

How startles reason at a thought so strange,
 What power can force OMNIPOTENCE to change?
 If from his own divine productive thought
 Were the yet stranger alteration wrought;
 Could excellence supreme, new rays acquire,
 Or strong perfection raise it's glories higher!
 Absurd!—his high meridian brightness glows,
 Never decreases, never overflows!
 Knows no addition, yields to no decay,
 The sacred blaze of inexhaustible day!

DEITY, p. 18.

Is Christ unchangeable in all his natural and moral perfections, in his self-sufficiency, all-sufficiency, fitness, fulness, beauty, happiness, grandeur, and incomprehensible glory! Then what an object is Christ of our utmost admiration and esteem, our most ardent benevolence and gratitude! O! my dear readers, here is an object that will most sublimely distance all your powers and passions to eternity! Let us every morning, every day, and every evening, meditate on the unchangeableness of Christ! Let us say within ourselves, Is my redeemer unchangeable in LIFE! then there is life enough for me: because he lives I shall live also. Is he unchangeable in his OMNIPOTENCE! then there is strength enough for me; I shall renew my strength, and mount up on eagles wings.

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Is he unchangeable in his UNDERSTANDING and knowledge! then there is rich knowledge for me: he knows my person, my wants, my dangers, and my enemies: he knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, 2 Pet. ii. 9. And as to temporal and spiritual blessings, he knows that we have need of all these things, Matt. vi. 32. he knows the deepest plots of men and devils, and he will unravel and confound them all.

Is Christ unchangeable in his DOMINION over heaven, earth, and hell! then, O! believer, rejoice, for his whole dominion is for you, and all your enemies must bow or break to shivers under his iron rod.

Is Christ unchangeable in his DIGNITY and PREROGATIVES! then give him the utmost glory, and preserve all his rights and laws sacred and inviolate! never suffer men or devils, by your consent, to injure his infinite dignity in any one instance whatsoever: preserve his honour at the hazard, yea, at the expence of your life: stand up for his boundless prerogative with the utmost wisdom, zeal, and fortitude; and proclaim to the world your attachment to his person and worthiness: tell it out among the nations, tell it out to all worlds, what an unparalled favour and friend you possess; yea, if it be possible, make hell, as well as heaven, resound with his transcendent glory and praise!

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Is Christ unchangeable in his TASTE! or his clear sense of the most noble, beautiful, and affecting objects: then let us form our taste upon his plan, as the eternal and immutable standard of all that is great, good, and excellent: let us conform to his taste in all our dispositions and actions. Has Christ a clear sense of all that is base, ugly, deformed, and disgustful in the tempers and actions of devils and men! let us conform to his taste in this respect likewise, and abhor all Sin as the most base and horrid deformity, as the most disgustful and abominable object in the universe of God! let us long for an eternal disunion with such a cursed object.

Is Christ unchangeable in his BEAUTY! let us love him with a boundless esteem; desire him with an infinite desire; bear towards him an ardent good-will, and feel an unutterable, unwearied delight in him as an ocean of the purest good!

Is he unchangeable in his LOVE! O! that our love was like his without change, unless for the better, every hour! O! eternal spirit, help us to love Christ with an immutable affection and attachment that shall be immortal as our existence.

Is Christ unchangeable in his HATRED of sin and Satan; in his ANGER at all moral impurity;
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in his WRATH at all wickedness on earth and in hell! then let our hatred, our anger, our wrath, be correspondent with his! let us set no bounds to our aversion and opposition to all that he hates. Is he unchangeable in his zeal for his Father's glory and his own: is he zealous for the honour of his blessed Spirit, and his law, and gospel, and kingdom in the world! then let our zeal* be like his: let it be nobly animated by his pattern and conduct: the zeal of God's cause and interest ate him up.

Is Christ unchangeable in his WISDOM and PRUDENCE! then let us submit to his wisdom, because in him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, Colos. ii. 3. I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of deep and wonderful inventions, Prov. viii. 12. My servant shall deal very prudently, Isa. lii. 13. Let us ask wisdom and prudence of Christ, who giveth liberally, and upbraideth not with our ingratitude and folly in times past, James i. 5. Let us imitate Christ in wisdom and prudence: let us be wise as a thousand serpents, and harmless as ten thousand doves, Matt. x. 16.

