A

CONTEMPLATION

ON THE

FULFILMENT OF PROPHECIES,

AS A

GLORIOUS DEMONSTRATION

OF THE

INSPIRATION

OF THE

HOLY SCRIPTURES.

ACONTEMPLATION

ONTHE

FULFILMENT OF PROPHECIES,

AS AN

EVIDENCE OF THE INSPIRATION OF THE

S G R I P T U R E S.

On the NATURE of PROPHECY.---The SCRIPTURE PROPHECIES ranged in the following classes:--PROPHECIES fulfilled in Jesus, as the true Messiah.---Prophecies concerning the Jews.--Prophecies relating to the four grand monarchies.---Prophecies relating to other nations of the world.---Prophecies concerning the rise and ruin of popery.---Laftly, the fulfilment of the Scriptures in the two grand classes of good and bad men, in all ages, and in all the parts of the moral world.

PROPHECY consists in the foretelling of future events in the natural and moral world; declaring, with great truth and precision, what sacts should take place, what characters should arise, and what actions of great consequence should be performed.

Vol. II.

F

A٩

As the PROPHECIES concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of God, stand in the clearest and closest connexion with the miracles he wrought, we will begin with them; as they likewise lie more upon a level with the weakest capacity, than those concerning the Jews, the four universal monarchies, or the other nations of the world.

Come then, my dear reader, give me your honest and fixed attention whilst I lead you into a most delightful paradise or garden of Gop.

- I. Prophecies fulfilled in the person, offices, crucifixion, and glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1. You see Christ's INCARNATION and victory over the devil foretold.——The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head. Gen. iii. 5.——The Son of God destroys the works of the devil. I John iii. 8.
- 2. ———— Christ was to be of Abraham's seed.———In thy seed shall all the nations be blessed. Gen. xxii. 18.——We are blessed with faithful Abraham. Gal. iii. 9.
- 3. —— Christ was to be the great Shiloh. —— The scepter shall not depart until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Gen. xlix. 10.—Gather together in one. John. xi. 25. I will draw all men to me. xii. 32.

[43]

- 4. You see Christ the great prophet.----God will raise to thee a prophet like to me. Deut. xviii. 15.---Of a truth this is the prophet. John vii. 40. This is that prophet.* vi. 14.
- 5. ——— Christ was to be the great Immanuel.——Behold, a virgin shall bear a son, Immanuel. Isa. vii. 14.——She brought forth her first-born son, Jesus. Matt. i. 25.
- 6. ——— Christ's wonderful and unparalleled conception.——A new thing in the earth. Jer. xxxi. 22. A stone cut out without hands. Dan. ii. 45.——The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee. Luke i. 35.
- 7. ———— Seventy weeks exactly marked out.
 ----Seventy weeks are determined, to finish transgression, and make an end of sin.† Dan. ix. 24.
- 8. ——— Christ's BIRTH-PLACE marked out with precision.----Thou Bethlehem § of Judah. Micah v. 2.---Herod demanded where Christ should be born? they said in Bethlehem. Matt. ii. 1--6.
- 9. ——— Christ of the stem of Judah and Jesse.———A rod out of the stem of Jesse: a branch

F 2

^{*} See this finely amplified by Dr. Newton. Vol. i. p. 167--171.

[†] See Mr. Benjamin Marshall on the Seventy Weeks, 8vo. and Dr. Gill on the Prophecies sulfilled in the Messiah, 8vo. 1728. This shall be the subject of a distinct essay, which is now ready for the press; but is too large to be inserted here.

[§] This prophecy was delivered anno mundi 3291. Ante Christum 713. Forty years after Rome was built.

[44]

branch out of his roots. Isa. xi. 1.---Joseph, son of David, fear not. Matt. i. 20.

- 10. You see a star at his birth.---A star out of Jacob. Num. xxiv. 17.---We have seen his star in the East. Matt. ii. 2.
- I have called my son out of Egypt. Hos. xi. 1.

 ---Out of Egypt have I called my son. Matt. ii.

 15.
- 13. ——— the SPIRIT of wisdom, prudence, and fortitude, RESTS on Christ.——The spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon him; the spirit of wisdom and might. Isa. xi. 2.——I saw the Spirit descending on him. John i. 32. God gave not the Spirit by measure. John iii. 34.
- 14. ——— Christ's FORERUNNER, John the baptist.——The voice of him crying in the desert. Isa. xl. 3.——In those days came John the baptist. Matt. iii. 1.
- In Galilee, the people in darkness have seen a great light. Isa. ix. 1, 2.---Jesus went into Galilee. Matt. iv. 12.

