SER MON

DELIVERED AT

MORRIS-TOWN,

On Monday December 27, 1784, it being the FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST,

BEFORE THE

FRATERNITY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED

MASONS, OFLODGE No. 10, in the STATE of NEW-JERSEY.

BY THE REVEREND UZAL OGDEN.

"IN RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALT THOU JUDGE THY "NEIGHBOUR." Leviticus xix. 15. "IF THE SON SHALL MAKE YOU FREE, YE SHALL "BE FREE INDEED." John viii. 36.

PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE LODGE.

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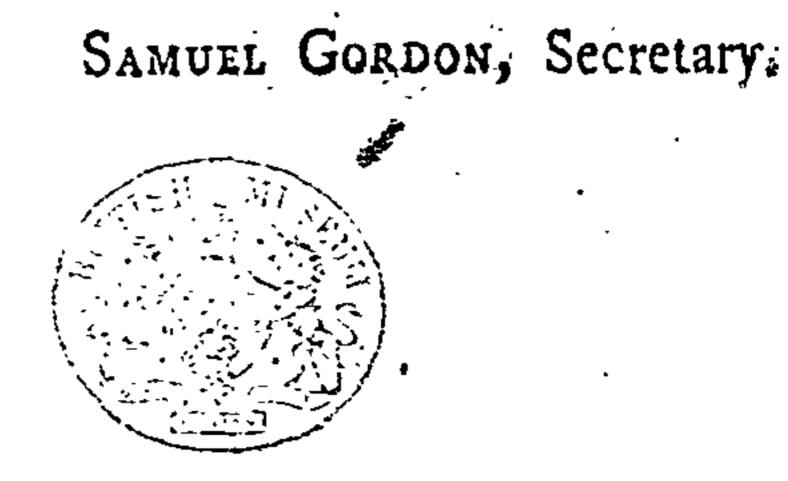
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In LODGE No. 10, State of New-Jerfey; Morris-Town, December 27, 5784.

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RESOLVED,

THAT the THANKS OF THIS LODGE; be prefented to the REVEREND MR. UZAL OGDEN, for his SERMON delivered this Day before them, convened for the celebration of the FESTIVAL of SAINT JOHN the EVANGELIST. And that Brothers, Doctor Jabez Canfield, Major Jeremiah Bruen, and Mr. James Pitney, be defired to request the REVEREND MR. OGDEN, to commit faid DISCOURSE to Writing, and to beg the Favour of the Manuscript for Publication.



TO THE WORSHIPFUL

DR. WILLIAM M'KISSACK, MASTER;

MR. ROBERT LINN, SENIOR MR. JOHN ARMSTRONG, JUNIOR

AND T'O

THE OTHER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

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LODGE NO. 10, OF THE STATE OF NEW-JERSEY

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FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS;

THIS DISCOURSE,

PREACHED AND PUBLISHED AT THEIR DESIRE,

I S,

BY THE AUTHOR,

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

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ADVERTISEMENT,

A^S the enfuing was an *extemporal Difcourfe*; and as fome Weeks elapfed, after it was fpoken, before the Author could obtain Leifure to reduce it to Writing, it cannot be prefumed that it appears *verbatim* as it was delivered. Several Sentiments have been added to the Sermon; and, it is not improbable, that a few expressions of it have been omitted.

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A SERMON, &c.

INTRODUCTION.

A MONG the various passions we are endued with, we perceive a disposition for Society; and the indulgence of this propensity, is necessary to our felicity. Without Society, we could neither obtain property; with safety possis it, nor be happy in it's enjoyment. Without Society, we could not make preficiency in the arts and sciences, nor obtain even the necessaries of life. And, indeed, without Society, our attainments of religious knowledge would be most imperfect; and in the practice of virtue, we should be extremely defective.

As SOCIETY is thus necessary to the happiness of mankind, the focial passion hath been indulged by men in every clime, and in every age: And according to their genius, temper, views and designs, numerous Societies have been formed to effect various purposes.

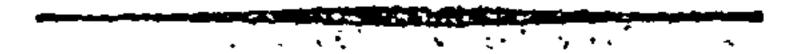
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Some of these locial COMBINATIONS have, it is true, been entered into for the accomplishment of ignoble ends ;----others have had no other object but the acquisition of wealth; the advancement of literature, or the enjoyment of pleasure;---while others have happily been instituted for the promotion of useful knowledge; virtue; benevolence, and fraternal affection:----And such, I trust, is the nature of the Society I have now the bonour to address.

The institution of FREE MASONRY, it is faid, is of great antiquity ;---it teacheth several useful arts, particularly ARCHITECTURE ;----it enjoins the greatest purity of morals ;----requires the exercise of the most disinterested, the most fervent charity to all men, but especially to those of the Brotherhood; and, therefore, must have been founded in WISDOM and VIRTUE*. Such



For evidence in favour of the Antiquity of Free Maforry, the Reader is referred to the copy of an ancient Manulcript, deposited in the Bodieian Library, on the subject of the Massick Art, transmitted by that most justly celebrated Philosopher, JOHN LOCKE, Esquire, to an English Nobleman; which paper hath been published.

This Manufcript mentions that FREE MASONRY diffeminates the knowledge of " AGRICULTURE; ARCHI-TECTURE; ASTRONOMY; GEOMETRY; NUMBERS; MUSIC; PEETRY; CHYMISTRY; GOVERNMENT, and RELIGION."

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SUCH being the principles of MASONRY, many perfons, perhaps in every age and country, the most distinguished for the possession of Power, SCIENCE, or RELIGION, have thought it an honour to be admitted Members of this Fraternity; and not a few of the most worthy characters in these

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The enfuing Extracts from an Abridgment of the Con-STITUTION of the Fraternity of FREE MASONS, by the Reverend Doctor WILLIAM SMITH, and published by order of the Grand Lodge of Pennfylvania, will evince, that this institution inculcates PIETY towards God; JUSTICE and BENEVOLENCE to MANKIND; and all the private VIRTUES.

CHAPTER L

SECTION I. Concerning GOD and RELICIÓN.

