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Oluf Gerhard Tychsen

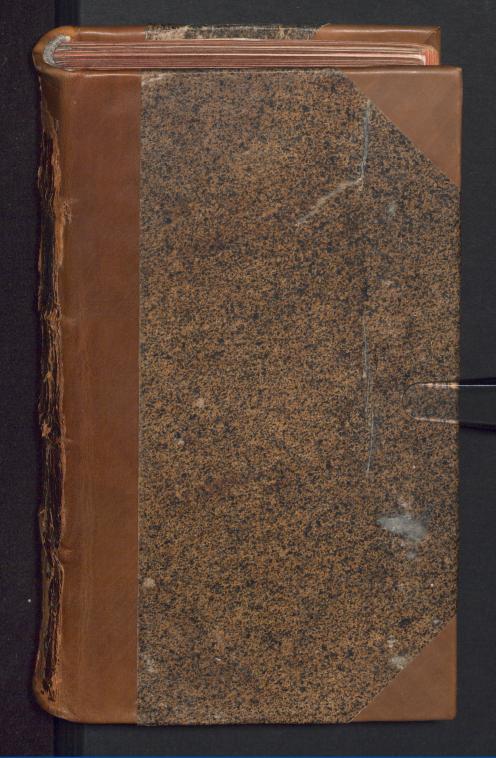
A Dialogue Between A Learned Jew And A Christian : To Which Is Added A Choice Of English Proverbial Sayings And Sentences With Explications

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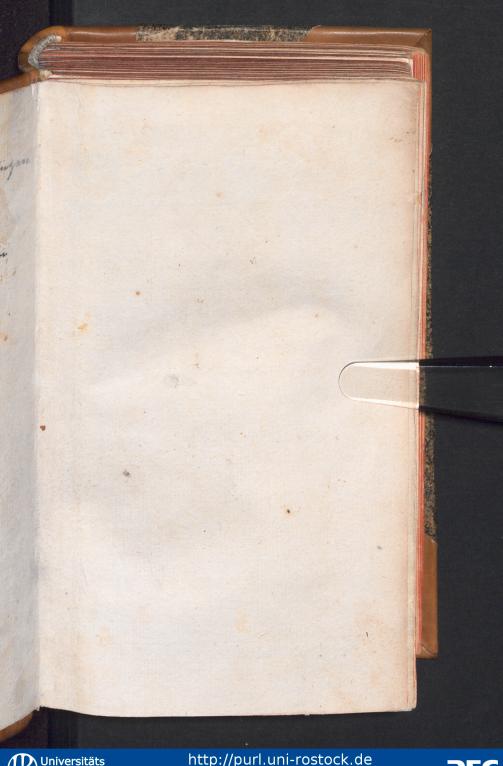




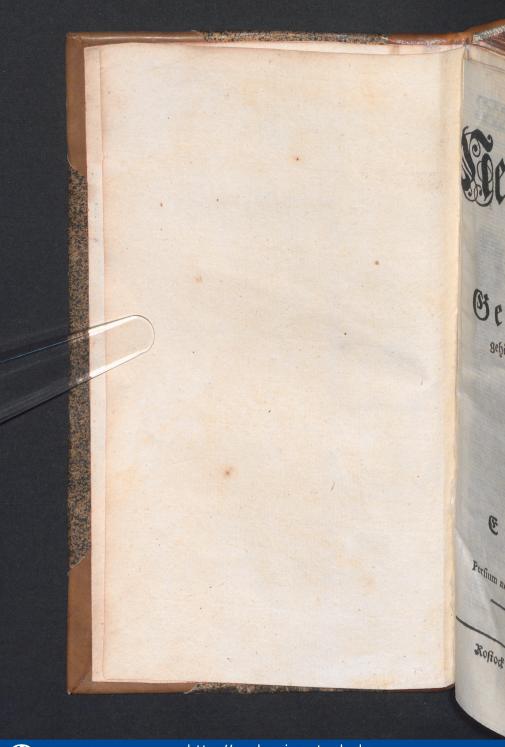


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DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A LEARNED

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TO WHICH IS ADDED A CHOICE

OF ENGLISH PROVERBIAL SAYINGS

AND SENTENCES WITH EXPLICATIONS

PVBLISHED BY

OLUF GERH. TYCHSEN.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND READER OF THE ORIENTAL TONGUES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BUTZOW.



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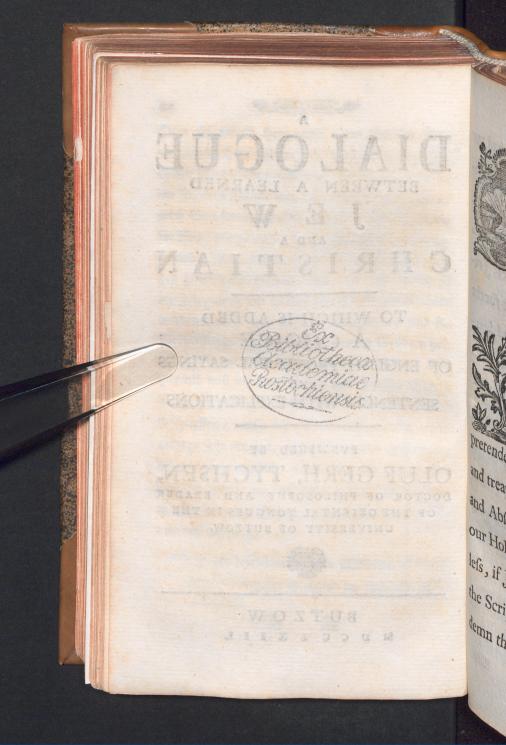
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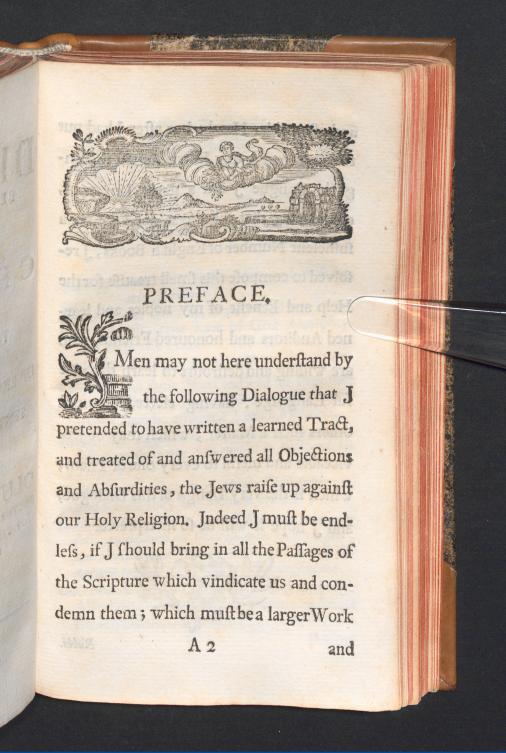
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and of an abler Hand: but after J had put to mind to give any Instruction in the English Tongue I am a great Lover of, confidering that there was not yet here a fufficient Number of English Books, Jrefolved to compose this small treatise for the Help and Benefit of my nobles and learned Auditors and honoured Friends, who are willing and defirours to learn this ufeful Language, having elected amongst others fuch a Matter, which may be ferviceable and useful to every one of Them; which is the very Defign of this Dialogue, and J hope it will be so interpreted.