[45]

- 16. You see the Jews obstinate against Christ.---Go and tell this people. Isa. vi. 9.--- Seeing, see not: hearing, hear not. Matt. xiii. 13.
- 17. Christ's LITTLE success.----Who hath believed our report? Isa. liii. 1.---Though he did so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him. John xii. 37.
- 18. Christ scorned and rejected, DISDAINED and HATED, by men full of infidelity and enmity to his person and blood!---He is despised and rejected. Isa. liii. 3.---Fulfilled throughout the sour evangelists.
- 19. —— Christ RIDE on an Ass.——Behold, the king cometh riding on an ass. Zech. ix. 9. ——His disciples brought the ass, and set him on it. Matt. xxi. 7.
- 20. Christ adored by children.—Save now, we beseech thee. Ps. cxviii. 25. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast ordained praise. viii. 2.—The children adoring and loving Christ, cryed, Hosanna to the son of David. Matt. xxi. 15.
- 21. —— Christ's ZEAL for God.----The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. Ps. lxix. 9. ——His disciples remembered, the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. John ii. 17.

- 22. You see Christ open the eyes and EARS.---Then the eyes and ears of the blind. Isa. xxxv. 5.
 ---Lame, lepers, deaf, dead are raised. Matt.xi. 5.
- Judas sell his blood, or betray him.----My own familiar friend. Pf. xli. 9.---He that eateth bread hath lifted up his heel. John xiii. 18.
- Christ's GOODLY PRICE. He was fold for thirty pieces of silver.——They weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver; a goodly price! that is, three pounds sisteen shillings. Zech. xi. 12.—They covenanted with Judas for thirty pieces of silver. Matt. xxvi. 15.
- 25. Christ wounded by the Men of his country, i. e. the Jews.——What wounds are these in thy hands? Answ. Wounds from my friends! Zech. xiii. 6.——Thine own nation delivered thee to me. John xviii. 35.
- 26. Christ forsaken by his friends. ——Awake, O! sword, smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered! Zech. xiii. 7.—All the disciples forsook him and sled. Matt. xxvi. 56.
- 27. —— Christ's ENEMIES in UNION and RAGE against him.——The kings set themselves, and the rulers take counsel against Christ. Ps. ii. 2.—Pilate and Herod were made friends the same day, i. e. of Christ's trial. Luke xxiii. 12.

[47]

- 28. You see Christ's MERNESS and SILENCE before his enemies.——He is brought as a lamb; as a sheep, dumb, before her shearers. Isa. liii. 7.——He answered him to never a word, so that the governor marvelled. Matt. xxvii. 14.
- 29. —— Christ on the cross.——They pierced my hands and my feet. Ps. xxii. 6.——They crucified him there. Matt. xxvii. 35.
- 30. GALL and VINEGAR given him.——Gall for meat, vinegar to drink. Pf. lxix. 21.——They gave him vinegar and gall. Matt. xxvii. 34.
- They parted my garments, and on my vesture they cast lots. Ps. xxii. 18.—These things the soldiers did. Matt. xxvii. 35. John xix. 24.
- 32. Christ numbered with sinners.——He was numbered with transgressors. Isa. liii. 12.—With him they crucified two thieves. Matt. xxvii. 38.
- 33. Christ scoffed and scorned in the agonies of death.——They laugh me to scorn; they shoot out their lip, they shake their head. Ps. xxii. 7.—They reviled him, wagging their heads. Matt. xxvii. 39. Mark xv. 27.
- 34. —— God forsake Christ.----My God! my God! why hast thou forsaken me? Ps. xxii. 1.
 ---At the ninth hour Jesus cried, Eli, Eli, lama sabacthani? Matt. xxvii. 46.