"Whoever, from love of knowledge, interest, or cattiofity, defires to be a MASON, is to know, that, as his foundation and great corner stone, he is firmly to believe in the ETERNAL GOD, and to pay that worship which is due to Him, as the great Architect and Governor of the Universe. A Mason is also obliged to observe the moral law, as a true Noachida*; and if he rightly understands the Royal Art, he cannot tread in the irreligious paths of the unhappy Libertine, the Deist, nor stupid Atheist; nor, in any case, act against the inward light of his own confcience."

"He will likewife fhun the groß errors of Bigotry and Superstition; making a due use of his own reason, according

* Sons of Noah; the first name for Free Masons.

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these UNITED STATES, bigbly esteem the priviledge of being of the number of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS.

THIS focial INSTITUTION being thus excellent in its System, and thus patronifed by the GREAT and

to that liberty wherewith a Majon is made free. For although, in ancient times, the Chriftian Majons were CHARGED to comply with the Chriftian ulages of the countries where they fojourned or worked, (they being found in all nations, and of divers religions and perfuations,) yet; it is now thought most convenient, that the Brethren in general should only be CHARGED to adhere to the effentials of religion in which all men agree; leaving each Brother to his own private judgment, as to particular modes and forms. Whence it follows, that all Maions are to be good men and true;—Men of honour and honesty, by whatever religious names or perfuasions distinguished; always following that golden precept of ' doing unto all men as (upon a change cf conditions) they would that all men should do unto them.'

SECTION III. Concerning PRIVATE QUALITIES and DUTIES.

"In regard to HIMSELF, whoever would be a Mafon, fhould know how to practife all the private virtues. He fhould avoid all manner of *intemperance* or *excefs*, which might obstruct his performance of the laudable duties of his Craft, or lead him into crimes which would reflect dishonour upon the ancient Fraternity. He is to be industrious in his profession, and true to the Lord and Master he ferves. He is to labour justly, and not to eat any man's bread for nought; but to pay truly for his meat and drink. What leifure

and GOOD; by the most respectable NAMES both among the CLERGY and LAITY.----I shall not; I apprehend, justly incur reproach, by complying with the present request of this BROTHERHOOD; though I have reason to solicit their indulgent reception of the fentiments I may deliver; espe-B cially

Icifure his labour allows, he is to employ in fludying the Arts and Sciences with a diligent mind, that he may the better perform all his duties (as aforefaid) to his Creator, his Country, his Neighbour and himself. For, in a few words ;---- 'To walk humbly in the fight of God; to do Justice and love Mercy,' are the true indispensible characteristics of a real free and accepted Majon." " For the better attainment of these shining qualities, he is to feek and acquire, as far as possible, the virtues of patience, meeknefs, felf-denial, forbearance and the like; which give him the command over himlelf, and enable him to govern his own family with affection, dignity, and prudence; at the fame time, checking every disposition injurious to the world; and promoting that love and fervice, which Brethren, of the fame Lodge or Houfhold, owe toeach other. Therefore, to afford fuccour to the diffrested, to divide our bread with the industrious poor, and to put the miguided traveller into the way, are qualities inherent in the Craft, and fuitable to it's dignity. But, though a Mason is never to shut his ear unkindly to the complaints of any of the human species; yet when a Brother is oppressed or fuffers, he is in a more peculiar manner called to open his whole foul in love and compassion to him, and to relieve, without projudice, according to his capacity."

CHAPTER

-- THE portion of sacred Writ, that occurs to me, es most proper for this occasion,-----it expressing the

CHAPTER II.

SECTION VII. Concerning DIFFERENCES and LAW" SUITS, if any fuch should unhappily arife among Brethren.

" If a Brother doth you injury; or if you have any difference with him about worldly or temporal bufinels or interest, apply first to your own or his Lodge, to have the matter in dispute adjusted by the Brethren. And if either party be not fatisfied with the determination of the Lodge; an appeal may be carried to the Grand Lodge; and you are never to enter into a Law-Suit, till the matter cannot be decided as above. And if it be a matter that wholly concerns *Majoury*, Law-Suits are to be entirely avoided; and the good advice of prudent Brethren is to be followed; as they are the best referees of such differences."

"But where references are either impracticable of unfuccelsful, and Courts of Law or Equity must at last decide, you must still follow the general rules of Masonry, already laid down; avoiding all wrath, malice, rancour, and perfonal ill-will, in carrying on the fuit with a Brother *j* neither faying nor doing any thing to hinder the continuance or renewal of that Brotherly love and friendship, which are the glory and cement of this ancient Fraternity."

CHAPTER

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the fundamental principles of this Society,----is contained in the first Epistle of Saint Peter; the second Chapter, and seventeenth Verse.

"HONOUR ALL MEN. LOVE THE BRO-THERHOOD, FEAR GOD. HONOUR THE KING." B 2 THIS

ÇHAPTER IV.

CHARGES, PRAYERS, &C.

Part of a CHARGE to a new admitted MASON.

"THERE are three general heads of duty which Mafons ought always to inculcate, viz. to GOD, our NEIGHBOUR, and OUR SELVES. TO GOD; in never mentioning his name but with that reverential awe which a creature ought to bear to his Creator; and to look upon him always as the SUMMUM BONUM which we came into the world to enjoy; and according to that view to regulate all our purfuits: to our NEIGHBOUR; in acting upon the Square of doing as we would be done by: to OUR SELVES; in avoiding all intemperance and exceffes, whereby we may be rendered incapable of following our work, or led into behaviour unbecoming our laudable profession; and always keeping within due bounds, and free from all pollution."

THE preceding particulars being attended to, we perceive the propriety of the following expressions, delivered in a SERMON by the Reverend Doctor SMITH, in Christ-Church, Philadelphia, before the OENERAL COMMUNICATION OF FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS of the STATE of PENN-SYLVANIA, December 28, 1778.

"Be of one mind. Avoid all levity of conversation. Be sober and temperate; abitaining from every excess that would

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THIS Epistle was addressed to those proselited to the Christian faith, from Judaism and Gentilism, who were resident in "Pontus, Galatia, Capadocia, Asia" Minor, " and Bithynia."

would enervate the body; debase the understanding; cherish strife, and dishonour your calling. Study to be quiet, and to do your own business with your own hands; as knowing that ' a wife Bistber's delight is in the WORK OF HIS CRAFT.'