Rabbi.



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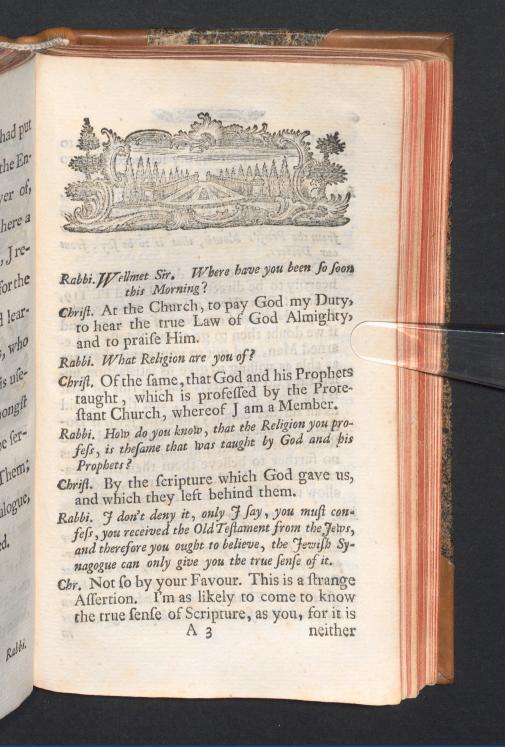
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neither so easy, or so certain a Way, as to fearch the scriptures, Jmy self according to my Understanding.

Rab. I know not what your way is, unless you make every private Man to be judge of Scripture when that declares, The people must enquire the Law from the Priest's Mouth, that is to be say, from our Doctors.

Chr. Our Way is to read diligently and pray heartily to be directed, like David Pf. 119, 18 fays: Open Thou (o Lord) mine Eyes that I may behold wondrous things of thy Lalv. And if we doubt then to go to our Priests or Learned Man, and not to yours and they are as able as willing to give us fatisfaction, unless they do not barely tell us, this or that is the fense of Scripture, and then forbid us all further enquiry, like the Jewish Doctors do, but they give us found and folid Reason for all their Expositions, desiringus no further to believe them than the Clearness of their Evidence deserves, and this allow us the Freedom of rational Being.

Rab. I value not your idle Comparaisons. arned Doctors tell us, they are able more than other learned Men of Christians, to make the best Interpretation of Scriptures, because they rely upon that Oral Tradition, as the best Way to be infallibly affured of the Truth of Scripture, which bath been delivered down from Sinai and kept trough all Ages



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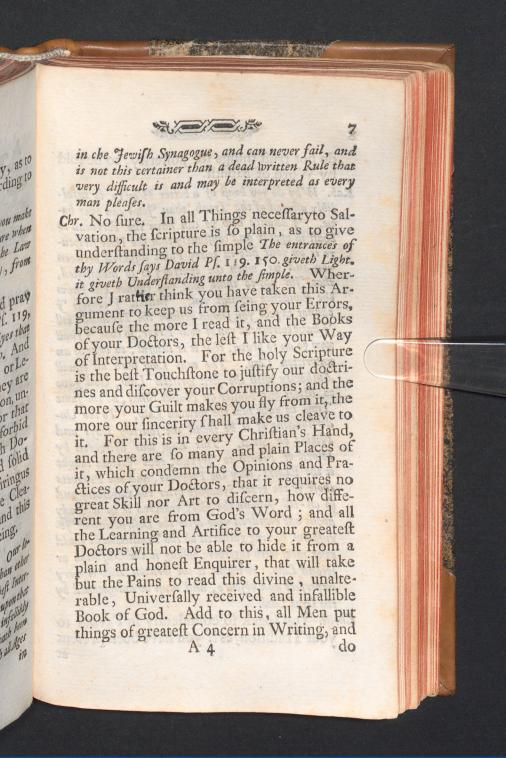
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by Word of Mouth. Rab. Why do you boast of a better Way to be infallibly assured of the Truth, than Jews can ever ha-I admire bow ye can have the Forehead to boast so openly and constantly that the Holy scripture is on your side in every Point disputed between you and us, when the contrary is so manifested, that Im' apt to think that you cannot but know the Evidence against you. Indeed I confess I cannot expect you should believe the Thalmud, till I have convinced you of your Error, so that I shall now go on to prove, that it is lawful, to believe an unwritten Law. The oral Law hath an equal Authority with the first written Law, God gave to Moses our Master on Mount Sinai, at the same Time he gave him the written Law. To the Understanding of it he spend the fourthy Days and Nights on Sinai. This Law was delivered by Word of Mouth to Joshua, that Joshua taught it the Elders, they the Prophets, and the Prophets those of the great Synagoge after the Captivity and so on till Jehuda the Holy collected it in a Body about one hundred year after the Destruction of Jerusalem, having gathered all the Traditions he could ever meet with together, calling it the Mishnah or

the Oral Law.

Christ. You speak so considently in Favour to your Tradition, as if you have been present

second Law. Without it the written Law is very

imperfect and obscure, and must be enlightened by

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at this Time, on Mountain Sinai; but thoo be rold fe Traditions, which are but of your own making, and in your own keeping, and be infal. human invention and which you fly to for ever ha Your Evidence, no other do allow them, rehead to and we have nothing but your own Word in your own Case, to prove them to be y scriptugenuine, because they have not the last between foundation, that may be produced from nifested, the Holy scripture, which only is the sole ut know Rule and Standard of Truth. The fcriptuonfess F re was not made by us, but by God and it mud, till owned not by you alone but us to be the t I shall Word and Will of God, and this is clearelieve an in equall ly on our Side. But tell me, how comes it, that the Karaite Jews reject the Oral god gave Law, and by what do you prove the Verithe Same ty of that Unwritten Law founded in the the Unays and holy Bible? pered by Rab. The Karaite Jelos are Minim or Hereticks My Soul come not into their secret! But according to ia taught your Question I answer as a true Disciple of my Prophets, Doctors: Pray Sir read the Place Exod. 34 th ivity and a Body Chapt vers. 27. And the Lord said unto Moses, Writion of the te thou these Words for after the Mouth of these Words that is the oral Law I have made a covees he coul lishnah or nant with thee and with Ifrael. Add to this ally is very Deut. 7, 9. 10. Ex. 24, 12. and I will give thee obtened by Tables, that is, the ten Commandements, and a Law, that is the Books of Mofes, and Comman-Woll to dements, that is the Tradition. prefent Cha



THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE

Chr. You make a great bustle indeed with vindicating your opinion. But these Passages are fo far from establishing the Authority of the oral Law, that faying but a Word or two, they prove the direct contrary; for the He the Elleb and Afher which restraines the Covenant to the Words that are written. Nay the expression alpe signifies only according, and never mouth. To confirm this, confult 2 Reg. 17, 37. where the same expressions is made use of: And the Statutes, and the Ordinances and the Law and the Commandements, which God wrote for you ye shall obferve to do etc. Whereas no Reasons can be assigned, why Moses was to write them, if he had been to make the Covenant according to the oral Law. Yea, that in the whole Bible there is not the least mention made of any unwritten Law, and that not only the Judges were only obliged to abide by that determination of Judgment, as it was written in the Book of the Law; but the Prophets also when they upbraided the Jews for their Transgressions they never reproches them, for their contemt of the oral Law, only for their Sins against that written Law. Here you fee, J've great Reafon to confent with the Karaite Jews, which desaproving of, and reject the oral Tradition, as a Book not inspirated by God, and a meere Chimera to this very Day.

