

a moment---fluxes of blood and stubborn leprogies flee away at his command. Luke iv. 40. You see the most violent and furious tempers of avaricious and malignant men yield to his sovereign arm; and he drives before him men, with all the raging PASSIONS of devils, as easily as though they had been a flock of lambs. John ii. 15. You see storms of wind, and raging waves, which toss themselves towards the skies, all hushed and made as quiet as a weaned child. Mark iv. 39. You see this adorable God exerting his power on foods for man; and common water is turned into generous wine in a moment. John ii. 9. Bread and fishes, which were but just sufficient for our Lord's twelve disciples, are multiplied to feed and fill seven thousand men, with a larger surplus of fragments than the provision was at first. Matt. xiv. 20. xv. 37. You see his power over the vegetable world, in striking a barren fig-tree dead, as an awful warning to fruitless professors. Matt. xxi. 19. You see a fish, at his command, brings money in his mouth, and presents himself to Peter's hook. Matt. xvii. 27. One hundred and fifty-three great fishes obey their maker, and come into Peter's net. John xxi. 11. But, beyond all these wonders, see the stubborn devils fly at his word, or crouch like spaniel dogs at his feet. Luke iv. 35, 41. You see a damned goblin tear a poor boy almost to pieces and fling him
foaming

foaming to the ground just dead, obliged to quit the body, and fly howling to hell at the command of our God. Mark ix. 17--27. You see seven devils cast out of the body and soul of Mary Magdalene. Luke viii. 2. You see, in the synagogue, a man possessed with an unclean spirit, who confesses what infidels deny, that he knew Christ to be the holy one of God. Mark i. 24. You see a legion of strong furious devils obliged to quit the body of a miserable man: and you see them crouch at our saviour's feet: they intreat not to be sent to their eternal hell, and ask leave to destroy two thousand swine. Mark v. 2--16. Blush! blush! ye Socinians, to see yourselves more detestable unbelievers than devils, who came out of many bodies with this sound confession in their mouths, **THOU ART CHRIST THE SON OF GOD!** Luke iv. 41.

You see Christ's absolute dominion over death, the king of terrors, and all his empire: yea, he is master of all the invisible world of souls! Jairus's dead daughter springs up into life. Luke viii. 55. The son of the widow of Nain is roused from the dead. Luke vii. 15. Lazarus returns from the world of separate spirits at his mighty master's call. John xi. 44. Thus you see the damned devils, and the saved souls are all at his command, and proclaim him to be the sovereign and absolute God.

A VIEW

A VIEW of the MIRACLES recorded in the ACTS
of the APOSTLES.

We are now arrived at the most distinguished period in the annals of the universe, and are called to view the most glorious and happy revolution that ever took place in the rational and moral world. Give me your utmost attention, my dear reader, whilst I set before you a prospect of those wonderful and delightful objects, which had been hid in God from eternal ages, but were now clearly and fully revealed for the glory of the redeemer, and the salvation of millions in ages past, and millions more that are yet unborn.

On Friday, April the 3d,* in the thirty-third year of our Lord's age, about nine o'clock in the morning, he was nailed to the cross; at three o'clock in the afternoon he died, and at six o'clock in the evening he was buried. On April the 5th he rose from the dead; he conversed with his disciples forty days; and on May the 14th he ascended to heaven. On the day of Pentecost, that is the fiftieth day from his resurrection,

* That accurate and inquisitive philosopher Mr. James Ferguson, F. R. S. rectified his orrery for the twentieth year of our Lord's life, and went on to make the annual revolutions upon it till he came to the fortieth year of his life; and in all that space of time, there was but one passover (FULL MOON) on a Friday, which happened on the 3d of April, in the thirty-third year of our Lord's age. This was lately published in the Gospel Magazine, by the Rev. Mr. Toplady.

rection, and which was May the 24th, at nine o'clock in the morning, he poured out his Holy Spirit on the twelve apostles, the seventy disciples, with thirty-eight other christians, which amounted in all to one hundred and twenty of his faithful followers.---Now, my reader, view them all humbly waiting at the foot-stool of God's throne, in obedience to their master's command, and in earnest expectation of the fulfilment of his promise; perfectly in the possession of their common sense and reason, and feeling a sweet unanimity and love amongst themselves. And, behold, with the utmost wonder and veneration, suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting: and there appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts ii. 2--4.