" Let me exhort you to frame your conduct by the Square of doing as you would be done by. Keep an open heart to every juffering Brother, ready to receive him as'a tempest-driven voyager into a port of safety; seeking among you that relief and shelter, which he sought in vain, while tofs'd upon the refileis ocean of common life." " These are fundamental principles, and practices of immutable obligation in our Society. Flowing from the fountain head of antiquity, they have rolled down to us, in . pure and uncorrupted Breams, through the channels of time; and, we truft, will still roll, broader and deeper, until the dread order of this TERRESTRIAL FABRICK shall be con- : fummated in the endless order of ETERNITY. While we draw from such sacred sources, our true Members, as in times path, so likewise now, and in times to come, in different climes and ages, we shall be able to filence ' the tribe of scorners,' and to convince them that the only qualities we with to honour, are those which form good men and good citizens; and the only buildings we feek to raile, are Temples for Virtue, and Dungeons for Vice." "We must feek to expand our souls to the whole human. Species; ever scriving to promote their happiness to the utmost of our power. Whatever is illiberal, partial and contracted ;----- a felfish and unfeeling heart, coiled up within 115

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It was defigned to eftablifh these perfons in the doctrines of Christianity they had received; to excite them to the unseigned practice of the precepts of the Gospel; to fortify them against the power of perfecution, to which they were exposed; and to suppress in those of them, who were descendants of Abraham, that impatience of Roman government, and lust for domination and power, for which, at that period, the people of Israel were so distinguished; and which, in a few succeeding years, were productive of the greatest calamities to the Jewish nation.

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THE feveral injunctions expressed in the

Text, may be regarded as an EPITOME of the *Exbortation* to *moral* DUTY, contained in the *Epiftle.---*And these precepts of virtue, I beg leave to attend to in the following manner.

FIRST, to notice what it is to "FEAR GOD."

SECONDLY, to "HONOUR THE KING."

its own fcanty orb; — we must reject from amongst us. Looking far beyond the *little diffinctions* of *fect* or *party* (by which too many feek to know, and be known by, each other) we should labour to imitate the great Creator, in regarding those of every nation, religion, and tongue, who fear him, and work righteons in the start of the sta

THIRDLY

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THIRDLY, to " HONOUR ALL MEN." ,

LASTLY, to "LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD."

FIRST, what is it to "FEAR GOD?"

THE phrase to " fear God," is of the same signification as the expression, to love, or serve bim.

When Joseph wished his Brethren should be informed he was a perfon of virtue, that they might, with greater chearfulnefs, fuffer their Brother Simeon to be detained in cuftody by him, until they should return to their Father, he faid, " This do and live, for I fear God."" The righteousness of Job, was expressed by the same language, " Doth Job feer Ged for naught.†" The piety of the family of Cornelius was declared in the fame mode of fpeech. It is mentioned that, he feared God with all his, house.1" " lt shall be well," fays Solomon, " with those who fear God: §" and " the fear of the Lord," it was faid, by this Sage, " is the beginning of wildom. [" " The Angel of the Lord," faith the Pfalmift, " encampeth round about those who fear.

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bim:*" And the fear of the Lord, was thus defined by this Prince of Ifrael. "Hearkeh unto me," it was faid by him, " and I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he who defireth life, and loveth many days, that he may fee good?----Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from fpeaking guile. Depart from evil and do good. Seek peace and purfue it.†"

And numerous other expressions there are of Scripture which declare, that, by the "fear of God," we are to understand a due observance of Religion; which, it may be faid, confists of three particulars ;----KNOWLEDGE, FAITH, and PRACTICE; and these things 1 beg permission to notice.

FIRST, of *religious* KNOWLEDGE;-----fome degree of which appears abfolutely neceffary to conftitute a righteous character; as it is impoffible we fhould difcharge our duty, unlefs we are acquainted with it; as all rational faith 'alfo, is founded on knowledge, and as mankind may " perifh;" through a deficiency in this article.[†]

However some persons may be diffinguished for the acquisition of spiritual wisdom; when

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it is confidered the bleffings of the Gofpel are offered to the *whole world* of mankind, we muft conclude that to obtain a knowledge of its fundamental doctrines, doth not require either uncommon penetration of judgment, or intenfe application of mind; but that these doctrines may be apprehended with ease, by the most *inferior capacity*; or are written in fuch legible characters, that " he who runs may read," and understand them.

Without paying attention to those particular and favourite tenets adopted by various denominations of Christians; and by them so often contended for in a most *unchristian* manner, to the *reproach* of CHRISTIANITY and *injury* of VIRTUE; I will mention some articles of religion which, it is imagined, are clearly revealed in facred Writ, and will not, it is conceived; be deemed unimportant.

The first principle of religious knowledge requisite we should be acquainted with, is, that there exists fome BEING superior to ourfelves; who gave existence to creation; who inhabiteth eternity; whose knowledge is infinite; whose preferce filleth all space; whose power preferves and fustains all nature, and who possible filleth all possible perfection.

By t'e works of Creation, we are most rationally convinced of the *Being* of a GoD; his

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his "power," as Saint Paul observes, " being clearly feen and understood by the things which 'are made.""

We behold inanimate MATTER.----Could this have given existence to itself? If it could not, a thousand years ago, neither could it have produced itseif at any period, and, therefore, it must have received it's formation from the power of some pre-existent Being.

But suppose MATERIALITY was self-existent, could it have given power and wifdom; beauty and order to itfelf?----Could that which had neither thought nor power, have exercised wildom and ftrength ?----Could that which had no life, have imparted life to itfelf, or to any other object? But we observe matter modified by wildom and power; harmonious and beautiful in its appearance;---and we perceive it endued with life; the power of motion also and thought ;---- and, therefore, these things could not have been produced by CORPOREITY, but by the agency of a Being of power and wildom.

CAN we behold the heavens above, or the earth beneath, without acknowledging the infinice power, wildom and goodnels displayed by fome, though to us, invisible ARCHITECT? Cr,

Or, can we contemplate our own frame, without confeffing we were "fearfully and wonderfully made ?#"

Did we ferm ourselves ?---Or do we owe our existence to CHANCE?