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Rab. I can't but pity your Obstinacy; who wilfully fout your Eyes against the plainest Places of Scriptures.

Chr. There is more Reason for me to pity for you, who in all these points do contradict the Holy scripture, which cannot deceive me, and believe false and feigned Traditions and Interpretations, invented by defigning Men for evil Ends, and for my Part I count it a wife Refolution and no Obstinacy to give Credit to God rather than Men. For fince we can prove both by fcripture and Antiquity that all your additional Articles of your Religion arc false and lerroneous; and yet all those Articles of Faith, we hold as necessary to salvation, are true; doubtless, our must be the safer Religion, because the plain Words of scriptures prove our Religion; but all those Points wherein you differ from us, cannot be proved, but by pretented Traditions, fome of which are expressly contrary to God's written Word.

Rab. You flatter your self with scripture taken in your olon sense, but I assure you, our Forefathers. who have delivered down to us the sense of the fcripture, agree exactly with us in all these Opinions, which you reject. And can you think all these great and divine ancient Doctors were deceived. and that a few obscure modern Hereticks are in the Right?

Chr.



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present Religion as much as Holy scripture doth. The most Opinions and Practices of your Religion are but late Inventions of your perverted Doctors, and are set up in Times of Ignorance and superstition. The scripture was before your Thalmudists Doctors, and I'm well satisfied, that my Religion is out of the scripture, and consequently, is the oldest and certainest.

Rab. I know you aim at our Religion, and wonder, how fuch a Man as you dare charge Our Religion with gross Errors and Mistakes Also you are very free of your Censures, but I despise them, being assured, that our dostrines are the true sense of scripture, as it is interpreted by us by our Forefathers.

Chr. Because J can make my Charge good. For if the scripture be the Rule of what we ought to believe and practise; than your circumcision, Rejecting the true Messias and his Gospel, doctrine of good Works, with so many Others, which J can name, are gross Errors and corruptions, believed and practised in the jewish present Religion.

Rab. It is strange, how Prejudice may blind Men, furely you cannot be in Earnest, when you say the Circumcision was a Mistacke. This only shews how desperate your cause is, which drives you the these Absur-



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Abfurdities. A Law once established by God himself, as the Law of Circumcision is not capable a repeal. And generally the Eternity of the Law of Moses is made by us one of the Fundamental Articles of our Creed.

Chr. I'll prove it no Abfurdity to maintain, that the Circumcifion and your other Cufloms and Ceremonies are at this Day abfurd, to be observed, and that the Law of Mofes is able to be abrogated. For belongs the Precepts of natural or moral Law, or the ten commandements, which are therefore commanded, because they are intrinsecally good, Jagree; for this Jnever contend for the abrogation of, but the ritual Law is that J meddle with, Viz Circumcision, distinction of Meats, observation of Festivals, customes of Sacrifices, and such like. All thefe I fay are fuch as do not carry an immutable obligation along with them, and that on these accounts.

1) Why may not God himfelf add to his own Laws or alter the Form of them, although we are always bound directly to follow God's declared Will? Thefe Things are not primarily required for themselves, but in order to some further End, there the end and Intention of the Legislator is the measure of their obli-

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2) God hath frequently dispensed with the ritual Precepts, when they was in greatest Force, if the End of them could be attained without them. Thus the Precepts of Circumcifion flept during the Jfraelite Travels in the Wilderness. David ear of shewbread, Hezekiah did celebrate that Passeover 2 Chron. 29, 17. with the Confent of the Rulers, a whole Month after the fixed Time. And yet it is faid upon Hezekiah's Prayer, that the Lord hearkened to him and healed every one 2 Chron. 30, 18.

Maimonides himfelf confents, when he faith in his Book Moreh Nerochim Part. 3. Chapt, 32. That the particular Manner of Worship among the Jews, as sacrifices and oblations were after Gods fecundary intention and defign : but prayer, invocation and the like were nearer God, than as all the circumstances of Time, place, and Perfons are observed, which are receptable in any person, Time or place. And for this cause, it is that we find in the Prophets often reproving men for their to great fedulity in bringing oblations and inculcating this to them, that God did not intend these as the principal Inflances of his Worfhip, and that God did not need any of these Things. So 1 Sam. 15, 22. behold to obey 18

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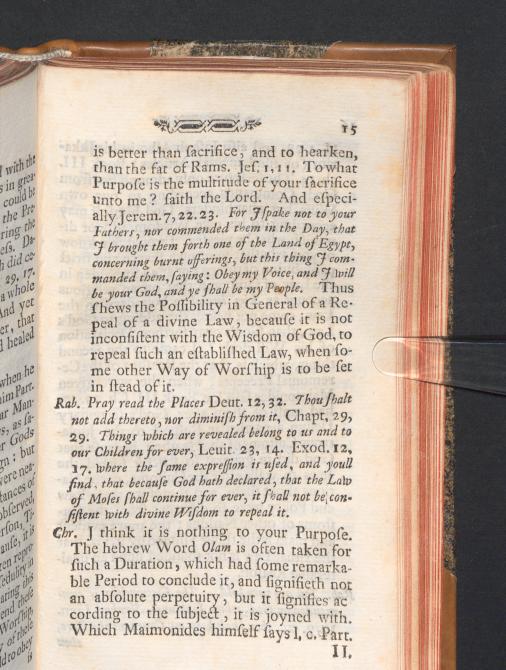
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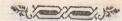
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II. c. 28, and also Joseph Albo in his Ikkarim (or fundamental Articles) Book III. ch. 14. The scripture only admonishes from Gods Commands according to our own Wills, but what hinders, God himfelf may according to his own Wisdom add or diminish what he pleases. I would fain know of you, whether your own severe and strict prohibition of things not at all forbidden in the Law of God, and that on an religious account as Seieg letorah a boundary to the Law, come not nearet the adding to God's Law, than God's own further Declaration of his Will doth? I came to the fecond thing, which is, that the Reasons of the Ceremonial Precepts, when the were given Maimonides fays l. c. Book III. Ch. 29. 37. had most of them after God's fecundary Design a particular Respect to the Idolatrous Customs of the Heathen, Because that God did in general fo strictly forbid the Jews to walk after the Customs, of the Nations about them, and therefore their Law and Polity were fo different from the Customs of other Nations: the more evident and plain is the thing Jintendby it, viz. that the ritual Law is not founded upon an unalterable Reason.