Is Christ unchangeable in GOODNESS, MERCY,
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* Read the great John Reynolds, on Sacred Zeal, 12mo. 1716. Motives to Zeal, in the Contemplations, vol. I. page 396. Motives to Zeal for the Protestant Religion,—Protestant Magazine, January, 1782.

and GRACE! Is the goodness of Christ his free, self-active good-will to make us happy with delight and pleasure! Is it the unchangeable inclination of Christ's will, to rejoice over us, to do us good with his whole heart and his whole soul! then let us admire him, and cry out with wonder and rapture, How great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! Zech. ix. 17. Let us say with the holy psalmist, I will sing of the mercies of Jehovah my God for ever, Pf. lxxxix. 1. O! that men would praise the Lord Jesus for his goodness and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Pf. cvii. 8, 15, 21, 31.

Is Christ unchangeable in his HOLINESS! hence see the absolute need of regeneration, in order to know and enjoy God for ever! either Christ must change into sin, or you must be changed into holiness; or be separated from God for ever and ever. There is no possibility of possessing one privilege, or receiving one blessing, or tasting one cordial of the gospel, without regeneration. There is no possibility of performing one act or duty of gospel obedience unless you are born again. And with respect to an eternal heaven, you can neither enjoy the glories of heaven, or perform the duties of heaven, unless you are regenerated in your whole soul by the Spirit of God!

Is Christ unchangeable in his JUSTICE! then
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wo! wo! ten thousand woes to every rebel that sets him at defiance by infidelity and impenitence! What will you do? Whither will ye go, where can you flee to escape dwelling in devouring fire, and making your bed in everlasting burnings! Isa. xxxiii. 14. Can your heart endure, can your hands be strong in the day that I shall deal with thee, Ezek. xxii. 14.

Is Christ unchangeable in his JUSTICE! then let us imitate his justice, and be unchangeably just to GOD and man: have an ardent regard to the RIGHTS of others, with a deliberate purpose to preserve those rights sacred and inviolate: give GOD the Redeemer his full due; give all mankind their full due; give to thyself full due; and thus be universally just to all the objects of thy free and rational agency. SELF-JUSTICE is a duty: justice to GOD and man are duties indispensable, immutable, and eternal.

Is Christ unchangeable in his TRUTH; in the truth of his existence, attributes, and actions! Is he unchangeable in his conceptions of the nature, properties, and relations of all things in heaven, earth, and hell, from eternity to eternity! what a wonderful perfection of knowledge is this! Is Christ unchangeable in the truth of his heart; in the truth of his declarations, doctrines, promises, and threatenings! Is he unchangeable in
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the truth of his conduct to all his creatures, in all worlds! Then confide in him without any reserve, and without any limits: give thy faith free scope in his most perfect and unbounded veracity and faithfulness!

Is Christ unchangeable in his SELF-SUFFICIENCY for his own happiness, and his all-sufficiency for the happiness of his people! then adore him; live upon him; receive out of his fulness and grace upon grace, i. e. one measure of grace after another, John i. 16. Let us rejoice in him who hath said, Without me ye can do nothing, John xv. 5. but my grace is sufficient for thee, 2 Cor. xii. 9. and through his strength we can do all things, Philip. iv. 13.

Is Christ unchangeable in all his perfections, BLESSEDNESS, and GLORY! Does happiness consist in strength, or wisdom, or beauty, or joy, or riches, or pleasures, or power and might, in valour, fortitude, or honour, and eternal fame! Christ is unchangeable in all these noble and beautiful excellencies! and his generosity of heart is infinite upon infinite. This completes his CHARACTER, and renders him an object of perfect veneration and delight, to all that love him in heaven and earth! Lord Jesus, we lay ourselves at thy feet, and we are entirely at thy command; we are wholly devoted to thee, while life and
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thought, reason and passion, and immortality endures. Amen!