Let us stand still and consider.---Here are twelve poor illiterate men, with seventy more as illiterate as themselves, who had never been at any college of learning in their lives, and were actually on a level with our common day-labourers in England: these men, in a moment, are enabled to speak, with fluency and propriety, no less than fifteen languages; and are capable
of

of addressing the people from the several nations of the world, in their respective tongues, so as to be clearly and perfectly understood: and in these languages of the East and the West, the North and the South, they proclaim, with rapture and astonishment, the **WONDERFUL WORKS*** of GOD. Acts ii. 11.

What could these wonderful works of God be? Why, surely, the most wonderful works of redemption and salvation. These are the highest and noblest of all the works of God; and the apostles of Christ were now fully illuminated with the wisdom and grace of the Holy Spirit to understand and declare these works. They clearly saw, in the strongest and most vivid light, all the great and glorious ends of Christ's death: that he died to make a real and perfect **SATISFACTION** to the justice of God for the sins of his people; that is, a full provision for the honour of justice, holiness, majesty, and the dominion of God in the salvation of sinners: and that this Christ had done, by the habits of holiness---by acts of pure obedience---and by suffering the punishment and curse of God in the room and stead of his people. They saw, and they declared, that Christ had died to bring in an everlasting righteousness for our justification---that he had sealed the covenant of grace with his blood---
destroyed

* *Megaleia tou Theou.*

destroyed and made an end of the guilt or damning power of sin---demolished the works and broke the heart of the devil, or crushed the head of the old serpent in his force and fraud---delivered us from the evil of the world, and brought us to the knowledge, resemblance, and enjoyment of God---introduced love and unity amongst all his redeemed people---and had now accomplished the display of the harmony and glory of all the divine perfections, in the salvation and happiness of the church. They now saw, with astonishment and delight, the glory of the cross of Christ; and were able to declare, with boldness and demonstration, that God, the redeemer, had provided, for the honour of every divine perfection, to the very utmost in the salvation of man. That here wisdom, without the least mistake or error, shone out as bright as ten thousand suns; goodness opened all its deep and boundless treasures; mercy earned over the miserable with the tenderest bowels; grace triumphed over the most unworthy sinners at Jerusalem; and love arrayed the whole Godhead with the most attractive charms: whilst divine justice* sternly asserted the special prerogative of God, or his special power and pre-eminence above all persons and things, and maintained, to the utmost,

* Divine mercy and compassion regarded sinners as miserable, not as guilty; but divine justice regarded them as criminals or guilty, but not as miserable.---Brine's judicious sermon on God's Delight in his People, p. 18. 1761.

most, GOD's dignity; consisting in his personal sovereignty, absolute perfection, and perpetuity of dominion over all worlds: declaring his royal power and authority, and demanding, to the last mite, the royal revenue of praise and obedience due to GOD. The sincerity and truth of GOD executed all the threatenings on the head and heart of Christ. Power shone in its most tremendous exertions, animated by the vengeance of heaven; whilst holiness regulated the whole plan, and dignifies all with the beauty and decorum of a GOD.

Amidst all the wonderful works of GOD, the apostles declared that Christ died to set us the most glorious example of invincible patience, daring firmness of mind, humble condescension, and deep submission to the will of GOD. They proclaimed, that the design of his death was to give force and weight to his continual intercession in heaven---that he shed his blood and laid down his life to bring forth a numerous seed of lively believers, in all ages, to the end of time---and that Christ died with the most noble design and aim that the highest honour and glory might redound to himself amongst all his churches on earth, and his happy people in heaven.*

These were the wonderful works of GOD, which the apostles declared on that most illustrious day; and

* See the great and judicious Mr. John Hurrion's sermons on Christ Crucified, 8vo. 1727. Serm. viii. p. 322--399.

and the blessed effects and consequences quickly appeared in the conversion of three thousand souls from sin to holiness, from Satan to Christ, and from the world to God.---And now, what sceptic, or what infidel, can deny the evidence, or dispute the truth of these wonderful and delightful operations of the holy spirit of God! and what wise and good man but must confess, with gratitude and tears of holy delight, the invincible and the uncontrollable evidence of the truth and divinity of the christian religion.

But we have farther wonders of divine power and glory in the working of miracles by the hands of the apostles.