Rab. You are very bold. The Circumcisson is come manded by God, which said unto Abraham Gen. 17, 9, etc. thou shalt keep my Covenant therefore, thou



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shou and thy Seed after thee lin their generation and you shall circumcife the flesh of your fore Skin.

Chr. J doubt not to justify my Argument. First The Circumcifion was but restrained by God to your Generations. After the Destruction of temple the Jews did want their Generations. Secondly The Circumcifion, was but a Mark to distinguish the Posterity of Abraham from the other Part of Mankind, that it might be known, that the Messias according to the Flesh arose from this Peo-Thirdly. That Circumcision was infufficent to Salvation, an Ancient Christian Doctor, excellently prove in these Words. If fays he, Circumcifion was necessary, God would never have formed Adam uncircumcifed, nor would have respected to the facrifice of uncircumcifed Abel. would not have been faid of uncircumcifed Enoch that he pleased God, and was not, because God took him. Uncircumcised Lot was faved from Sodom by God, and his Angels. Noah who was the head of the Race, of mankind, went uncircumcifed, as well as his children into the Ark. Uncircumcifed Melchisedek was priest of the high God; to whom Abraham, who first received circumcifion paid tythe, and from whom he was bleffed; and according to whofe



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whose order David foretels, God would raise up a Priest for ever.

It is evident by the whole feries of the fcripture of the Old Testament, God's ultimate Intention was not to confine the faving knowledge of his Will only to the Jews, for the great Promise to Abraham, before ever the Law of Moses came to inclose the people of the Jews as God's peculiar people, was; That in his feed all the Nations of the Earth shouldbe bleffed. And to Jacob, that when the Shiloh or the Messias comes, to him shouldbe the gathering of the People, Therefore can we not believe the Mofaical Dispensation was the utmost, of what God did intend, because God had before promised that the blessing of Abraham shouldcome upon us Gentiles also. Whereby it is very observable, that Abraham wae justified not in circumcifion, but in incircumcision, and that the Ground of his Acceptance with God did not depend on any Ceremonial Rire, fuch as circumcifion was. God imputed his Righteousness before he being circumcifed, that he might be a Fa. ther of Faithful. And lest all these Things should de apprehended to be only a higher advancing of the Levitical Worship, and the Way of external Ceremonies, God expressly says Jerem. 31, 31. 32. that he would make a new Covenant with the House of Ifrael and



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and with the House of Judah, not according to the Covenant, that I made with their Fathers, in the Day I took them by the Hand to bring them out of the Land of Egypt, which my Covenant they brake, altough I was an Husband to them, faith the Zord. But this Shall be the Covenant that T'll make with the house of Hrael after those Days. Says the Lord, I will put my Law in their inward Parts, and write it in their Hearts, and will be their God, and they shall be my People. Tell, Sir, must now the Covenant, God made with the Ifraelites continue for ever, when God expressly fays, he would make a New one, and that not according to the Covenant, which he made with them then? And now you see, that the Ceremonial Las was not at first established upon an immutable Reason, which was to be proved.

Rab. And which was that New Covenant, God would make with the House Ifrael, perhaps according to your Creed, the Gospel?

Chr. Yes without doubt, For We have good Authority of scripture for this.

Rab. I hope you will give me Leave to hear and examine your Proofs of it, and on that Condition, whilft I find you delight much in Calling your Christ, but would gladly understand, bow you dare do so, I pray proceed.

Chr. Well, for your Satisfaction J will undertake to prove, that our bleffed Saviour is



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the promised Messiah by Moses and by the Prophets, These grand Prophecy of the Coming of the Messius was long told before the Law of Moses was published. The first downing of this Day being to Adam after his Fall, of what nature he should be born, viz of humane Genef. 3, 15. To Abraham it was further revealed, of what Nation of Mankind, viz from his Posterity. To lacob, at what Time, when the Scepter fhould be departed from Judah. And from what Tribe, viz Judah. To David, of what Family in that Tribe, viz his own. To Jefaiah, of what Person in that Family, a Virgin. To Micah, in what Place, viz Bethlehem. and to Daniel, at what precise Time, toward the expiring of his feventy Weeks, which according to the most probable computation of them commence from feventh Year of Artaxerxes Longimanus, and fo the 490 Years expired near upon our Saviour's Paffion. Now certainly the particular Enumeration of all these Circumstances spoken of so long before, and falling out so exactly could not but give the greatest Conviction and Evidence, that our bleffed Saviour was that Person so much spoken of by the Prophets, in whom these feveral Lines did meat as in their Center.

Rab. I Shall yield your Consequences, when you prove the Antecedent,

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Chr. Where the Truth of a Doctrine depends upon a Marter of Fact, the Truth of the Doctrine is fufficiently manifested, if the Matter of Fact be evidently proved in the highest way it is capable. Now it is undoubtly true, that there was such a Perfon, as our Saviour born at Betlehem, who did fo many real end Visible divine Miracles, preached that Gospel, died on the Cross at Jerusalem etc. in this matter of facts, the Jews themselves consents, what reason imaginable can Men have to tell, that he was not te verysame promised Messiah, and his doctrine not divine. The divine Miracles worked by Jesus are an undoubtly Proof that the Revocation of the Ceremonial Law was made by the same God, who had given to Moses the same Gift of The substance then of this dif-Prophecy. course is, that what ever doctrine is sufficiently manifested, to be a divine revelation, is to be embraced and believed as undoubtly true, though the Reason cannot reach to the full Apprehension of all the Modes and Circumstances of it; for in matter, whose Truth depends not on the Evidence of the Things themselves, infallibly testimony is the fullest demonstration of them. Rab. May be, your Christ did Miracles, but that is not a sufficient Sign, he was the true Messias. God Says Deut, 13, 1-3. If there arise among you a Prophet,



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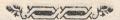
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Prophet, or a Dreamer of Dreams, an giveth thee a fign, or a Wonder, and the fign or the Wonder come to pass, whereof he spake to thee, saying, Let us go after other Gods, (which thou hast not known) and let us serve them, thou shalt not hearken unto the Words of that Prophet, or that Dreamer of Dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you to Know, whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your Soul. One was, Our Doctors affirm, your Christ, which did Wonders and Miracles with the Recital of the Tetragammaton. I don't think it needs much Proof, for it is as visible as Mases our Master has

been a Prophet.

