
A
 COMPREHENSIVE VIEW
 OF THIS
 VOLUME of CONTEMPLATIONS.

CONTEMPLATION I.

On the EXISTENCE and PERFECTIONS of GOD.

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------|
| A representation of GOD | - - - | Page 1 |
| The nature of demonstration | - - - | 3 |
| I. The existence of matter proves the being of GOD | - | 6 |
| II. The sun and its glorious uses evince a GOD | - | 7 |
| III. The planetary worlds are proofs of infinite power | - | 8 |
| IV. The moons, in our system, evince a GOD | - | 9 |
| V. The comets open amazing proofs of a GOD | - | 10 |
| VI. The fixed stars demonstrate a GOD | - - | 11 |
| VII. The atmosphere, or air, shews a GOD | - | 11 |
| VIII. The element of water evidences wise design | - | 12 |
| IX. The globe of earth evinces a glorious GOD | - | 13 |
| X Vegetables demonstrate a wise being | - - | 14 |
| XI. Animals supply amazing proofs of a supreme mind | | 15 |
| XII. Birds furnish invincible proofs | - - | 16 |
| XIII. Fishes are a demonstration of a GOD | - | 17 |
| XIV. Insects afford a glorious lecture on infinite wisdom | | 18 |
| XV. Reptiles and serpents evince infinite design | - | 19 |
| XVI. The nature and form of man wonderfully prove the existence and perfections of GOD | - - | 20 |
| An address to the ever-present, ever-active GOD | - | 23 |
| NATURAL DUTIES to GOD, the first Cause of the Universe. | | |
| 1. Admiration of GOD | - - - | 25 |
| 2. Love to GOD | - - - | 26 |
| | 3 | 3. Veneration |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|----|
| 3. Veneration and fear of GOD | - - - | 27 |
| 4. Trust and dependence on GOD | - - - | 28 |
| 5. Resignation to GOD | - - - | 29 |
| 6. Worship and praise of GOD | - - - | 30 |
| 7. Zeal for the glory of GOD | - - - | 31 |

CONTEMPLATION II.

On the IMMORTALITY of the SOUL.

| | | |
|--|---------|----|
| A representation of the soul in its essence, powers, affections, and moral qualities | - - - | 35 |
| The immortality of the soul demonstrated on the principles of reason | - - - | 36 |
| 1. Incorruptibility expresses not the whole of immortality | | 37 |
| 2. The life of a spiritual being consists in thinking---the faculty of thinking is radical life---the act of thinking is actual life | - - - - | 37 |
| 3. There is a difference between death and annihilation | | 37 |
| 4. The nature of the soul is so peculiar, that it will continue in life in spite of all encounters of second causes | - | 37 |
| 5. The proofs of the immortality of the soul conclude for a future state | - - - - | 38 |
| PROOFS OF IMMORTALITY ON THE PRINCIPLES OF REASON | | 38 |
| I. The soul is naturally immortal | - - - | 38 |
| II. Man has a desire of immortality | - - | 40 |
| III. The consent of all mankind evinces immortality | - | 41 |
| IV. The denial of immortality opens a door to the rankest wickedness | - - - - | 43 |
| V. The moral perfections of GOD, his wisdom, goodness, holiness, justice, and truth, evince the eternal existence of the soul | - - | 45 |
| VI. The human soul is an image of the power and understanding of GOD | - - - | 52 |
| VII. A distinct and extensive view of the powers and affections of the soul, as an evidence of its immortality | - | 59 |

A more

| | |
|--|----|
| A more accurate view of the passions of the human soul | 74 |
| On the private and public passions - - - | 78 |
| Select books on the soul - - - | 80 |

C O N T E M P L A T I O N III.

On the INSUFFICIENCY of REASON, and the NECESSITY of REVELATION to lead us to eternal HAPPINESS.

| | |
|--|-----|
| The nature of human reason - - - | 83 |
| I. The insufficiency of reason to give proper discoveries of GOD - - - | 86 |
| II. Reason is insufficient to direct us in worship - | 88 |
| III. It cannot discover true happiness - - | 89 |
| IV. Nor find out a system of true morals - - | 90 |
| V. Nor discover effectual motives to virtue - - | 91 |
| VI. Reason cannot discover the pardon of sin - | 106 |
| VII. Nor the sanctification of the soul - - | 109 |
| VIII. It cannot support under the troubles of life - | 113 |
| IX. Nor afford consolations in the agonies of death - | 115 |
| X. A sixfold view of the experience of the whole world | 116 |
| Considering man as made to glorify GOD---as a creature fallen into darkness, guilt, and corruption---view man as under the goodness and forbearance of GOD---view the temper of infidels, the conduct of hypocrites, and the experience and honest confession of true christians | 125 |
| XI. Ten absurdities which clog and demolish the deistical scheme - - - | 127 |
| Select books - - - | 136 |

C O N T E M P L A T I O N IV.