But the word chance, when, in propriety of Speech, it hath any meaning, ever supposeth the agency of some Being ';---- as when a " lot is caft into the lap, " or drawn, the *action* of fome perfon, or perfons, is necessarily implied.

Separate this idea, from the term chance, and it is a word devoid of any fignification; there being no fuch thing as CHANCE, in any fense, different from this.

THOUGH, by the volume of nature, we are clearly taught the Being of a GoD;----and though from the barmeny of the spheres, or " melody of the morning flars, t" and uniformity of order manifolied in their government, we may reasonably infer, there is but one God ;---that the "I ord he is God; that there is none el/e, nor any like unto him,§" it is from divine revelation only, that we obtain a knowledge of the several attributes of the Deity; and also, of this fublime truth, that the unity of the Godbead, doth not exclude a Trinity of Persons 3 but

* Pfal. exxxix. 14. + Prov. xvi. 33. - § Ifai xlvi: 9: 1 Job xxxviii. 7.

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but that "there are three who bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghoft; and that these THREE ARE ONE.""

It would be eafy to adduce passages from the facred writings to prove, that the feveral perfections of the Deity, are afcribed to each of the Perfons in the Holy Trinity; and to evince that " the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghoft is God; and yet, that there are not three Gods, but one God; †" but for the fake of brevity, I fhall decline this fervice, and obferve, that it is impossible we fhould have a proper conception of the Christian fystem, unlefs we are initiated into this important doctrine of the Trinity.

Тноисн this particular of the Chriftian faith, cannot be fully comprehended by our imperfect understandings, it should not, therefore, be rejected by us.

There are many things which furpals our apprehension, we readily give our assent to.

We believe, for inftance, there is a GoD; but the ESSENCE of the divine nature, which is INFINITY *itfelf*, will never be entirely comprehended by any *finite capacity*, *human* or *angelic*.

We believe too there is an UNION fublifting between the human body and foul; but we are C_2 unable

* 1 John, v. 7. † Vide the Athanasian Creed.

. . unable to define this connection. And how many mysteries are there exhibited in the productions of nature we are compelled to acknowledge, but cannot understand?

THE wit of man, in all probability, would never have devised the doctrine of the *plurality*. of Perfons in the God-head: And certainly, if the propagators of the gospel had believed this doctrine to have been fictitious; and have known Christianity itself was a deception, that it might have obtained credit in the world, common prudence would not have fuffered them to have incorporated into a religious fystem, without neceffity, a tenet, which, with men of carnal reafon, would necessarily have impeded it's fucce/s, and been to them as a " ftumbling Itone and rock of offence." Taking it for granted that the holv Apostles were possessed only of common understanding, we may rationally suppose, they believed the doctrine of the Trinity to be true, and the Christian religion divine.

Had the gospel been of human invention, they must have been acquainted with the deceit.

And had they not been perfons of common fense, it is utterly inconceivable, circumstanced as they were, destitute of learning, reputation, and authority, how they could have prevailed with fo many men, of the greatest abilities, both natural and acquired, to have embraced the religion

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ligion of JESUS, if *unsupported* by TRUTH; and at the expence of worldly honour and finful pleasure; of liberty, property, and even life itself!

As "in God we live, and move, and have our being;*" and as the divine "law is holy, juft, and good, †" how perfectly *reafonable* is it, we fhould be *obedient* to its *commands*?

But who of us hath duly revered the divine authority?----Have we not " all *finned* and come fhort of the glory of God ?‡"---And in confequence of this *moral defection*, are we not obnoxious to the *penalty* of the *heavenly law*; fubject to " eternal death, the wages of

fin ? ∥"

But, to deliver us from the curfe of the law, even the Son of God bimfelf, in condefcenfion and goodnefs infinite, affumed our nature; "boreour iniquities;" "expiated our guilt;" became " accurfed for us; "the " just having fuffered for the unjust."

And that we may obtain *fanctity* of *beart*; be liberated from the vaffallage of fin and Satan, and again be qualified for the enjoyment of the God of Holinefs, we are "made partakers of the HOLY GHOST; []]" " renewed in

* Acts, xvii. 28. + Rom. vii. 12. ‡ Rom. iii. 23. || Ibid vi. 23. § John, i. 14. ¶ Ifai. liii. 11. ** Rom. iii. 25. †† Gal. iii. 13. ‡‡1 Peter.ii. 13. ||| Heb. vi. 4.

in the spirit of our minds,*" through its facred influence, † and again receive the IMPRESS of the DIVINE IMAGE.

WE perceive, therefore, that the Gofpel is a difpenfation of divine MERCY ;----that our redemption is of free "GRACE;" by us altogether. unmerited; that Christianity was most graciously defigned to counterast the clotts of SIN ;----to deliver us from it's punishment and thraldom; and to reftore us to purity, dignity, and bliss. But as neither of these things can be possified by us, fo long as we continue in the prastice of EVIL; we, therefore, differen that the religion we profess, cannot give any countenance to Vice; but forbids our indulgence of it, in thought, word, and deed.

Our Lord affilies us, he did not come to abrogate the moral law, but to enforce on us an observance of it's precepts.

And by apostolic authority, we are informed, "that Clinit gave himfelf for us," not only "to redeem us troin all iniquity,"----the condemaction due to fic,----but " to purify unto himfelf a peculiar people, who fhould be zealous of good works;" "I be of diffinguished virtue and piety.

Contrition

Eph. iv. 23. + Tit. iii. 5. ‡ Eph. ii. 8. § 2 Cyr v. 17. || Mat. v. 17. ¶ Tit ii. 14.

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Contrition of heart, for sin;* an admission into the Church of Christ, by baptilin; the commemoration of his death and patilon, in the manner prefcribed by him; t" his refurrection, § and mediatorial character in heaven; the immortality of our fouls** and refurrection of our own bodies; †† the judgment of the world by the divine Saviour of men, who will render unto every man, according to his works, jj" and difpenfe everlafting and inconceivable happinels to the righteous, and unceafing and intolerable mifery to the wicked: These also, are particulars which pertain to Christianity, that I have time only to name.