Chr. This Place alledged by you prove nothing against our Saviour. Neither was he a falsh Prophet or a Dreamer, nor did he lead People into Jdolatry, or contradict that Law of Moses. If you read the Books of the New Testament, you'll find an exact conformity between the Books of the Old Testament, and those of the New. Your Doctors may boast never so much of that Law of Moses and how much it exceeds the degree of revelation in other Prophets, J know if his Light be compared with wath the Gospel communicates, Moses himself faw but as in glass darkly, and not in a clean Looking-Glass, as you are wont to speak, and the Prophecies of the Old Testament Thould appear with their full accomplist-'ment



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Magician with the Schemhamphorath Add to this, that the Jews themselves often speaks of the great Miracles, the Messias should do, when he appears; and therefore out of their own Mouths will they be condemned,

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dent that he was the true Messias, because they are of their own nature convincing Proofs of divine Testimony to make it appear, that it is from God. It is indeed very unreasonable to believing the evidence of a Thing, and not the Truth assisted by it, which was his Being the Messias so often spoken of in Old Testament.

Rab. For my Part, J envy not yours Happiness, who have found out a Way, not prescribed by our Forefathers to leave in gross Errors, and to be unanimous in your Mistakes.

Chr. J doubt not to justify all these Opinions and to convince you fo fully of the Truth of them, that I hope you will own your Mistake, and embrace these very Things which you fo rafhly cenfure; therefore let us discourse the Particulars. But to clear up this doctrine a little more, I shall undertake to prove, that the Messiah promifed to your Nation was to appear at fuch a certain Time, and that the Time fo limited by God for his appearance is actually passed, and by Consequence that he is already come. I shall therefore make choice of that first Prophecy, to prove that the Messias is already come Gen. 49, 8.9. 10. The Shiloh, that is as you your felves acknowledge upon that Passage, was to come before the Departure of the Scepter. The Force

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Force of this Argument can't be evaded. Shiloh that is the Messias, was to come before the Destruction of the Jewish state; the Jewish state is destroyed; Thence it follows, either Jacobs Prophecy is false or that the Messiah, whoever he was did actually appear before your last Destruction, because the Scepter is already departed from Judah, and the Lawgiver from berween his feet, and History and Scripture tell us, that fuch a Person as the Messias, hath lived at that prefixed Time. There. fore many of the Prophecies concerning the Messias, if they were not fulfilled in our bleffed Saviour, in the Conditions the Jews have been in fince their Dispersion (which fell out according to the Prediction of Christ) it is Impossible, they should be fulfilled at all. Can any Thing be more plain, than that the Messias was to be born in Betlehem of Judaea? But where is that now, and how long fince the Jews enjoyed any civil Polity there? Where is the Tribe of Judah? What is become of the fecond Temple (Acharon, fignifies the fecond, when the End of a Thing is fer in the second Place Exod. 2, 8.) in the Time, of which the Defire of all Nations shall come? Is not Jerusalem already destroyed, and the Oblations fince ceased? Here you see, the scripture tells you, the Messias is come, and reason



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reason tells you thesame, and will you believe your Rabbins against both. So Ithan Conclude, that either those Predictions must lose their divine Authority, or they must be accomplished in our blessed Saviour. If it now be true, that Moses foretold, that the Messias should be a Lawgiver like himfelf, whom they fhould be bound to obey under the Penaltry of the Curse of God; and if it be also true, that Jesus is the Meffiah: whose Religion according to the Promise given to Abraham, was to make all Nations bleffed, J dare then justly conclude that the Ceremonies, viz Circumcifion, the Sacrifices, the Laws of Distinction of Meats and Days, which could concern only the Jewish Nation in their own Country, and which were a Wall of Partition between the Jews and Heathens, after God's fecundary Intention, were to be abolifhd upon the appearance of the Messias, who brought Salvation to all Nations.

Rabbi. We are to embrace nothing for Truth, but what our Reason is able to comprehend, as to the Nature of Thing and the Manner of its Existence. Do you not believe on a Trinity, and account to your Doctrine, that God shou'd be incarnated and such like. Pray then, before we leave this subject, will you tell me, how this doctrine full of contradictions can be a divine Doctrine?

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Chr. From your Affertion it follows, that those who will not believe any Thing to be true because it is about their apprehensions, must deny the Foundation of all certainty. which lies in the necessary existence of a Being absolutely perfect and infinite. According to your Principle, what certainty can we have at all of any Thing, we are to believe. If the Understanding of God be infinite, why may not he discover such things to us, which our fhallow apprehenfions cannot reach unto. What could the Jews ant the whole World defire more as an evidence that he came from God, and he were God he himself, than his Doing fuch things which were certainly above any created power, either humane or schemhamphorash, and therefore must needs be divine.

Rabbi. I can never be persuaded to worship an other than God alone, fince after the Passages of Scripture I find Idolatry so grievously condemnd there.

Chr. I confess the scripture condemns Idolatry; but fure you cannot be fo weak as to think we are Idolaters as Heathen were, because we do worship God almighty and respect his Commandements, more than you do.

Rabb. I cannot see your Thoughts, yet all our ancient Doctors count you and Heathen flat Idolaters.

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Chr. The Heathen were fo, J can't deny it, hecause they worshipped so many false Gods; but you must not say, we are so too, because we are expressly commended in the scripture to adore God and his Meshas, which is the Jehovah our Righteous-Jerem. 23, 6. And according to your ancient Doctors, you fhall know, how they, who had preceded our Saviour, interpreted all these Predictions of the coming Messias and the several Marks by which they acknowledged the Messias would be discovered, and how on the contrary the other Jewish Doctors, who succeeded him, had deviated from the Interpration and Doctrines of their Forefathers on Purpose to stifle their own Conviction. you well remember, what Rashi upon the 2 Pfalm confesseth himself to have done? Our Masters says he, have generally interpreted that Prophecy concerning the Meffias and his Affaires, but it is fit according to the litteral sense to interprete it by David, that we may have fome what to answer against the Hereticks. A very frivolous Interpret indeed!

Rab. Our other felvish Doctors do reject the Interpretations of some ancient Doctors, on this account, lest the Christians should not have them on their Side, and boast of their Victory. For example the Targum Pesikta, Tanchuma and Siphri these ancient



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ancient Books apply Jef. 53. the the Messias; but Akiba, Rashi, Aben Esra, Kimchi, Aharbanel and others explain it concerning the People of the Jews, R. Saadias apply d the whole Prophecy of Jeremiah; Abarbanel assirms, that it may also be understand of Josiah, who was slain by Pharao Necho. Others suppose the Prophet to speak in general of any Good Men. The Reason, our great Dottors dissents from the ancient and your Interpretation J dare not inquire, but ought to agree in.

perceive, how your Rabbins impose upon you? If that Prophecy speaks of the Messias, as your Ancient Learned Fathers agree it does, how can it be apply'd to your whole Nation? Or if it treats of a whole People, how can it be explained of Josiah, or Jeremiah? But your Rabbins are wont to perverte the sense of a Prophecy concerning the Messias, when they find it savours not their Notions.