IV. CHRIST hath the LIFE and OMNIPOTENCE
of GOD.

He is the life, John xiv. 6. He is true GOD and eternal life, 1 John v. 20. In him was life, and the life is the light of men, John i. 4. He is the true light, which enlighteneth every rational man that comes into the world of nature, and every converted and holy man coming into the world of grace, verse 9.

As the life and omnipotence of Christ are objects the most sublime and incomprehensible, the best method to attain clear ideas of these mysterious subjects is to begin with the lowest gradations of life, and, by easy steps, to ascend up to the the highest degrees in GOD himself.

LIFE in creatures of the animal kind is a principle, or spring of action, by which the creature moves itself. Self-motion is true life, and the only way or manner by which a creature shews itself to be alive, is SELF-MOTION. A power to begin motion, or change of place, and to continue motion, is true life: it is a real and wonderful power, vastly beyond all the properties of dead matter in the heavenly bodies, or in this our globe, with it's furniture, viz. air, water, earths,
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rocks, minerals, metals, and all the various dead substances it contains: they have not the least property of self-motion, or a power to change place for one moment.

LIFE is self-motion, or a state of active existence. The active existence of the blood is called CIRCULATION: the active existence of the lungs is called RESPIRATION, or breathing: the active existence of the nerves is called SENSATION: the active existence of the soul and body together is called UNION: the active existence of our limbs and senses consists in a power of voluntary motion.

The active existence of our souls, in a state of perception; and a capacity to receive and retain ideas, or images of things, is styled RATIONAL LIFE.

A capacity of receiving and retaining divine ideas; and to feel the force of spiritual motives; and to be touched with the clear representations of the fulness, grandeur, and beauty of Christ, is spiritual life, or a state of vital holiness.

This spiritual life is a new and divine principle or spring of holy activity, infused into the soul by the spirit of Christ, which issues in a DIVINE HABIT, or disposition to live to Christ; and discovers itself in a beautiful and lovely resemblance
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to Christ; in a lively and deep sense of the law of Christ upon the soul; and evinces it's existence by an universal change of principles, actions, and taste, in it's conduct and tendency towards Christ and all mankind.

This fixed disposition to act towards Christ and for his glory, is the most glorious image of the life and omnipotence of Christ, that can ever be found in our world; it is ready in point of disposition and motion for every mode of holy activity; it is *naturally* active, even more so than any living body or meerly rational spirit; it is *freely* active without any reluctance in itself, although it meets with opposition from corrupt nature; it is *fervently* active for Christ, and exerts itself with a noble and generous warmth for his interest and glory; it is *unboundedly* active in affections to Christ; it knows no limits; it disdains all bounds, and scorns all restraint; it wishes to spread itself into the immensity of Christ's divine and infinite perfections; it is *unboundedly* active against sin and Satan, and the spirit of a bad world; it longs to dash them to pieces and trample them under foot; it is *powerfully* active so as to resemble the unwearied activity of Christ himself, who works every moment in all worlds; it resembles the omnipotence of Christ in it's *powerful* or mighty activity for him

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on all occasions; it is easily and *pleasantly* active. Life, in it's lowest degree, is a power of self-activity or motion; an higher degree of life is an higher power of self-motion; and the highest degrees of life have the greatest ease and pleasure in action; the highest degrees of rational life in the wisest men have great ease and pleasure in operation; and the noble nature of rational life in angels has the sweetest ease and pleasure in action. What then must be the divine life in a true christian, in respect of ease and pleasure towards Christ! It is *orderly* and *beautifully* active, or in all it's operations it resembles the *beautiful* life of Christ: he did all things decently and in order. The true believer desires, in all his actings of soul and body towards all the objects of it's free agency, to imitate the FITNESS and DECORUM of action in Christ; it is DURABLY active; it never dies; it lives for ever; it endures to eternity. This life is hid with Christ in GOD, and it is made *immortal* by Christ himself: because he lives we shall live also; we live yet not so much ourselves as Christ liveth in us; and the life we now live in the flesh, we live by the faith of the Son of GOD, who loved us and gave himself for us, Gal. ii. 20. I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall ANY, i. e. men or devils, sin, or the world, or any other creature, pluck them out of MY hand, John x. 28.