You see a miserable cripple, from his birth, at the call of Peter, in the name of Jesus, made to leap up, and stand, and walk with perfect soundness of limbs, praising God. Acts. iii. 2--8.

You see the very shadow of Peter cure all manner of diseases, and drive out devils! What an honour did the Son of God confer on this man, who had been so scandalously befooled by the devil but a few weeks before! Acts v. 15, 16.

You see Eneas, who had kept his bed eight years, and was almost dead with the palsy, spring into vigorous life and health, in a moment, at a word from the same apostle. Acts ix. 34.

You

You see that amiable and generous benefactress to the poor widows raised from the dead in a moment, in order to stamp an eternal honour on Peter, and to afford the benevolent woman fresh occasions to do good to God's poor people, and fresh advantages to brighten her crown of glory in the skies. Acts ix. 36--41. You see two vile covetous lyars struck dead in an instant. v. 5--10. You see Elymas the forcerer, that child of the devil, and enemy of all righteousness, struck blind in a moment. xiii. 11. You see a poor cripple, who had never walked in his life, stand upright on his feet, and walk, and leap, with surprize and joy. xiv. 10. You see the body and soul of a poor deluded girl delivered from the vile machinations of the devil in an instant of time. xvi. 18. You see the victorious power of the apostle Paul to be so great and astonishing as to make diseases and devils flee away at the sight of an apron or an handkerchief. xix. 12. You see Eutychus fall down dead, and raised to life in a moment. xx. 9--11. You see a venomous viper fasten on Paul's hand, and is shook off into the fire without any hurt. xxviii. 3--5. You see a fever and a bloody flux cured by Paul, in the name of Jesus; and all manner of diseases in the whole island flee away at his command. xxviii. 8--9.

RECOL-

R E C O L L E C T I O N.

Now, my reader, review what we have set before your eyes. See the wonders of omnipotence, performed by Moses, Joshua and the prophets, by Christ and his apostles; and view the whole in connexion with the goodness of the doctrine, and the fulfilment of a thousand prophecies, and then say, if you dare, that all these things are cunningly-devised fables. But if you can assert this horrible lye, what an heart must you have; a heart worse than the devil's; worse poisoned with infidelity than the damned themselves: for hell has no such malignant infidels there.

O! God, my saviour, give my readers a large measure of that noble, vital faith which is the confident expectation of things hoped for, and the demonstrative evidence of things not seen. Heb. xi. 1. Grant us that faith which makes invisible persons, transactions, and blessings, to be present with the soul, and gives them a substantial existence in the mind, with the most realizing conviction of their truth, excellence, sweetness, and glory! Then we shall cry out, as a convinced sceptic did before Dr. Owen, "Here is evidence enough to confound and convince the very devil himself." But indeed he knows already the truth of all these things to his cost. O! good, great, and mighty God, deliver us from that unbelief, which is a proud
dissent

dissent of the understanding from the revealed truth of GOD, a rebellious denial of consent to the goodness of GOD's testimony, and a wicked and scornful rejection of the person, offices, and crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed JESUS, diffuse the light and energy of thy spirit of wisdom and love over our dark and weak understandings, and make us feel the utmost force and keenness of sound conviction. Eternal SPIRIT, the great author of our existence and rational powers, give us the most lively perceptions of thine infinite wisdom and almighty agency in the production of all these works of wonder, mercy, and terror; and teach us to acknowledge and adore thee as the great executor and finisher of all the works of GOD. Thy hand produced the dreadful deluge---the confusion of languages---the burning bush---the rod turned into a serpent---the rivers made blood---the plague of frogs---the dust turned into lice---the immense swarms of flies, which filled all Egypt---the murrain on the cattle---the boils and blains on man and beast---the hail mingled with fire and thunder---the dreadful locusts---the blackness of darkness to be felt---the death of the first-born---thine almighty arm, O! GOD, the eternal Spirit, divided the red sea, and rolled up the mountainous waters into solid rocks---thy goodness sweetened the bitter waters of Marah---and

thy infinite power made the flinty rock gush into fountains of water. The thunder, the flashes of fire, with the tremendous earthquake at Sinai, were the effects of thy glorious and irresistible power and divinity---it was thy hand which created the inconceivable number † of quails, sufficient to feed five and twenty hundred thousand* human bodies at one and the same hour; and every day for the space of a month---and it was thy beneficent hand which furnished manna every morning to satisfy three millions of people through the course of forty years. It was the fire of thy dreadful wrath which consumed those traitorous rebels Nadab and Abihu---and thy tremendous justice opened the jaws of the earth to swallow up whole families of insolent infidels in a moment. Thy power commanded the brazen serpent to cure the deadly bites of the fiery serpents---and the same wonderful agency opened the mouth of the dumb ass to reprove the madness of a false prophet.