Rab. Are not our Rabbins Judges of the People, and can it be reasonable then that I should be their Judge. Deut. 17, 9. Go unto the Judge that shall be in those Days, and inquire.

chr. J do not pretend to judge your Rabbins, but only to use your Reason, God gave you not in vain, in judging meerly for your selves. 'Tis no Judgment of Direction for others, but only a Judgment of Discretion, which



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which to strip one of, is to degrade him unto the Rank of Brutes. If your Rabbins produce in their doctrines absurdities, Scripture and Reason forbids it to embrace them.

Rab. Sir J shall be a Jew, and you for my Part may be a Christian.

Chr. Religion is Matter of our freest Choice, If the Sights of his Beauties will not charm us, if Mens natural Design of knowledge and Happiness will not persuade them to be a true Disciple of the Saviour, there is no remedy, 'tis in vain to use Arguments. Truly the Wrath of God shall be revealed from Heav'n against the Ungodliness and Unreighteousness of Men, and God and Messias will come in Flaming Fire to take Vengeance on them that will not know God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Saviour.

Rab. A Word, which shall confound you? Tell me, how could my Forefathers estime that Man Meffias, who pretended to be God himself, which yet the Christians profess as an Article contrary to the Unity of God Deut. 6, 4. Hear Israel the Lord our God is one Lord. From this inconceivable Assertion granted, others will follow, and your contradictory Exposition forces you to hold this Opinion, that there are three Gods.

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That there is a Plurality, or some Agents or Persons in the only Essence of the Being or in the Godhead, not a divided Plurality, which the Christians as absurd justly abhorr as you do, being it contrary both to scripture and right Reason, will easely appear. In the Holy Scripture we find in feveral Texts: fome Perfons in the divine Essence, who appear'd and speak, received the Worf hip and Adoration, which may be pay'd to none but to the true God. As in Exod. 23, 20. 21. Behold J fend an Angel before thee to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place, which J have prepared, beware of him and obey his Voice, for he will not pardon your transgressions, for my Name is in him, In this you may fhew

1) The Angel here spoken of can be no other, than an uncreated Being, because that divine Adoration, which you yourfelves, according to the Law, utterly deny, not may be paid to a creature, and because none but God can pardon Transgressions, and because the Name of God, that is, the Attributs or Perfections of

God, was in him.

2) That Angel spoken of is a different Perfon from the, he speak. And here you

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fee in these expressions, that there are two distinct Persons spoken of, and that this Angel is the true and eternal God This Place compared with Gen. 19, 14 where is faid, that Jehovah rained upon Sodom and Gomorrha brimstone and Fire from the Jehovah out of heav'n, and others Jes. 48, 1-8. 63, 9. 10. Ezech. 11,5. Jes. 48, 16. etc. proves as evidently as may be, that in the Essence of God there are three Persons different from another, which the Gospel calls God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, togethur are by Mofes and the Prophets represented as Jehovah. Your ancient Writters viz R. Jochai the Autor of Sohar the Books Siphrietc. proves evidently the same too. Which shews that our Creed is according to God's Will; but you have not one Word to direct you.

Rab. I shall not insift upon this Article more, but ask you how 'tis possible according your Creed for God, who is infinite to take flesh upon him, and dwell here among you for some Time?

Chr. And how, may J question, is it possible that Gen. 32, 24, 29. 30. God wrestled with Jacob; and that God is said to dwell upon or in the Ark and such like? If that is not against the Bible, why can't God be as well allowed to dwell upon the Earth?

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Rab. Notwithstanding all your Assertions, we shall further be the Chosen Nation, the Posterity of Abraham. The eternal God will destroy our Enemies and we shall be saved by the Lord.

Chr. These Things J confess are very much for your honour. But tell me, what think you of the Condition of your Exil, which has lafted 1700 Years destitute of all Marks of divine Protection, and clearly contradict, that you are yet the chosen People by God. Don't you think that fo long a Difpersion must have had for its Cause a National and general Crime? For your Jdolatrous Fathers were punished by two Captivities into Assyria and Chaldaea. From the first they were brought back at the End of about 180 Years, and from the last after 70 Years under the Conduct of Zerubabel. You were not chargeable with Jdolatry when the Romans under Titus deftroy'd you, nor have you ever been guilry of that Sin, fince that Time, why then does God leave you in your present Dispersion?

This perpetual Desolation was come upon us because Jesus under the second temple took upon himself the Title of God,



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Chr. If Jesus by pretending and usurping that
Title of God might have brought upon
you such a severe Punishment as this,
might not the cruel Manner, after which
your Fathers brought him to the Cross,
pass for a most meritorious Act, and the
greatest Zeal for the Honour of God, and
therefore be more powerful to procure you
the Favour of God, than that Sin could be
to drawn his Judgment npon you?

Rab. And what Reason, think you, is it, that our Exil is not fined yet?

chr. The true Cause indeed of this Exil is, your Fathers having rejected and crucify'ed the Messias, and your persisting in your obstinate rejection of him untill this very Day, since you see no End of your Miseries and of the Wrath of God, which lie heavy upon you.

Rab. In the Time of Messias is so great peace prophessia into Plowshares, and spears into pruningbooks, that Jes. 11, 6-8. the Wolf should lie
down with the Lamb and Leopard with the Kid,
that Nation should not lift up Sword against Nation, nor learn war any more. (Where is that
peace? War at all.) The Mountain Sion shall
be exalted on the Top of the Moutains. The
Messias

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Mestas hath not brought yet the Jews from Captivity, nor assembled them together in Jerusalem, nor builded the Temple of the Lord. The Jews don't yet live under his Government, rolling away their Days in Mirth, Musick and Entertainment doing, what shall be right in their own Eyes. Nations do not flow unto bim, as Rivers flow unto the Sea. The Light of the Moon not is yet as great as that of the Sun; nor the Light of the Sun equal to that of the seven Days of Creation. All these Passages collected of the Old Testament and Talmud foretell us the most glorious Things of the Days of the Messias. Yet this flourishing and peaceful state is not established in the World, and it follows, that our Messias shall yet appear upon the Earth.

Chr. Either those Prophecies, which are referred unto the Messiah by your Rabbins speak but of Zorobabel and the Time of your Liberty under Cyrus and his Successors, or they do, according an figural Sense, refpect that flourishing Time, when the Jews and other People shall embrace the Do-Arine and Gospel of the Messias, and count all!Things but loss for the knowledge of Jesus the Christ my Lord.

Rab. Here is to be taken the Litteral Sense, which is both the more common and the easiest sense.



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To fly to Tropes and Figures is a sign of su-

chr. J will prove it no Stupidity to maintain, that in this Case the figurative sense is easier, for that is easiest sense of any Words, which the Mind first apprehends, when we hear them. You must also consider against the most litteral Interpretations of your Rabbins, it is more common in scripture to speak figuratively than litterally according to the Customs of the Oriental Nations.