Bur it is to no purpose we are informed of these things, unleis we believe them.

"Wilbout FAITH," it is faid, " it is impoffible to please God; for he that cometh to Him, must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently feek him. "" Saint Paul required " of the Jews, and alfo of the Greeks, repentance towards God, and FAITH in our Lord Jeius Chrift. ****

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* Matt. iii. 2. † Ibid xxviii: 19. ‡ Ibid xvvi. 26. § Ibid xxviii. 6. || Heb. vii. 25. ** 1. 28 xxiii. 43. †† Matt. v. 28, 29. 11 Rev. XXII. 22. Acts x. 42. §§ Matt. xxv. 34, 41. |||| Heb. x1. 61 *** Acts XX. 21.

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Our Saviour himself affures us, unless we believe in him, or receive the Gofpel, we cannot participate of it's bleffings; for " he that believetb not shall be damned."

As falvation is attainable only through Christ, to of necessary, therefore, those who reject his differnation of grace, must be consigned over to eternal wee.

BUT most ferious is the truth, that not any perfon profeijing FAITH in the Gospel shall be faved, unless thereby he becomes reconciled to GOD, and devoted to his fervice: Unless also, he obtains fanctification of foul; renovation of beart, through the operation of the divine Spirit; or a disposition of mind, capable of celestial joys.

For it is declared, that "Christ will be the author of eternal falvation only to thefe who obey bim;§"----that "except we are bern again, we cannot enter into the kingdom of God;§§" that "without bolinefs no man shall fee the Lord," and that though our faith in Christ is to powerful as to enable us to work miracles, if it is not productive of righteoufnefs; or accempanied by a life of undiffembled goodnefs, it will, in

† Mark xvi. 16. – † Ads iv. 12. – § Heb. v. 9. §§ John I.I. 3.

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In no fort, be available to our falvation*: but depress us lower in the gulph of perdition +.

When, therefore, in the holy Scriptures, falvation is promifed to the perfon possified of faith in Christ, we must conclude it is *fuch* FAITH only as " works by Love‡;" is the paient of a fincere and universal observance of all the divine precepts;---or is attended by all *those effects* which the Gospel was designed to have on us.

To hope for the friendship of God, while we disclaim his authority;---falvation through Christ, when we do not comply with the conditions of the Gospel; or for the enjoyments of Heaven, while our hearts are polluted by fin,---would be as irrational, as futile, as it would be to expect that God would work miracles, to indulge us in floth; or that we should behold the light, if deprived of the organs of vision 1

ALTHOUGH it is most reasonable we should offer to our Almighty Creator and divine benefactor, the oblation of our hearts;---and though Christianity is calculated to deliver us from infamy and wor, and to exalt us to honour and happines,---how often are it's benefits rejected?

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How

* i Cor. niii. 2. Janes ii. 25. † Matt. x. 23. Ібій м. 25. Цике ліі. 47. ‡ Gal. v. 6.

How many are there, even of those profeffing to revere this difpenfation of mercy; who live regardless of its precepts; and who; in their actions with men, are so far from " doing as they would be done unto,"---that no feelings of humanity;---no fense of honour, nor any fear of divine vengeance;----nor any thing but present PUNISHMENT, can divert them from acts of dishonesty, barbarity, and flagrant impiety?

We therefore *perceive* the *necessity* of *human* GOVERNMENT, and the *propriety* of the *command* to "HONOUR THE KING:"

Which injunction, we are next to regard.

As government is intended to aid virtue,

and difcountenance vice; to preferve order, decorum and justice among men, and to advance their happinefs,---can it be imagined it would be pleasing to the Almighty governor of the world to observe those, who, by his Providence, and in subordination to him*, are entrusted with the powers of government,---to *ubvert these powers* for the *purposes* of Evil;--to be,---NOT " a terror to evil doers and a praise to those who do well⁺," but the *reverses*; or, not a BLESSING, but a CURSE to MAN-KIND?

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(27)

If the God of Justice disapproves of, and will *punifb*, the deeds of CRUELTY, TYRANNY or OPPRESSION of MAGISTRATES, should not those, whose SERVANTS they *fould be*, manifest also, in a *proper manner*, their *disapprobation* of fuch conduct?

SHOULD SUBJECTS only be under controul, and KINGS, or GOVERNORS be lawlefs;----be invested with power, which, at pleasure, they may employ to the INJURY of those for whose WENEFIT it was committed to them?

SHOULD citizens passively submit to illegal, unrighteous government?

Such fubmiffion is not demanded, neither by reafon, juffice, wifdom nor religion. And as fuch *paffivity* would be to inflict mifery on ourfelves, and to give countenance to vice, it would, therefore, be most offensive to *that* GoD who "loveth righteousness and hateth, iniquity*." Unjust opposition to government is, unquestionably, very criminal;---but to discountenance, to abolish TYRANNY, is an exalted VIRtue: And facred History mentions, that the unrighteous EDICTS of KINGS were disregarded. by men the most eminent for PIETY. D 2 Shadrach

9 Pfal. xiv. 7.

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€ 28)[°]

Shadrach, Mefhach, and Abednego, for example, *refaled* to worfhip the Image formed by NEBUCHADNEZAR, and in terms most explicit and peremptory.

"Be it known to thee, O King!" faid they to him, "that we will not ferve thy Gods, nor worthip the golden Image which thou haft fet up"."

Though the decree that required this action, was not repugnant to the Conflictation of the kingdom of Babylon, the Almighty manifelted his apprehation of the conduct of these perfons, on this occasion, by delivering them from the power of the flames⁺.

What fevere mandates were infued by Pagan PRINCES, for the suppression of Christianity?

But how were they *difobeyed* by vaft rumbers of primitive Chriftians, at the expence of their lives ?

Even SAINT PETER *bimfelf*, who requires to "honour the King,"---when, by human authority forbidden to " teach in the name of Jefus," replied, " whether it be right to *obey* MEN, rather than GOD, judge yes."