On the NATURE of DIVINE INSPIRATION.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Inspiration clearly described - - - | 140 |
| The ground of the divine authority of the Scriptures - | 140 |
| I. GOD can communicate ideas to the mind - | 144 |
| II. He can make himself known a distinct from all creatures | 148 |
| LONGINUS's two marks of the sublime - - | 156 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Specimens of the singular style of Scripture, taken from the books of Moses, the book of Job, and the Psalms | 158 |
| III. God excited the penmen to write the Scriptures, by working on the best passions of the soul | 170 |
| IV. God infused the thoughts and matter of the Scripture into the souls of the sacred writers | 189 |
| Two preliminary considerations | 190 |
| The nature of Inspiration described in six propositions | 194 |
| Prop. 1. Inspiration was a peculiar impression on the under- standing | 194 |
| Prop. 2. This impression had clear evidence that it came from God alone | 196 |
| Prop. 3. By such impression the penmen were stirred up to write | 200 |
| Prop. 4. They acted under the influence of the Spirit of God through the whole composition of their writings | 201 |
| Prop. 5. These impressions did not deprive the writers of the use of their rational faculties | 202 |
| Prop. 6. They were preserved from all errors | 203 |
| Recapitulation, or review of this subject | 205 |
| Dr. Edmund Calamy on Inspiration, recommended as one of the most judicious writers on the subject | 207 |

CONTEMPLATI O N V.

On the EVIDENCES of INSPIRATION.

| | |
|--|-----|
| The nature of demonstration, evidence, and conviction | 212 |
| Seven considerations to prepare the way to a full and ab- solute demonstration of the Inspiration of the sacred Scriptures | 215 |
| Consideration 1. This is a matter of infinite importance | |
| Confid. 2. The Inspiration of the Scriptures is not to be taken without rational proof | 217 |
| Confid. 3. Every book that pretends to be inspired is not presently to be admitted as such | 219 |
| Confid. 4. Our conviction of Inspiration is not to be grounded on new Inspiration | 220 |
| Confid. 5. | |

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Confid. 5. We ought to be satisfied with such evidence as the nature of the subject furnishes | - - - | 224 |
| Read Ditton on Moral Evidence | | |
| Confid. 6. There is nothing in the Scriptures unworthy of the character of GOD to record | - - - | 225 |
| Confid. 7. The glorious discoveries of Scripture are all holy, and worthy of GOD | - - - | 225 |
| The four principal sources of evidence, or demonstration of the divine Inspiration of the Scriptures, are the good- ness of the doctrines, laws, and promises---the working of miracles---the fulfilment of prophecies---and the moral character of the penmen | - - - | 226 |
| The first evidence considered at large. | | |
| The goodness of the doctrine | - - - | 227 |
| The sublime and beautiful character of GOD | - - - | 235 |
| The astonishing advancement on the grandeur and beauty of GOD's moral character in the work of redemption, viz. his wisdom, goodness, holiness, justice, sincerity, and faithfulness | - - - - - | 242 |
| A declaration of GOD's heart towards his friends | - - - | 257 |
| A representation of his heart towards his enemies | - - - | 260 |
| Recollection of the above subject | - - - | 265 |
| The Scriptures shew us GOD's relations to our world, and to man | - - - - - | 270 |
| A view of man's original purity, and his present state of sin, misery, and impotence | - - - | 271 |
| The grand discoveries of mercy in the proclamation of the gospel by the holy apostles and primitive preachers | - - - | 272 |

C O N T E M P L A T I O N VI.

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| On the GOODNESS and BEAUTY of SCRIPTURE, as the most glorious EVIDENCE of its divine INSPIRATION. | | |
| On beauty and taste | - - - - - | 278 |
| The sacred Scriptures give us most glorious views of the divine and infinite satisfaction of Christ---his righteous- ness | | |

ness for our justification---vital union with Christ---
 adoption---regeneration---assistances of the holy Spirit---
 enlarge and beautify the law of nature---striking eviden-
 ces of the immortality of the soul---the beauty of vital
 holiness and social virtue---the most lovely examples---
 and especially the pattern of Christ---assign us the most
 noble good works to glorify Christ---the best motives to
 holiness---the most generous supports under the troubles
 of life---and the best consolations against the terrors of
 death - - - - - 281--324
 The terror and glory of the last day - - - 325
 The prospects of hell and heaven - - - 327

C O N T E M P L A T I O N VII.