Rab. Well, but the Litteral sense is not to be left, before the Words cannot be understood otherwise than Figuratively, which is not the Case here.

chr. Yes, that is the very Case here. For in this Passage the Litteral sense is against apprehension and full of Difficulties; because after vers. 9, the Earth shall be full of the Knowledge of God; how may the Brutes receive such a Knowledge of God? But the sigural is natural, plain and easy, and signifies the spiritual Effects of Christ's Death such as Pardon, Peace, Grace and Hopes of Glory. For Instant, when Judahis told a Lion by Jacob, here the sigurative sense must be preferred the litteral. Yea what is more usual, than co call the Sign by the Name

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Name of the Thing fignified, and the Thing signified by the Name of the Sign? So when God is calledea Rock, a Shepherd, that he hath wer his Sword, and hath bent his bow, etc. look. Pfalm 23. Genef. 49. Jes. 2. etc. yet none are so absurd to say, God is a Rock a Shepherd a Souldier and fuch like; it is very certain, fuch Expreffions are figurative, and there are a thoufand Places in scripture which cannot be otherwise understood.

Rab. I am content with your Answer. discours It seems me very strange, that both the Jews and the Christians should found their Notions of the Messiah tho' so mightily different upon the Holy writing of Moses and the Prophets which are in their Hands. One Part must undoubtly be in Mistake, which I shall earnestly inquire.

Chr. Your Purpose is very noble and happy. For, suppose, Our Messias was but the highest created Being, amongst all Creatures, God would not reckon it for a Sin, if convinced both by scripture and Reason, J take him for God himself, because he says, that neither is there Salvation in any other than in Jesus our Lord. But if he, as it is proved by Scripture, was God himself, and you continue obstinately to reject him, truly

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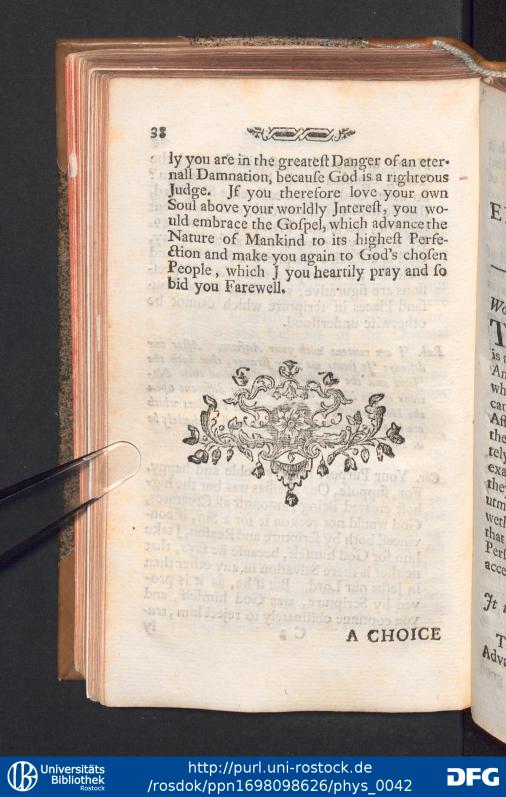
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a reprinting to or our fuller, now a Working in our Calling, is half Praying. That is, Diligence in whatever State it has pleaf'd the Divine Goodness to place us, is as necessary to our Happiness, as Praying. And as he cannot obtain the Divine Bleffing, who neglects the Duty of Prayer: So, neither Affairs, who by Sloth and Jdleness neglects the Duty of his Calling. We have an infinitely wife and good God to deal with, who exacts no more of his Creatures, than what they are able to perform; and if we do our utmost, it is all that he requires: for he knoweth, whereof we are made; he remembreth, that we are but Dust; God is no Respecter of Person. Whosoever doth Righteousness, is accepted to him.

It is the wifest Thing in the World to be good.

That is, Because Goodness is the greatest Advantage, the highest Pleasure and Satisfa-CA boop



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hosen and fo Aion in the World, as it brings along with it the Love of God, and the Favour of Men; and not only entails upon us the Blessings of this Life, but the Happiness of the next.

Let nothing affright you but Sin.

That is, Let Sin be the constant Obiect of our Fear, because it will otherwise be the sure and certain Forerunner of our sufferings, as well in this World, as in that which is to come. All worldly Pains will cease and have an End, but the Pains of unrepended Sins will never end, therefore are most to be shunn'd and dreaded, the Consequences thereof being so heavy and frightful.

It is horribly dangerous to fleep near the Gates of Hell.

That is, To dwell in Sin, to delight in it, and to be so far captivated by it, as to be quite unaffected with, or insensible of the Misery and Danger of it.

Do wat you ought, and let what will come on't.

That is, at all Events, serve God. Let him be the Object of your Fear, your Love, your Praise, and Admiration only. Make him present in all your Actions, and do nothing to forfeit his Favour. Without him we are miserable; and from him alone comes every good



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good and perfect Gift. If it is Affliction, he with it will fanctify it; if it is Prosperity, he will bless it. From his Bleffings alone our Happiness, of Meni ffings of both here and hereafter, depends. xt. Forgive other Faults, but not your own. That is, Allow for the Infirmities of others, but give no Quarter to your own; because biect of you cannot know the Faults of others, or the the fure fecret springs from whence they derive. But ings, as your own you may know; and by a little Ento co. quiry into yourself, Soon discover what to rehave an strain, what to correct, and what to rout out sins will and fubdue. The great Error of human Life Chunn'd is, That we know so little of ourselves. Men fbeing Atudy more the Faults of others, than how to correct their own. near To forget a Wrong, is the best Revange. That is, To pass by, and disregard it: yet not so, as to put us off our Guard, but to mat in its ke us more watchful and circumspect. To quite take Notice of every little Affront, is an Ar-Misery gument of a low Mind, and favours more of Pride and Jgnorance, than Reason and good Sense. The Christian Religion bids us forgiwill ve; but christian Prudence bids us have a Care, too, whom we truste and confide in. For tho' we may know our own Hearts, and the e, your Sincerity of our own Reconciliation, yet we m pre cannot know that of another; and, therefore, hing to it is christian Prudence, to be upon our Guard. are mievery

good and perfet Cit.8 If it is Alliaion, he

He is the wifest Man, that does not think himself so.

That is, that does not value himself upon his Wisdom, and knows his own Ignorance. For there are a thousand things that a Wise Man Knows, he is ignorant of. But a Fool, that is, in the Language of Scripture, a wicked Man. Thinks he knows every Things, and Men of this Cast are always stubborn and inflexible, and the Aethiopian can as foon change his Skin, or the Leopard his spots as a Man that is wife in his own Conceit. Humility is the most certain character of a true Christian, because no Man can be a Christian without it. Our bleffed Saviour propof'd two Things to our Imitation, and one of them was Humility. Learn of me fays he, etc. It is a Duty fo effential to a Christian, that all other Virtues are but as a founding brass, or a tinkling Cymbal, good for nothing without it.

Speak Truth, and shame the Devil.