SAUL was " *flain* for his *trangreffions*," and his kingdom *transferred* to DAVID. And how fre-

Daniel iii. 13. + Ibid verse 27. ‡ Vide the Ecclessafical Hillory of Eusebius Pamphilus. § Acts iv.
18. 19. || 1 Chron. x. 13, 14.

(29).

frequently did the ALMIGHTY manifest his displeasure against the KINGS of *Israel* and *Ju*dab, when they violated his laws, and became as Scources to their Subjects?

MUST the KING only be beneured?

Does the Apostle discountenance each form of GOVERNMENT, except the regal?----This cannot be pretended.

The Almighty hath left mankind to adopt fuch modes of government as they fhall conceive will most conduce to their HAPPINESS; accordingly, various forms of government have obtained in different ages and countries;---even the JEWS were governed by JUDGES[#], as welly as by KINGS, and, at one period, by a PRO-PHETESS[†].

THE injunction to honour the King, is fo far from obliging mankind, without refiftance, to fuffer the FETTERS of SLAVERY to be rivettedon them, that it enjoins men to preferve inviolate from USURPATION OF TYRANNY, both IN-TERNAL and EXTERNAL, that Confitution of Government, they have made choice of, whatever, may be its mode,---until by them it shall be alhered, or changed for a different form.

And

* Judges ii. 16. &c. + Ibid iv. 4.

• • And it may be faid, I conceive in the utmost extent of the expression, that the King is duly bonoured,---when we do thus;---when also, by our industry and virtue, we contribute to the prosperity of the community;---when we are obedient to it's laws,---and defray, with chearfulwes, our proportion of public expences.

HAVING shewn what it is to "bonour the King,"---I proceed to confider the command, to "bonour all Men."

THE whole world of mankind, may be regarded as one extensive Society. And as the God of beneficence witheth the felicity of all his creatures, why fhould not we rejoice in each other's welfare?

As we were formed by the *Jame* Almighty

power ;---as we proceeded from the *fame* common Parent,--" God having made of one blood all nations of men^{*};"----as we are fupported by the *fame* hand of bounty, and preferved by the *fame* kind Providence,---wherefore fhould we not regard *each buman Being* as a *Fellow*-*Citizen* ;---be affectionately difpofed towards him ;---defirous to advance his happinefs,---duly to " bonour him as a Man ?

* Acts xvii. 26.

A Being

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À Being created, even "after the IMAGE of GOD;"*---and, though degraded by fin, poffessed of properties vally superior to any other creature on earth?

A Being, deemed not unworthy the attention and ministration of ANGELS of boliness!

A Being, whom even the SON of GOD bimfelf hath deigned to notice, and to whom he hath given the higheft testimony of his AFFECTION ! And a Being, when delivered from the EF-FECTS of EVIL, capable of ferving, worshiping and enjoying GOD for ever !

SHALL the brutal CREATION generally live in harmony and peace among themfelves, and rational CREATURES be preying upon each other, and withold that tribute of HONOUR, fo forcibly enjoined by juffice, reafon, and divine authority? Shall a diversity only of fituation; language; cuftoms; manners, be deemed a sufficient cAUSE to deprive one another of the bleffings of life, and even life itself?

Is not *fuch conduct* most reproachful; most finful?

And is it not to be deplored, that neither the advancement of science; nor politeness of manners;

* Genesis i. 27:

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(32)

manners, nor the principles of religion, have VET caused *fuck prastice* to be EXTINCT, even in the CHRISTIAN WORLD?

O MASONRY !---How congenial are it's precepts of univerfal benevalence with those of the GOSPEL ?

And how do the principles of this Fraternity; with those of Christianity, *require* that mankind, should not only,---"fear God;"---"Honour the King," and "honour all men,"---but also,

" LOVE THE BROTHER-HOOD;"

To the performance of this duty, how forciele are our obligations?

Each confideration that obligeth us to honour all man, enjoins us also to love the Brotherbood.

Though mankind, as men, are nearly connetted with each other; as Christians;---how intimate, indeed is their union?

Do they not profels to revere the fame volume of divine truths?

Do they not possible fimilar pleefures of wirtue, and premifes of future publicity s

Are they not Blomed, fanclified, and confoled by the *fame divine* Spikir?

Do tley not combat the *fame* Fors?---And, in their conflicts with evil, are they not fultained

(33)

tained by the *fame* Power? Have they not the *fame* objects of pursuit, the *fame* hopes and FEARS?

Have they not the *fame* INCENTIVES to evcel in VIRTUE; the *fame* CAUSE for GRATITUDE and LOVE?

May they not be regarded as BRANCHES of the fame VINE, which bring forth the fame FRUIT ?*---And as PASSENGERS on the fame OCEAN of TIME, folicitous to enter into the fame HAVEN of everlasting REST ?

How frequently are they called on, by the voice of heavenly authority, to exercise towards each other *fraternal* AFFECTION?

"A new commandment," fays Chrift, "I give unto you, that ye love one another ?†

This command is faid to be new, by reafon it was inforced on Christians from a new motive to obedience,---the confideration of CHRIST'S LOVE towards THEM; "love ONE ANOTHER," faid he, "as I have loved you."[†]

"Be kindly affectionated one to another," faith Saint Paul, " with brotherly LOVE, in honour prefering one another; and let love be without diffimulation."

* John xv. 1. + Ib. xiii. 34. ‡ Ib. xv. 12. § Rom. xii. 9, 10.

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"If ye fulfil," faith Saint James, "the royal law, according to the Scripture, thou thalt love thy neighbour as thyfelf, ye do well."*

"See," faith another Apostle, "that ye love one another with a pure beart fervently." Have compassion one of another; be pitiful; be courteous."