On the DISPOSITIONS and AFFECTIONS which are due
 to the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

I. Admiration and veneration due to the Scriptures - 334
 II. Vital faith in the revealed truths of GOD - 335
 III. Esteem for the Scriptures, as full of excellent dignity 337
 IV. Desire after the knowledge of the genuine sense of
 Scripture, and the full possession of its unspeakable
 blessings - - - - - 338
 V. Good will to the Bible, and delight in its wonderful
 discoveries - - - - - 345
 VI. Gratitude to GOD for a divine revelation - 350
 Gratitude to GOD the Father - - - - - 351
 Gratitude to GOD the Son - - - - - 352
 Gratitude to GOD the holy Spirit - - - - - 355
 Gratitude exerted for the Bible in seven views of it, viz.
 a Bible inspired---perfected---preserved in the most
 dreadful dangers, especially in the reign of Antiochus
 the Cruel, in the year of the world 3834, and before
 Christ 170 - - - - - 361
 and in the reign of the emperor Dioclesian, in the year
 of our Lord 303--313 - - - - - 362
 Gratitude

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
| Gratitude for a Bible purchased | - | - | 367 |
| Gratitude for a Bible translated | - | - | 368 |
| Gratitude for a Bible printed | - | - | 369 |
| Gratitude for a Bible expounded | - | - | 371 |
| by the greatest and best divines, viz. Dr. Simon Patrick, Mr. Matthew Henry, Dr. John Guise, Dr. Doddridge, Dr. Gill, Vitringa, Dr. Owen; and a beautiful Ex- position of the first Gospel Promise, by Dr. Witfius | | | |
| | | | 374 |
| Illustrations of Scripture in Mr. Hervey's works | - | | 375 |
| Dr. Lowth's excellent Lectures on the Hebrew Prophets | | | 376 |
| VII. DELIGHT in the Scriptures as the clear discovery of | | | |
| the SUPREME BEAUTY and GOOD, CHRIST JESUS | | | 377 |
| The essential properties of the supreme good displayed | | | 378 |
| The vanity of the world evinced | - | - | 380 |
| Recollection | - | - | 381 |
| Bp. HOPKINS's admirable book on the Vanity of the World, recommended; with a view of its contents | | | 383 |

C O N T E M P L A T I O N VIII.

On ZEAL for the HONOUR and PROPAGATION of the HOLY SCRIPTURES.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| VIII. HOPE in the fulness of Christ, as discovered in the | | | |
| Scriptures | - | - | 387 |
| A clear view of the essential and relative fulness of Christ | | | 388 |
| IX. SUBJECTION and obedience to the holy Scriptures | | | |
| Seven marks of real obedience | - | - | 391 |
| X. ZEAL for the honour and propagation of the holy | | | |
| Scriptures | - | - | |
| The honour of the Scriptures represented | - | | 397 |
| Motives to zeal displayed | - | - | 399 |
| A beautiful passage from WITSIUS | - | - | 409 |
| Recollection of those motives, as ranged under seven heads | - | - | 409 |
| I. Motives addressed to fear | | | |
| A striking view of our incessant dependence on God's agency | - | - | 411 |

II. Motives

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| II. Motives address'd to hope | - | - | 412 |
| III. Motives address'd to gratitude | - | - | 412 |
| IV. Motives address'd to justice, interest, and compassion | | | 413 |
| V. Motives address'd to honour, and ambition to awaken zeal | - | - | 415 |
| VI. Motives address'd to shame, scorn, and disdain | - | | 418 |
| VII. Motives address'd to glory and pleasure | - | | 419 |

C O N C L U S I O N.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
| A devotional exercise to Christ, as the author, matter, and end of the holy Scriptures | - | - | 421 |
| A large note on the grandeur of Christ | - | - | 422 |
| Select books | - | - | 424 |

To the P U B L I C.

The next volume will contain a view of real miracles.—Fulfilment of prophecies.—The moral character of the penmen, and the moral character of Christ.—Rules for understanding the holy Scriptures in general.—Rules for understanding the law and gospel, the prophecies, and the book of the Revelations.—Views of the natural and moral perfections of God.—The true deity of Christ and the holy Spirit.—Concluding with a view of the worship due to the three persons in one Godhead, and the glorious uses of this vital and essential truth of divine revelation.

N. B. A translation of Dr. Lowth's latin verses will be given in vol. 2.

Just published, Price 1s. 6d.

A G R A M M A R and K E Y

T O T H E

G R E E K T E S T A M E N T in E N G L I S H.

Sold by Keith, Dilly, and Vallance,