O! christian,

O! christian, rejoice! thy saviour is the living GOD, and steadfast for ever, Dan. vi. 26. He is the LIFE as well as the TRUTH; he is *infinite* and omnipresent life without bounds; he is *immutable* life without change; he is *perfect* life without defect or deficiency; he is *eternal* life without decay or death; he was once dead in his body, but he is alive and lives for evermore in all the fullness of GOD's immortal existence.

The OMNIPOTENCE, or almighty POWER of
CHRIST.

The omnipotence of Christ is the active force of his divine nature, or the infinite life and strength of his divine will; by which he is able, without the least difficulty, to produce the greatest effects in the worlds of nature, providence, and grace.

We gain the idea of divine power in Christ, by observing the life, strength, and activity in our own souls; and in the motions or change of place in bodies we and others are able to produce in our world; and in the most amazing motion or change of place which are produced in the heavenly bodies, and in all the parts of the earth and seas, quite round the globe, every moment; and from moment to moment ever since their first creation.

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As most persons have no clear and just ideas of the divine power, it will be exceedingly proper and useful to assist them in forming those ideas, by shewing the natural and easy process of the human mind, in gaining clear and vivid conceptions of the omnipotence of Christ.

First of all consider the vast bulk or **MAGNITUDE** of the planetary worlds,—the amazing **SPACES** through which they move,—and the **VELOCITY** with which they are moved. Only let me premise, that according to the light of divine revelation, omnipotence is essential to Christ as the eternal Son of God; and to conceive of him as a God of omnipotence or almighty power, is essential to our right ideas of Christ. A weak **SAVIOUR** is no favour at all; a weak **REDEEMER** is an idea contrary to common sense; a weak **GOD** is an idea quite absurd in the human understanding, it cannot be conceived without a contradiction of ideas in the human mind; a weak **GOD** and **Saviour** is a notion big with the greatest impossibilities, and void of all sense and reason; it contradicts the whole tenor of divine revelation, and is repugnant to all the discoveries of his names, titles, attributes, and actions.

The starry heavens; the planetary worlds;
the vast fields through which the comets range;
the ten moons in our system; the air and winds;
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the thunders and lightnings; the rain, hail, and snow; the earth and seas; the vegetable and animal worlds; the bodies and souls of all mankind quite round the globe; the support and motion of all creatures from moment to moment; with ten thousand times ten thousand motions in the masses of dead matter, give us continual and clear evidence of the omnipotent power of Christ.

As I firmly believe most serious christians find it very difficult to gain and keep clear and lively ideas of the divine power or omnipotence of Christ, I will take some pains to direct their conceptions, and lead their understandings into just and astonishing views of this sublime and glorious attribute of our redeemer, our best and dearest friend and God; the life of our graces, the strength of our souls, the joy and glory of our whole lives.

Let us begin with the PLANETS. Christ formed them all; they had no existence till he created them by a volition of his almighty will: he upholds them all, or they would tumble into utter ruin: he enlivens and actuates all creatures on our planet the EARTH, or they would immediately die, and become a lifeless mass: he recovered all, when all was forfeited and lost by the horrible treason and rebellion of man.

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But let us begin with the planet MERCURY, whose distance from the sun is thirty-two millions of miles; his diameter is above two thousand miles; that is, suppose you could thrust an iron rod through the middle of his body, it must be two thousand miles long to reach from one side to the other; whose circumference is six thousand miles; and yet this large body has been in motion round the sun, for five thousand seven hundred years, at the rate of an hundred thousand miles an hour; that is to say, and to make it as plain as possible to vulgar understandings, the motion or change of place in this body has constantly been after the rate of nearly a thousand miles in half a minute ever since the creation of the world!

Now, what an infinitely active force must there be in the divine nature and will of Christ, the omnipresent GOD, to continue this motion, or to cause the incessant change of place in this body every moment, at the rate of near a thousand miles every half minute for almost six thousand years!