"Let us *love*," faith Saint John, " not in word; neither in tongue; but in DEED and in TRUTH."§

Is not every temper of mind and practice opposite to LOVE, forbidden ?---

We are exhorted to "lay afide all malice, and guile, and envy and evil speaking:"¶ to divest ourselves of "wrath, anger and clamour:"** and neither to despise, †† nor unjustly to judge ‡‡ our brother: nor, in any fort, to "render evil for evil; railing for railing; but, contrariwise, bless our persecutors.¶¶

WILL not the being devoid of love to the

Jam. ii. 8. + 1 Pet. i. 22. ‡ Ib. iii. 8.
§ 1 John iii. 18. || Ib. v. 18. ¶ 1 Pet. ii. 1.
** Eph. iv. 31. + Rom. xiv. 10. ‡‡ Matt. vii. 1.
§ 1 Pet. iii. 9. || Matt. v. 44. ¶¶ Rom. xii. 14.

brother-

(35)

brotherhood, be an undubitable testimony, that such professors of Christianity are destitute of its spirit?

"By this," fays our Lord, "fhall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another."*

It is faid, that "he who loveth not his BROTHER, is not of GOD:†"----And that the love of God dwelleth not in him, who is polfeffed of this world's goods, and feeth his brother in diffrefs, and doth not minister to his wants[‡].

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How did our Saviour and his holy Apostles, exemplify their precepts of charity, in their lives and in their death ?

How careful were the primitive Christians, in general, to "maintain good works,§" and particularly, to "love as BRETHREN !!?" So diftinguished were they for the practice of this DUTY, that their very perfecutors, on beholding their deeds of benevolence, were finitten with altonishment, and with admiration exclaimed, "See bow these Christians love one another !"

BUT whither hath this virtue fled ?----How few are duly observant of the sacred injunction

* John xiii. 35. † 1 John iii. 10. ‡ Ib. v. 17. § Tit. iii. 8. || 1 Peter iii. 8. E 2 before

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"He that *batetb* his brother," we read, " is a murtherer."

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* John xiii. 35. † 1 John iii. 10. ‡ Ib. v. 17. § Tit. iii. 8. || 1 Peter iii. 8. E 2 before

before us?----How many fuffer a différence in religious SENTIMENT only, to seclude this godlike VIRTUE from their BREASTS?

NAY; for this trivial caufe, how have many of those, who have prefumed to "name the name of Christ," been filled with ANGER, HATRED and MALICE, and every evil principle, against each other?—And, what CREDULITY itself can scarcely believe, how have they embrued their bands in one another's BLOOD?

Weep, OVIRTUE, weep! that the SPIRIT of the Gosper fnould have been so little underftood or regarded !---- That the MALICE of SATAR, hath thus triumphed over the Love of JESUS!----That CHRISTIANITY hath thus become, to many, an unbappiness and not a bleffing. BUT MASONS know not ANY CONTENTION ON account of a diversity of religious opinions. They appear, with wifdom, to have adopted the fentiments of an eminent philosopher of virtue;*---" That those are the real HERE-TICS, who live LIVES of IMPIETY." And, without derogating from the praife due to fincere CHRISTIANS ;--- and it is hoped and believed there are many of this character among us ;---may it not be faid, with truth, that Masons, in general. are justive distinguished for their love to the EROTHERHOOD?

* Sir Isaa Newton. Vide his life. When

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When they behold a BROTHER in AFFLIG: TION, in whatever NATION he received his birth, or in what RELIGION foever he was educated,---how do they basten to his RELIEF, if he ONLY "fears God and works righteousness." How elevated is such virtue?---How deferving PRAISE is such PHILANTHROPY?

BUT I will not pass those encomiums on MASONRY, which, in this respect, I conceive it justly entitled to, least I should incur invidious reflections from some who may be prejudiced against this fociety; unacquainted with its institution, or uninformed of the conduct of the brotherhood, in this particular;---but beg leave to put a period to this discourse, by addressing those two descriptions of persons who compose this audience.

AND *first*, permit me to folicit the attention of you,

GENTLEMEN OF THE MASONIC ORDER.

AFTER an attentive perufal of the principles of your Conftitution which have been publifhed, fuffer me to congratulate you on account of their EXCELLENCE !

Suffer me also to ask, whether, frequently, and in ALL respects you recur to these PRIN-CIPLES, and reduce them to PRACTICE?

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Doth not *fucb* conduct become you? Upon your *duly revering* the laws of your inftitution, doth not your own *honour* depend; and, in fome degree, with those acquainted with you, the *bonour* also of the whole *fraternity*?

ARE you defirous to preferve the *reputation* of the truly *ancient* and *bonourable* Society of which you are *Members*?

Should you not therefore, be extremely attentive to the *characters* of thofe whom you fhall admit into your *infant Lodge* ;---that they are perfons, who, among other qualifications required for the enjoyment of this priviledge, are poffeffed of " honour and honefty; induftry, economy and temperance; patience, meeknefs and felf-denial; humanity and benevolence; that they are good citizens, of fufficient age; capable of making proficiency in the royal art; free from malice, and that cannot be charged with profane nor evil language; and that they believe in God; worfhip him, and make the precepts of the moral Law the rule of their lives and converfations*?"

And should you not also maintain a proper spirit of discipline in your LODGE?----Particu-

* Yide the Constitution of Masonry, before referred to. larly

larly fhould a Member of it be guilty of the practice of any impiety, and, notwithstanding your good counsel, continue unreclaimed,----should he not be *suspended* the priviledge of your Brotherhood, until he shall return to a sense of duty;?

For will not mankind in general, whether *just* or *not so*, ever form an estimate of the nature of *Masonry*, from the conduct of those who are Members of the Society?"

ARE you *calumniated* by any who, through ignorance, or unjust information, entertain unfavourable ideas of your Order ?----

Revile not fuch perfons; but convince them by the propriety of your actions, that Free-Masonry is not an institution of Vice, but of Virtue!"

AND remember SIRS, you are Christian-Masons!----That you are under obligations numerous and most facred, to make conscience of all your deeds, and fo to live, that, in truth, you may---fear God ;---honour the Govern-

+ When a perfon is admitted into the order of Mafonry, he is ever confidered as a Mafon, his character as fuch being indefeafible; he may, however, be fufpended from the enjoyment of the privileges of the Fraternity. Vide Conftitution of Mafonry.

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ment ;---honour all men, and love your Chriftian and Masonic Brotherhoods !

How many have there been who have done bonour to Christianity and Masonry;---who have been Christian Masons indeed?

With what pleafure do you reflect on their. righteous *Examples* !---How should you be excited to tread in their *fteps* of *virtue* !

