for the remission of sins.* But if the body of Christ was broken for us only *figuratively*, and his blood shed for the remission of sins *only figuratively*; we have in this ordinance a *figurative commemoration* of a *figurative sacrifice*, without any original, any reality.—And indeed if the death of Christ were only the common death of a martyr, why should not the death of *Stephen* and other martyrs be commemorated in like manner? Christ *foreknew* and *predicted* the martyrdom of some of his disciples, but he has left no directions about the commemoration of their death. And the reason is evident. Was *Paul* crucified for us? Have we redemption, have we the forgiveness of sins, through the blood of *Paul*, or *Peter*, or *John*, or any other of the apostles or Christian martyrs? Were they slain for us? Is it in *their blood* our robes are to be washed and made white? “ The ordinance of the eucharist seems indeed to have so plain a reference to the atonement or satisfaction of Christ, and to do so solemn
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“ an honor to *that fundamental doctrine of the*
 “ *gospel*, that I cannot but believe, that while
 “ this sacred institution continues in the church
 “ (as it will undoubtedly do to the end of the world)
 “ it will be impossible to root that doctrine out
 “ of the minds of plain humble Christians, by
 “ all the little artifices of such forced and un-
 “ natural criticisms, as those are by which it has
 “ been attacked. Unprejudiced and honest sim-
 “ plicity will always see the analogy this ordi-
 “ nance has to eating the flesh of the son of God,
 “ and drinking his blood, and will be taught by it
 “ to feed on him, as the Lamb that was slain by
 “ the gracious appointment of God to take away
 “ the sin of the world. The enemies of this
 “ heart-reviving truth might as well hope to
 “ pierce through a coat of mail with a *straw*,
 “ as to reach such a truth, defended by such an
 “ ordinance as this, by any of their trifling so-
 “ phistries.”*

The refinements of our *rational divines*, in
 divinity, seem much to resemble the refinements
 of some of our late *metaphysicians*, in philosophy.
 The latter reasoned themselves out of the belief
 of a *real material world*, and converted every
 thing into phantasm; the former have reasoned
 themselves out of the belief of a *real Savior*,
 converting every thing in the bible that speaks of
 our redemption by Christ into metaphor and
 figure. The next point is to persuade us that
 the scriptures only speak of a *figurative metapho-*

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* Doddr. Exp. Vol. II. p. 458. Note (f).

rical salvation, and this rational scheme will be consummated.

But it is pretended that the doctrine of the atonement reflects greatly on the *mercy* of God, and opens a door to *licentiousness*. How injurious is this representation! What, does it reflect on the *mercy* of God that he *so loved* the world, as not to spare but freely deliver up his own Son to death, that *whosoever* believeth on him *might not perish* but *have everlasting life*? Can any inference be more perverse? How widely different is the reasoning of the apostle *John* upon this point! His language is, * *Hereby perceive we the LOVE of God, because he, that is Christ, laid down his life for us. And herein is LOVE, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* So far is the doctrine of the atonement from eclipsing the *love* of God, that *LOVE* seems to be the grand leading attribute it displays. The Father's gift of his *Son* to die as a sacrifice for our sins, was the *greatest gift* he could possibly bestow upon us. It is called an *unspeakable gift*; and we are taught to argue from the bestowment of this gift to the hope of *any other*, be it ever *so great*. He that gave his *Son* to die for us, *how* shall he not *with him* also *freely give us all things*! Yet this *very gift itself*, it is pretended, implies a reflection upon the *love* and *mercy* of the giver. What can be more astonishing? Surely, whatever objections may be urged against the doctrine of the atonement, its implying a reflection on the

* 1 John iii. 16. 1 John iv. 10.

the mercy or love of God cannot, with any propriety, be deemed one. For the greater we suppose the *sufferings* of Christ to have been, the greater it supposes the *love* of God to be, in delivering him up to such sufferings for our redemption.