At thy sovereign word Jordan's river divides---
the

† The very learned and judicious bishop Patrick, in his admirable Commentary on Numbers xi. 31, thinks these creatures were a sort of locusts, like young lobsters; and the equally learned Dr. Gill, in his Exposition, concurs in the same sentiment.----Let my reader only figure to himself the immense loads which fell for twenty miles on every side round the camp, three feet high, and every day for a whole month together.

* The number of men able to bear arms amongst the Israelites, was six hundred thousand; these are always reckoned about a fifth part of a nation of people, so that the whole number of the Israelites was about three millions.---See Exod. xii. 37. xxxviii. 26. Numb. i. 46. xi. 21.

the sun and moon stand still for a whole day--- Gideon's fleece---the strength of Sampson---the jaw-bone gushing into a fountain of water, are all vouchers for thine omnipotence.* Thy dreadful justice struck one hundred and eighty-five thousand rebels dead in one single night; and thy marvellous grace preserved three noble heroes unhurt amidst the raging flames of fire! The lions were muzzled by thine almighty power: and, by thy goodness, Jonah was preserved, at the bottom of the sea, from immediate ruin and death.

Thou art the great author of the INCARNATION of our Lord Jesus Christ: thy wisdom, power, holiness, and goodness, formed his human nature, consisting of a true body, and a reasonable holy soul. This is the highest and noblest work that was ever performed by the creating wisdom of the deity, and it was worthy of a GOD. It was by the power of the spirit of GOD, co-operating with the Lord Jesus, that devils were cast out, and all miracles effected. Matt. xii. 28. And in the strength or power of the Spirit, Jesus returned victorious over the fiercest temptations. Luke iv. 14. For the spirit of GOD dwelt with unmeasurable grace upon him. John iii. 34.

Thy

* Iron was made to swim, contrary to the laws of specific gravity, i. e. the weight of bodies, bulk for bulk. 2 Kings vi. 6.

Thy glorious Godhead, O! blessed Spirit, appears in all the miracles of the Old and New Testament. By thy joint co-operation, water was turned into wine---the lepers were cleansed---the centurion's servant healed---burning fevers removed---raging tempests calmed---the blind made to see---the deaf to hear---the dumb to speak---the withered hand restored---the crippled limbs made to walk, and leap for joy---the dead were raised---and raging devils made to flee. By thine agency, a vast number of great fishes were brought into Peter's net---and by thy victorious and invincible grace, the souls of sinners, in all ages, are made spiritually to see and hear the glories of the GOSPEL, to feel its power, to stretch out the hand of faith to Christ, to walk in his ways, and warble forth the praises of their redeeming God; and to sing, Worthy is the lamb that was slain.

Thy divine and infinite power shone out with the most illustrious grandeur in the resurrection of our Lord's dead body from the grave. Rom. viii. 10, 11. Here the GODHEAD of the Holy Spirit appeared in its meridian glory! And how invincible will the evidence appear in the regeneration and sanctification of all the nations on earth in the latter day, and in the resurrection of the whole world from the dead! Then all thy final enemies will be confounded, astonished, and
perish:

perish: then all thy friends shall appear as living temples of the living God, and shine out as millions of suns in the kingdom of their father.
Matt. xiii. 43.

Select BOOKS on the Subject of MIRACLES.