- 35. You see him stabbed with a speak.---They shall look on him whom they had pierced.
 Zech. xii. 10.---One of the soldiers stabbed his side with a spear, and forthwith came out blood and water. John xix. 34, 37.
- 36. ——— Christ's Bones not Broken.————
 He keepeth all his bones. Ps. xxxiv. 20.——
 They brake not the legs of Jesus. John xix. 33.
- 37. ——— Christ Buried in a rich Man's GRAVE.----His grave, with the rich. Isa. liii. 9. ——Joseph, a rich man, laid the body of Jesus in his own tomb. Matt. xxvii. 60.
- 38. ——— Christ RISE AGAIN.————Thou wilt not leave my soul in the unseen world; nor suffer thine holy one to see corruption. Ps. xvi. 10.——His soul was not left in the unseen world; nor did his stell see corruption. Acts ii. 31.
- 39. —— he Rises after Three DAYS.----In the third day he will raise up. Hos. vi. 2.--- Him God raised up the third day. Acts x. 40.
- 40. ——— the SAINTS ARISE from the DEAD.

 ----With my dead body they shall rise. Isa. xxvi.

 19.---Many of the saints bodies, which slept, arose. Matt. xxvii. 52.
- 41. ——— Christ ascend to Heaven.———
 Thou hast ascended on high. Ps. lxviii. 18.———
 He was received into heaven. Luke xxiv. 51. A cloud received him out of sight. Acts i. 9.

- 42. You see him sit on God's throne, at his RIGHT HAND.----Sit thou at my right hand. Ps. cx. 1.---He sat on the right hand of God. Mark xvi. 19.
- 43. —— Judas excluded from his office.
 ----Let another take his office. Pf. cix. 8.--David spake concerning Judas. Acts i. 20.
- 44.——— the SPIRIT POURED OUT.———I will pour out my spirit. Joel ii. 28.——These are not drunk, as ye suppose, but the Holy Ghost is poured out richly. Acts ii. 17.
- 45.—— his murderers converted.——They shall look on me whom they pierced. Zech. xii. 10.—They were κατενυγησαν, stabbed in their hearts. Acts ii. 37.

- 48. —— see him come to judgment on his grand white throne.——He comes! he comes! to judge the world. Ps. xcviii. 9.——You see him coming in the clouds of heaven. Matt. xxvi. 64.

[50]

ROCOLLECTION.

And now, my reader, let us review these prophesies fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. Here is the first prediction given out four thousand years before its full accomplishment. The prediction given to Abraham was nineteen hundred years before he came in the flesh---Jacob foretold the coming of Shiloh seventeen hundred years before his birth---Moses lived fifteen hundred years before Christ was born---David prophecied of Christ's sufferings, death, and resurrection, above a thousand years before Christ---Isasah saw the whole history of Christ's birth, life, actions, sufferings, and crucifixion, about eight hundred years before Christ was born---JEREMIAH and Hosea lived above seven hundred years before Christ---the great prophet Daniel had the difcovery of the feventy weeks five hundred years before the birth of Christ---Micah saw his birthplace seven hundred years before he was born---ZECHARIAH saw his blood sold for three pounds fifteen shillings; and he saw that blood shed by the stab of a spear about eighteen years after the proclamation of Cyrus, and above five hundred years before the birth of Christ---MALACHI, who lived about the Time of Nehemiah, faw Christ come into the temple four hundred years before he was born.

Now, what an astonishing demonstration of the

the Messiah is this! and how can my reader escape the edge and force of the keenest conviction fixed on his mental eye! How can you avoid or resist the evidence! How can infidelity parry off the blow! Will you attempt it by licking up the spittle of contemptible infidels, and fay, "All these prophecies were "written after the events took place; and it "was easy enough to forge predictions after " facts, and then represent those facts as pre-" dicted hundreds or thousands of years before "they were done." I defy malice itself to state the objection in a stronger light, or to appear with more unblushing impudence. And can my honest, sensible reader be shook by this witless objection---can you be staggered with this nonfensical cavil. It deserves no answer, but the most contemptuous scorn.

But, however, my dear young friends, I will furnish you with a few hints for your conduct when you meet with the half-thinking insidels of the age. If they are men of no learning, and are only retailers of scraps, treat them with a silent distain. If they are men of any knowledge in the classics and antiquity, desire them to give up all their favourite authors as a parcel of lying rascals and sools. Desire them to burn Homer and Virgil, Demosthenes and Cicero, Herodotus and Thucydides, Xenophon and Plato,

Livy and Sallust, with all the rest of the historians orators, and poets.—But, as Dr. Bently smartly remarks,* If all old authors are abandoned by a learned insidel, what becomes of all the boasted, passages out of Cicero, Plutarch, and others, in favour of free-thinking? But, says the doctor, I have too much value for the ancients to throw away their works for the sake of answering a fool according to his folly; dismissing, therefore, these puny reptiles, the salse free-thinkers, with all that scorn they deserve.