It is still said why should God rigidly insist upon a satisfaction for sin, and not remit the punishment due to the sinner till he had received * “the uttermost farthing?” Now suppose we could not tell *why*, what then? Is it therefore impossible that it should be so, or that there should be any sufficient reason for it, because we cannot tell what that reason is? What impious arrogance must it be to affirm this? And yet, I fear too often the only reason for rejecting a doctrine is, not because it is not sufficiently *revealed* in the word of God, but because *we think* it absurd. But in the present case we are far from being in the dark as to the reasons of the divine conduct. The author of the Appeal indeed tells us, that if we were to imitate God herein “we should be implacable and unmerciful.” But the fallacy of this objection we have already seen. And it is indeed strange that *no other reason* can be thought of why the great governor of the world should manifest his displeasure against sin, at the same time that he shews mercy to the sinner but *implacability* and *unmercifulness*. Some may have perhaps been *unguarded* in the expressions they have used concerning the *wrath* of God, and his being *placated*

or *appeased* by the death of his Son, but this is no objection to the grand doctrine of the atonement, for it is certain no one ever *meant* to ascribe to God the passions of an angry man. - We know nevertheless, that ever since sin entered into the world, the righteous and moral governor of the universe hath *seen fit* to manifest in the most awful manner, what we know not how to call otherwise than his *abhorrence* of sin, and his *displeasure* with sinners upon the account of it. Witness the alteration in the state of things occasioned by the fall, the destruction of the old world by the deluge, and of *Sodom* and *Gómorrah* and the cities of the plain by fire. Witness, I may say, the constant tenor of the divine dispensations in every age of the world, from the beginning till now. And we further know that *it became him* by whom are all things and for whom are all things, *in bringing many sons to glory*, (which his sovereign love engaged him to do,) to make the captain of their salvation perfect *through sufferings*. * That is, it would not have become the holy God to have saved sinners and brought any of them to glory, but in and through the sufferings of Christ; who was qualified by his sufferings, for the great and important character of a *Savior*, or *the captain of our salvation*. It became the supreme ruler to be *just* and *faithful* as well as *merciful* in forgiving sin and saving sinners. It became him to be a *just God* as well as a *Savior*. It became him to
magnify

* Heb. ii. 10.

magnify the law and make it honorable, as much as *to deliver penitent sinners from the curse of it.* It became him to make Christ the *end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth,* as much surely as to deliver the believer from its awful threatenings. In a word *it became him* not to *exalt one attribute* on the ruins of another, but to display, as he does in all his other works, each of his bright and glorious perfections in delightful harmony with one another. And accordingly we find throughout the New Testament, the sufferings of Christ are so far from being represented as in any respect casual, or like the accidental sufferings of a martyr, that they are said to have been in consequence *of the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God,* and *necessary* to the accomplishment of the great schemes of divine providence and grace. * As *Moses* lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, *even so,* says the Savior himself, *MUST the Son of man be lifted up.* And after his resurrection from the dead, he takes great pains to shew his disciples from the scriptures of the old testament, that *it behoved* or was *necessary for him to suffer,* and that *remission of sins* should be preached *in his name,* among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.† And whatever may be thought of this astonishing scheme of salvation by ignorant men, the holy angels contemplate it with ineffable delight, and are desiring more and more *to look into it.*

Indeed

* John iii. 14.

† Luke xxiv. 46, 47.

Indeed in what mirror have we such a bright display of the glorious perfections of Deity, as in the *atoning death of Christ*? Here we have his *power*, his *wisdom*, his *justice*, his *holiness* and his *love*, all shining forth with united radiance, and mutually heightening the lustre of each other. Who can behold the refulgence of glory which is here displayed, without being transformed into the image of it? Will any one presume to say it was not *as becoming* the divine character for the great God to display his *justice* and his *holiness*, or the *greatest possible hatred of sin* as to display his *love* in the salvation of sinners? That there were not *as great and important ends* to be answered in the moral government of the universe, by the display of one perfection as of another? Or that it would have been *more worthy of God* to have displayed his *grace* without any regard to his *holiness*?—Nay, but O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Christ crucified was indeed heretofore a stumbling block to the Jews, and foolishness to the Greeks; but nevertheless it was then, and it is still, the *wisdom* of God, and the *power* of God to every one that believeth. Where then is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*

The pretence that the doctrine of the *atonement* leads to *licentiousness* is one of the most groundless

* 1 Cor. i. 20.

less objections that can be thought of. Do we *make void the law* by faith in Christ as the great propitiation for sin, or as the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth? *Nay, but we establish the law.* Can there be any method of displaying the *infinite hatred of God against sin* more fully or strikingly, than by the *death of Christ as a vicarious sacrifice for sin*? What can so strongly impress the mind of a sinner with a sense of the *odiousness of sin*, and *establish his regards to holiness*, as faith in Christ? Who can have light thoughts of sin or be indifferent to the law of God as a rule of life, that believes *Christ died for his sins according to the scriptures*? The doctrine of the atonement as well as every other doctrine may undoubtedly be abused; but to pretend that it is in itself a *licentious doctrine*, or that it leads to an indifference about personal holiness, can only evidence the perverseness of the human mind, and the unaccountableness of many of its operations. This doctrine relieves the sinner from the horrors of despair; and thereby prevents him from abandoning himself to the service of sin under the pretence of its being in vain to hope for salvation. But yet at the same time it opens wide the door of salvation, it sets before the sinner, in a manner not to be expressed, the awful nature of sin; and thereby appears eminently calculated to secure his regards to holiness. And finally, it lays the penitent under such