That is, Let the Consequence be, what it will, speak nothing but what is true. Not that the Truth is always to be spoke, but an Untruth never. For a Foolutters all his Mind, but a wise Man keeps it in 'till afterwards that is, digests and pauses upon what he speaks and speaks nothing but what is rational, proper to be spoke and agreeable to Truth.

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From short pleasures comes a long Repentance, or Every Sin brings its Purnot nishment along with it. or, Fly the pleasure, that bite to morrow. of upon That is, All unlawful Pleasures are but for orance. a Moment, compar'd with the Miferies that a Wife And by indulging our finful a Fools attend them. Passions, we may do that in a Moment, which wicked may lay the Foundation of a long Repentance, rs, and and cost us the Peace, Happiness and Comand ins foon fort of our Life. pots as II. Tell me, how you live, and I will tell you how you shall die, or, tell me what a true riftian company you Keep, and Ill tell you, "dewo what fort of Man you are, or, as a m was Tree is known by its Fruits, so Men Je is a are known by their Actions. other That is in plain Terms, if you live wickedtinkly, you shall die wickedly that is miserably. Because when we see Men live in opposition to the Laws of Reason and religion, it wou'd be no uncharitableness or Want of Benevolenwhatit ce, to fay, how wickedly that is miferably they will die; not absolutely but probably: because the greatest Sinner that is, by the but an extraordinary Power and Grace of God. Mind ds that may be pardon'd in a Moment, if, before he dies, he repents of his Sins; but tho 'a Despeaks speaks ath-bed Repentance is not impossible, yet it 15 10.

is often uncertain, and such People can't always have the confortable Assurance of their Pardon, and a well grounded Hope and Assurance of a blessed and glorious Jmmortality as those who have liv'd well, and have made the Laws of God the habitual Rules of their Practice.

12.

To do good make no Delay
For Life and Time fly fast away.
Or These Things pass for ever, vain
World, away;

But Love to God, this, this endures for ay.

That is, Our Time with a View to Eternity, beeing very fhort in this World, we shou'd embrace all opportunities of employing those to God's Glory, or the Good of our Fellow Creatures. The Confideration of which made Hugo Grotius a great and learned Man, when he came to die, notwithstanding his Reputation for Learning, he counted it all Drofs, a learned Nothing, so far as it did not draw him to the great Object of all religious Worfhip, the great, omnipotent and eternal God. It is faid of Titus, Son of Vespasian, that after a Scrutiny into his own Actions, if he found any Day pass'd, in which he had done no Good, he would infert in his Diary this Memorial: J have lost a Day.





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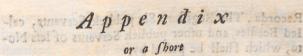
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Account of the University of Oxford.

ry year in a folome Atamer take an Oath, given by the Vice-Chanceller, we obligate and conferve the Rights of the University, and the Tenth of Februar, a certain Number of the punctool Cassess publishly

do pay each one a Peno, an Loken of Abmillion xford is feared at the meeting of two clear Fifhy Rivers in a healthy Air, and pleasant rich Soil. Jr was a Place of publick Studies above 900 years ago, and hath been reckoned the fecond Unipiversity among the four principal of Europe, whereof the others are Paris in France, Bologna in Ita-Iy and Salamanca in Spain. Over the University is placed the Chancellor of Oxford to continue during his Life, Vice-Chancellor, who is yearly nominated by the Chancellor, the High-Steward during his Life; two Proctors, chosen every year out of the several Colledges by turns, Whose duty is to take care of the Government of the whole University, to maintain the Liberties and Priviledges thereof, to fearch after and punish all Violaters of Statutes; in a Word, that whatever is for the Honour or Profit of the University, or may conduce to the Advancement of good Litterature, may be carefully obtained. Besides the fore mentioned of. ficers there are, a Publick Orator, a Keeper of the Records.



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e found lone no this Mer Records, The Register, Six publick Servants, called Beadles, and other publick Servants of less Note, which shall be passed by.

This University hath divers great Priviledges, granted by feveral Kings of England. yor with the chief Burghesses in Oxfordshire, every year in a solemn Manner take an Oath, given by the Vice-Chancellor, to observe and conserve the Rights of the University, and the Tenth of Februar, a certain Number of the principal Citizens publickly do pay each one a Penny, in Token of submission to the Orders and Rights of the University. fend two Burghesses to Parliament, and is subject to the Visitation or Correction of none but the King, or whom he shall please to commissionate. Victuals to be taken by the King's Surveyers within five Miles of Oxford, unless the King himself comes thither etc. There are eighteen Colledges and feven Halls, which have in their own Walls Lectures, Disputations, all Professions, and Liberal Sciences, read and taught, and in some of them publick Lectures for all Comers, and large Salaries for the Readers. The Names of them are Christ-Church Colledge, Magdalen-Coll. New-Coll. All-Souls Coll. Merton Coll. Corpus Christi Coll. Queens Coll. St. Johns Coll. Trinity Coll. Brazen Nofe Coll. Oriell Coll. Wadham Coll. Lincoln Coll. University Coll. Exeter Coll. Baliol Coll. Jesus Coll. Pembrook Coll. The Names of the Halls, Magdalen, Edmond, Alban, Hart, St. Mary, Newinn Hall, Glocester Hall. The whole Number of Professors and Readers in Oxford are about thenty



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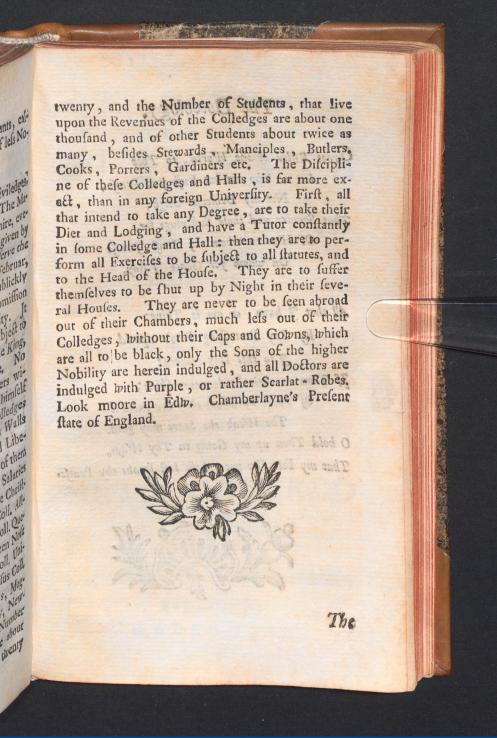
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The Doxology.

Great Ruler of the World, to Thee

Let me who am but Dust give Praise;

Not my Demerits weigh;

That Service and those Sufferings see,

Of Him to whom my Trust Fraise

On whom for Grace F stay.

d, and of other Students about twice as

All that I have, or am is Thine;

By Thy Protesting Pow'r upheld

I to this Day remain:

If Thou on their Endeavours shine;

Of Those by whom they are excelled

The Weak the Start may gain.

O hold Thou up my Going in Thy Ways,

That my Feet slip not; Life best speaks thy Prasse.

themselves to be thut up by Might is shelt leve