Stand still, O! my reader, and consider the wondrous works of GOD the Redeemer, Job xxxvii. 14. Remember that thou magnify his work which men behold, Job xxxiv. 24. The works of the Lord Jesus are great, diligently
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and inquisitively sought out and enquired into with admiration by all those who have pleasure and delight therein, Pf. cxi. 2.

Recollect once more that the planet MERCURY, a mass of solid dead matter, has been changing it's place every moment since the creation, at the rate of near a thousand miles in half a minute, and in every eighty-eight of our days, flying through a space of one hundred and ninety-two millions of miles; and this change of place has been caused incessantly by the omnipresent will and understanding of Christ acting upon the body, with an indefinient or unceasing agency; and that all this is done by him without the aid of any external or internal subtle matter whatsoever.

The planet VENUS has a MAGNITUDE in diameter about eight thousand miles, her circumference is twenty-four thousand miles, her DISTANCE from the sun is fifty-nine millions of miles, her ORBIT is above three hundred and fifty millions of miles, her VELOCITY in that orbit is seventy thousand miles an hour, that is, above one thousand one hundred miles in a minute, that is, above five hundred miles in half a minute; and thus she has continued flying for near six thousand years: and Christ, the eternal, omnipresent, immutable,

living, all-powerful, and ever-active God has caused this planet to move or change it's place five hundred miles every half minute, ever since, by a single volition in one moment, he gave it existence! And this is the God that bought us with his own blood; and this God is our God for ever and ever; and HE will be our guide over death, Pf. xlvi. 14.

The planet of our EARTH is, in MAGNITUDE, a little more than eight thousand miles diameter; the circumference or measure round it's body about twenty-five thousand miles; it's DISTANCE from the sun eighty-one millions of miles; it's ORBIT is above four hundred and eighty millions of miles; it's VELOCITY* in this orbit is about a thousand miles a minute, or five hundred miles in half a minute; and thus our earth has continued

* 'Tis agreed by the greatest astronomers that have ever lived, that a cannon-ball, going with the same velocity as at it's first discharge, would be twenty-five years in going to the sun; now the distance is eighty-one millions of miles; this is but half the diameter of our earth's annual orbit round the sun; the whole diameter is one hundred and sixty-two millions of miles; now every sensible school-boy, who has but a taste of measurement, knows that three times the diameter of a circle is once the circumference; and our earth performs that journey in one year, which would cost a cannon-ball one hundred and fifty years to perform; that is, our earth flies one hundred and fifty times swifter than a cannon-ball, and has done so every moment for five thousand seven hundred and eighty-one years; and all this is done and now doing by the omnipresent and omnipotent Son of God, our saviour and our friend.

tinued flying in boundless space, for five thousand seven hundred and eighty-one years, ever since God the Redeemer, in a moment, in the beginning of time, created the heavens and the earth, Gen. i. 1. O! christian, Jesus thy God and mine, gave existence to this earth on which thou wast born, and in which thou hast lived till this moment, and on which thou shalt live till he takes thee to heaven! and this earth he causes to change place in it's path round the sun, at the rate of five hundred miles in half a minute; and at the same time he turns it round on it's own axis to give thee day and night every twenty-four hours, at the rate of a thousand miles every hour at the equator; and the house where thou livest; the bed on which thou sleepest; the table where thou eatest; and the desk at which I write these lines; with my body and thine, move at the rate of six hundred miles an hour, by the incessant mighty power of Christ, our eternal, omnipresent, and ever-living friend and God! O! rejoice in him every moment; love him my brother, love him my soul; and triumph in his attributes and actions; his relations and affections; and glory in this thought, that thy worst enemies are in thy best friend's hands.

The planet MARS, in magnitude, is above four thousand miles: it's circumference is near
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fourteen thousand miles : it's DISTANCE from the sun is one hundred and twenty-three millions of miles : the diameter of it's ORBIT is two hundred and forty-six millions of miles, and the CIRCUMFERENCE of his orbit is above seven hundred thousand millions of miles : the VELOCITY of his motion, or the rate at which he changes his place, is forty-five thousand miles an hour ; that is to say, it changes place at the rate of near four hundred miles in half a minute. And all this is done, and has been doing, ever since the creation of this planet by Christ the mighty God, the everlasting father of his people, and our blessed friend and prince of peace.