infinite

infinite obligations to divine love, which saves him so freely and yet so awfully, that it seems scarcely possible for him to refrain crying out,—what shall I render to the Lord for his astonishing goodness to me, and how shall I ever more dare to sin against *that God* who hath so loved me, as to *send his Son to die* for me! “Is it possible
 “ for the contemplation of such goodness to
 “ weaken the motives or relax the springs of
 “ obedience? As soon may *lenient balms* kill,
 “ and rankest poisons cure. Is such a belief
 “ calculated to discourage duty, and patronize
 “ licentiousness? Just as much, as *vernal showers*
 “ are fitted to cleave the earth with chinks, or
 “ summer suns to glaze the waters with ice.*”

“ Talk they of morals? Oh thou bleeding love!
 Thou maker of new morals to mankind!
 The *grand morality* is love of thee!”

YOUNG.

“ Only let a *sense* of thy love be always warm,
 “ always operative on our minds. This shall be
 “ instead of a thousand *arguments* to engage, in-
 “ stead of ten thousand *motives* to quicken our
 “ obedience. Other motives may produce some
 “ external services, or hypocritical performances.
 “ Terrors may extort the drudgery of the hand.
 “ Bribes may purchase the adulation of the tongue.
 “ But this conciliates the will; this proselytes
 “ the

* *Hervey.*

“ the affections; this captivates the very soul; and
 “ makes all its powers *like the chariots of Aminda-*
 “ *dib*, ready, expedite, and active in duty.”*

Without holiness, inward personal holiness of heart and life, we readily acknowledge according to the scriptures, *no man shall see the Lord*. But all we plead for is, that the scriptures do also clearly inform us that in order to our becoming thus holy; it is necessary we be *created anew in Christ Jesus*. We do not pretend that sinners will be saved without being *sanctified* as well as *justified*, but only insist upon it that they are both sanctified and justified *in the name of the Lord Jesus* and by the Spirit of our God. In short, that it is *Christ* who is the grand *meritorious procuring cause* of every spiritual blessing, or who is made of God unto them that believe, *wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption*.— And whether the patrons of this great truth ever have been, or are now, less holy and exemplary in their lives and conversations than the opposers of it, we may safely leave even the most prejudiced to determine.

Upon the whole, it is clearly evident that the glorious doctrine of the atonement, at once exalts all the divine perfections, effectually relieves the guilty conscience of the distressed sinner, destroys the power of sin, and promotes the interests of holiness. God forbid then that we should *glory* save in the *cross* of our Lord Jesus

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Christ;

* *Hervey*.

Christ, which is able to crucify the world with all its reproaches unto us, and us unto the world!

Thus have I freely addressed you, brethren, on the several heads I first proposed, and would now leave you freely to judge for yourselves of what I have laid before you. And may the God of truth lead you into all truth, and give you a spiritual understanding in all things!

I should not have solicited your attention in the manner I have, had I not been deeply convinced in my own mind, that the principles I have pleaded for are closely connected with genuine humility and holiness. And I can call God to witness, that it is with *a sincere and earnest desire* to revive the ancient *spirit and practice* of evangelical piety and obedience, that I have endeavored to guard you against those principles which to me appear too evidently, wherever they have prevailed, to have been the *bane of vital religion*.

But remember the *most scriptural belief* without a *correspondent life* will not constitute you Christians. By ** our fruits* we are to be known to others; and *hereby we do ourselves know that we know Christ*, know him spiritually and savingly, *if we keep his commandments* †. Let us then make it our daily care, in a humble dependance upon the promised aids of the good Spirit, to shew forth our works with the meekness of evangelical

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* Matt. vii. 16.

† 1 John ii. 3

lical wisdom. Let our light so shine before men, that others beholding our amiable conversation, may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus, and be led to glorify our Father who is in heaven. And finally, let us hold the truth *in love*, affectionately pray for those who appear to be strangers to it, and *never* render railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing. To conclude—

Look down, O God of love! upon a declining church, and, *in principle and practice*, revive us yet again, that we may rejoice in Thee!

T H E E N D.

The first of these is the fact that the
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