I will lead you, my dear reader, into a blooming Eden, to regale and charm your foul with the beauty of evidence and illustration. 'Tis an amplification on one of these prophecies, out of the forty-eight predictions, I have set before you. For this ravishing entertainment you are partly indebted to the ancient Eusebius, in his Evangelical Demonstration; but much more to the late Dr. Jortin, and the present Dr. Newton, in his admirable Dissertations on Prophecy. Vol. i. p. 165--171. 8vo. edit. 1754.

Dr. Newton introduces the glorious parallel between Christ and Moses thus: "Dr. Jortin hath enlarged upon the hints of Eusebius, and made several improvements and additions to them."

We

See that admirable piece of keen wit and criticism, intituled, Remarks upon a late Discourse on Free-Thinking, by Dr. Richard Bentley, against Collins, the Deist. Edit. vi. 8vo. 1725, p. 75.

We will here give a concise abridgment of Dr. Jortin. "Moses was preserved in his infancy from the wrath of king Pharoah, so was Christ from the wrath of Herod.---Moses fled from his country: Christ sled into Egypt .---Moses returned by the advice of an angel, so did Christ .--- Moses refused to be an heir to a king: Christ refused to be made a king .--- Moses was learned in all wisdom: Christ grew in wisdom and stature.---Moses contended with magicians, and conquered them: Christ contended with devils, and overthrew them all.--- Moses was a law-giver, a prophet, a worker of miracles, a king, and a priest: Christ was all these in a superior degree .--- Moses brought darkness over all the land: Christ's death on the cross brought darkness over Judea.---The darkness on Egypt was followed with the destruction of the firstborn: Christ's darkness was followed with the destruction of the Jews, by Titus Vespasian .---Moses foretold the calamities of the Jews: Christ foretold the dreadful siege and ruin of Jerusalem. --- The spirit in Moses was put on the seventy elders: the spirit of Christ was poured on the twelve apostles, and the seventy disciples .---Moses was victorious over kings and nations: Christ has been victorious over the kings and nations of the world by his glorious gospel.---Moses conquered Amalek by holding up his hands:

hands: Christ conquers Satan, and sinners, by his ardent intercession in heaven.--- Moses turned away the wrath of God from the provoking Israelites: Christ turns away the wrath of God from all the millions of his people, by his death and his prayers.---Moses ratified a covenant between God and the Israelites, by blood sprinkled on the people: Christ ratifies the covenant of grace, by shedding his own blood as the blood of God. Acts xx. 28.---Moses instituted the passover: Christ instituted the Lord's-supper.---Moses lifted up the serpent to cure the stung Israelites: Christ was lifted up on the cross to cure our fouls stung and poisoned with sin .---The affection of Moses to the people was repaid with ingratitude: We have been all ungrateful to Jesus Christ .--- Moses was ill used by his own family: Christ's own near relations did not believe on him. For neither did his BRETHREN Believe in him. John vii. 5. What cursed infidelity was this !----Moses had a wicked and perverse people to treat with for forty years: Christ had a people of the most perverse and wicked dispositions.----Moses was very meek above all men: Christ was infinitely meeker than Moses, and all the meekest men in the world.---The people could not go into the land of Canaan till Moses was dead: not a soul could ever be admitted to enter heaven but on the

the foundation of the death of Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven by his atoning blood for all believers .--- Moses died on account of the people's rebellion: Christ died for the sins of his people.---Moses went up to die on mount Nebo: Christ went up to die on mount Calvary. --- Moses died in the vigour of his age: Christ died in the flower and glory of his manhood.---Moses never felt sickness or decay: Christ's body had no feeds of diseases and death .--- Moses was buried, and no man faw his body: the infidel Jews did not deserve to see Christ's body after his resurrection.---Moses, before his death, promised another prophet: Christ, before his death, promised another comforter; even the eternal Spirit, in all the glory of his mission and divine influence in the church, to the very end of the world!"

And now, my reader, are you not struck with astonishment and delight, on tracing this amazing and beautiful resemblance between Moses and Christ, in almost thirty instances! I protest I am, and I hope I shall always feel the same sensations if I read over the parallel ten thousand times. Surely a christian of true taste never can be weary: he never can read such things as these with disgust and loathing: if he does, he must forseit all right and title to the name and nature of a believer; he must be a poor, vitiated, low, contemptible