The planet JUPITER is, in MAGNITUDE, the most amazing of any body in our system, except the sun : his DIAMETER is eighty-one thousand miles : the circumference, or measure round his body, is above three times eighty-one thousand, or near two hundred and fifty thousand miles : his DISTANCE from the sun is four hundred and twenty-four millions of miles : the DIAMETER of his vast orbit is eight hundred and forty-eight millions of miles, and the astonishing CIRCUMFERENCE of his orbit is three times the diameter, or above two thousand millions of miles : and when we go above nine or ten places of figures, we lose all ideas of numbers, and Sir Isaac New-
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ton with a plough-boy come upon a level; that is to say, he hath as clear an idea of the real number, or rather they have no ideas at all, for we have not faculties to comprehend such numbers. The VELOCITY, or change of place in Jupiter, is at the rate of twenty-four thousand miles an hour, or about one hundred and fifty miles every half minute; whilst he turns on his own axis in about ten hours, at the rate of twenty five thousand miles, at his equator, every hour: his PERIOD in his orbit is twelve years, and in that time he flies through a space of two thousand millions of miles. And all this is done by the immediate presence and active power of that JESUS who is our JEHOVAH, LORD, and GOD; who has redeemed us to his father's love with his own blood, Acts xx. 28.

The planet SATURN—in magnitude, his diameter is sixty-seven thousand miles: the circumference of his body is above two hundred thousand miles: his DISTANCE from the sun is seven hundred and seventy-seven millions of miles: the DIAMETER of his orbit is above fifteen hundred millions of miles: and the whole CIRCUMFERENCE of his orbit is three times that sum; that is to say, forty-five hundred, or above four thousand millions of miles: his PERIOD is near thirty of our years: and his VELOCITY every moment in his

his orbit is at the rate of eighteen thousand miles an hour; that is, one hundred and fifty miles every half minute ever since the creation, which is entirely owing to the omnipresent and all-active energy of the eternal Son of God! Besides all this, he has five moons, each as big as our moon; and a most astonishing ring twenty-one thousand miles broad, and twenty-one thousand miles distant from his body: this is an unparalleled appearance in our system and demands our utmost attention and admiration. But who can utter the mighty attributes and actions of the Lord Jesus; who can shew forth all his praise? Pf. cvi. 2. The time would fail me to speak of our own moon, whose magnitude or DIAMETER is above two thousand miles; her DISTANCE from our earth two hundred and forty thousand miles; the diameter of her orbit four hundred and eighty thousand miles; her velocity or change of place in that orbit, above two thousand miles an hour; that is, above sixteen miles every half minute; and all this by the immediate presence and hand of Christ!

The time would fail me to tell of JUPITER'S four moons, some of them judged to be as large in magnitude as our earth; the innermost moon one hundred and thirty thousand miles distant from his body, and moves with the swiftness of
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above thirty thousand miles an hour; the **SECOND** moon three hundred thousand miles distant, and moves at the rate of twenty-five thousand miles an hour; the **THIRD** is five hundred and eighty thousand miles distant from his body, and moves or changes place, every moment, at the rate of twenty thousand miles an hour; the **FOURTH**, or outermost moon, is ten hundred thousand miles distant from his body, and moves or changes places, by the living presence and power of Christ, every moment, at the rate of fifteen thousand miles an hour.

The time would fail me to speak of the **COMETS**, the nearest of which moves, in the space of one hour, about thirteen thousand miles; the **SECOND** comet moves swifter than Mercury, and at the rate of one hundred and twenty-five thousand miles an hour! the **THIRD** comet moves at the rate of nine thousand miles an hour; the **FOURTH** comet moves, or changes place, at the rate of six thousand miles an hour! and all by the ever-active presence and infinite power of that Jesus, who was born in a dark stable, and laid in a cold manger for us: whose blood was sold for thirty pieces of silver, or three pounds fifteen shillings, the price of a slave; that he might redeem us to **GOD** by that blood, and place us in the heaven of heavens as long as the immortality of **GOD** endures!