1. The wisest writer on the Miracles recorded in Scripture I have ever read, is the great, the good, and amiable Dr. John Leland, who lately died at Dublin. This learned man was one of the ablest champions against the deists, and for the defence of christianity, that ever lived in any age or nation: and his works will remain as immortal monuments of clear, fair, masculine reasoning, and convincing demonstration, as long as reason and the world shall endure.---Read first his 7th letter on the Deistical Writers, vol. i. 8vo. edit. 1754; where you have an account of Dr. ZACHARY PEARSE on Miracles, in four parts, 1729.---Dr. SMALLBROOK on Miracles, 2 vols. 8vo. 1729.---Mr. RAY's Vindication of our Saviour's Miracles, in two parts, 1727, 1729.---Mr. STEVENSON's Conference on the Miracles of our Saviour, published in 1730; an ingenious and solid performance.---Dr. LARDNER's Vindication of our blessed Saviour's Miracles, 1729.---Dr. HENRY's Defence of the Scripture History concerning Jairus's daughter--the widow's son at Naim--and the resurrection of Lazarus. London, 1729.---With his other volume, being a continuation of the Defence of Scripture History. London, 1730.

2. Read Dr. LELAND's Examination of Mr. Hume's Essay on Miracles, vol. ii.---View of the Deistical Writers, letter iii. with Reflections on the second part of Mr. Hume's Essay on Miracles, vol. ii. letter iv.---The MIRACLES of CHRISTIANITY, Lord Bolingbroke says (if they were really wrought) are sufficient proofs of its divine authority, letter xiv.

3. Read Dr. CAMPBELL on Miracles, against David Hume, 12mo.

4. Read Dr. CLAPAREDE's Considerations on the Miracles of the Gospel, 8vo. Newbery. 1767.

5. Read Dr. DODDRIDGE on Miracles. See his lectures, part v. lect. ci.

6. Read the great JOHN HURRION's most judicious discourse on MIRACLES, in his Scripture Doctrine of the HOLY SPIRIT, 8vo. 1734, p. 435--460. I freely declare to my young friends, that this is the most compendious view of the nature and use of MIRACLES that they can read; and it will prepare them to peruse with judgment and understanding the larger discourses on MIRACLES, written by Dr. LELAND, and the above excellent writers.

A VIEW

A VIEW of Mr. HURRION ON MIRACLES.---He first states the true idea or nature of a Miracle :

1. Miracles are extraordinary works of God, above, beyond, or contrary to the course of nature, or power of second causes, done to confirm the truth. Some Miracles are præter naturam, besides nature, or out of its common course, as the standing still of the sun. Some are above the power of nature, as the multiplication of the five loaves and two fishes, to feed five thousand. Some Miracles are contrary to the course and power of nature, as the safety of the three nobles in the fiery furnace, and Daniel in the Lions den.

2. He enquires what power is requisite to the working of Miracles, or by whom they may be performed : he rejects, with a just indignation, the false notion of some writers, " That true and real Miracles have been done, and may be done, by finite created spirits ; yea, and by devils and bad spirits." And he shews, that an almighty, infinite power, is required to the working of a true and real Miracle ; and that, therefore, Miracles belong to God alone, as the SUPREME CAUSE, whoever are the instruments. And with pleasure I inform my reader, that my dear and honoured friend, the late judicious Mr. John Brine, was of the same mind in his Chapter of Miracles, in answer to Foster, 8vo. 1746.

3. He shews that Miracles are ascribed to the Holy Spirit in the sacred Scriptures. 1 Cor. xii. 10. " By the same working of Miracles." Matth. xii. 28. I cast out devils by the Spirit of God. Acts vi. 5--8. Stephen, a man full of the Holy Ghost, did great Miracles. Rom. xv. 19. Mighty signs and wonders by the power of the spirit of God.---From which testimonies it is very clear that the Holy Spirit is the author or efficient cause of miraculous works. As he had a hand in making the world, so he has a power of controuling and inverting the powers of nature in what way and manner he pleases. But, with grief and indignation, I remark, that this great and good Spirit is hated and insulted throughout this nation ; and, for this black ingratitude, connected with our general lukewarmness, under a national and formal profession of the PROTESTANT RELIGION, we are likely to be left to APOSTACY, ATHEISM, and POPEERY.

N. B. LUKEWARMNESS consists in a sad indifference of heart to the clear and striking EVIDENCES of the gospel---a vile indifference of heart to the most glorious DISCOVERIES which were hid in God from eternity ---and in an equal indifference of heart to the serious PRACTICE of christianity, and the PROPAGATION of it in the nation and the world. This is the temper which will bring the curse of popery once more on GREAT-BRITAIN and IRELAND.

4. He shews that Miracles tend much to the confirmation of divine revelation.---See the great Hurrion on the Spirit, page 436--460.

A CON-