AND whither have *these* fteps conducted them?

Are they lodged in that *Temple* reared by the *Almighty Architest* himself?

Do they now enjoy virtue, knowledge and fociety in perfection? Is every tear wiped from the eye?*---And will they thus be for ever bleft? Do you not contemplate their extatick joys with rapture?---Do you not with to join this grand fociety? But how mortifying; how unhappy would it be, fhould you be deemed unworthy of admittance into this place of bonour, glery and felicity; and be doomed to fpend eternal ages in that habitation which is perfect deformity and wretchednefs; and with fociety depraved, infamous and miferable beyond conception !

* Rev. xxi. 4.

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LET "pure and undefiled religion" therefore, be yours !

Act up to the dignity of your character, as Masons, and Christians !---And be animated with a noble ambition to be of the number of those, of these professions, who shall be the most distinguished for virtue and knowledge; glory and felicity !

MAY the God of wildom and goodness profper you in the pursuit of every thing wile and good !

May your Lodge be as a Seminary for the promotion of knowledge, virtue and benevolence! May you be bleffings to each other and to

mankind in general!

And may your facred union of religion, wifdom and love, be greatly confolidated here, and perfected hereafter !

SHOULD not those of us, who are not of this Fraternity, felicitate ourselves on the Divinity of our Religion ?---That the foundation of our most holy "Brotherhood," was fixed when the world was formed,* and by infinite wisdom, power and love ?† That " jesus Christ himself, being its chief corner stone,"‡ it shall not, on earth,

* Rev. xiii. 8. † 1 Cor. iii. 9. ‡ Eph. ii. 20. G be

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be diffolved, but with *time* itfelf ?* and that the worthy *Members* of it, in a future flate, "being fitly framed together," fhall be regarded, indeed, as an "holy" and everlafting *Temple*, for the habitation of *God* through the *Spirit* ?†

BUT are we, "as lively ftones," proper to be incorporated into this "fpiritual House?

Or, to difcontinue the fimile, are we Chriftians, indeed?

Do we so fear God, as, with stedfastness, to believe his doctrine; and, with sincerity, from principle, from affection to revere his precepts?

With firmnefs do we truft in his veracity?---Do we worfhip him in "in fpirit and in truth;" love him fupremely, and offer him the oblation of our hearts? Senfible of the defilement of fin ;---that not any thing but the blood of Chrift can cleanfe us from its pollution, have we repaired to this "fountain, opened for fin and uncleannefs;"§ and, by the hand of *faitb*, are we cleanfed from finful impurity?

Are our *kearts* renovated through the energy of the divine Spirit?---Have "old things"?

* Matt. xvi. 18. + Eph. ii. 21, 22. ‡ 1 Pet. ii. 5; § Zech. xiii. 1.

evil

(43)

evil difpolitions and practices, " past from us ?" And have " all things;" our tempers and affections; hopes and fears; pursuits, defires and enjoyments,---" become new?"*

Are we fo " in Chrift Jefus," that we are "new Creatures †;" " born of God ?"----Do our attions testify our heavenly extract?----Are we duly attendant on the performance of each relative duty?"

" Do we bonour our GOVERNMENT?" With freedom do we contribute to it's fupport, and regard it's just laws?----Are we citizens of industry and economy; virtue and patriotism?

"Do we *bonour* ALL Men;---exercife justice and humanity towards them, and properly respect their persons; not suffering any adventitious circumstance to occasion ourselves, unjustly, to become their foes?

AND, in a particular manner, are we, in affection, attached to the Brotherbood? Is our Christian charity most diffusive?---Does our "Love extend to ALL the Saints," by

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whatever tenets or appellations distinguished; or in what mode foever they perform religious worfhip?

Are we free from a spirit of bigotry, prejudice and hatted ito our christian brethren ?---And, in our affection towards them, do we rife superior to the distinction of names;---of fect and party?

Happy are those who can answer these interrogatories in the affirmative !

Shall not fuch persons persevere in " well doing^{*};" " covet" the higheft attainments in grace[†], and be emulous to furpals each other in Christian perfection?

How foon will their graces and pleafures of virtue be perfected ?

How speedily will their conflict with fin and Satan ceafe? - no acos

And how brilliant and " unfading" will be the " Crown of Glory" with which they shall be invefted i? a case

Hast happy day! that shall usher them into the manifons of celeftial blifs; that shall perfectly and for ever unite them in love and happines with each other, and with the bleft Society above !

* Gal. vi. 9. † 1 Cor. xii. 31. ‡'1 Pcter v. 4. O Re-

(45)

O Religion ! the friend of Man !-----the greatest; best gift of Heaven !

What gratitude fhould poffels our hearts for this divine favour ?--- And if we regard our felicity, how fhould we honour its precepts ?

ARE there any by whom these precepts have been difregarded; who are nominal Christians only; whose whole lives have been a solemn mockery of God?

CAN fuch ftill chufe to be a reproach to Chriftianity and themfelves; to endure the pangs of guilt, and be deprived of the joys of virtue?

Wherefore can they with *still* to provoke the Almighty to wrath?

Is it not owing to his great mercy they have not received the just punishment of their deeds of vice?

For what momentary, finful enjoyments, can they incline to relinquish immortal happines, and endure everlasting and inconceivable woe?

An eternity of misery!----Never ending excruciating pains!

How insupportable the idea?----How inxpressible the solly of Vice?---How great the wisdom of Virtue?

Q YE

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(* 46).

O YE of Irreligion !---- if there are any fuch prefent ;----gratefully adore the Father of: Mercies, that you are still in the world of time!

Haste, O baste! to deplore your fins, and to. avail yourfelves of the divine clemency, through faith in the divine atonement for human guilt!

YET, in this way,----for your confolation it. is mentioned, --- " with God there is mercy and plenteousness of redemption*;"----" the blood of Cbrist" being sufficient to " cleanse" the believing penitent, however criminal he hath been, "from ALL Sint."

And, that you may obtain conquest over your fpiritual adversaries, and purity of heart, cherifh. the motions of the Holy Spirit; --- devote fome part of each day to pious meditation ;----read. diligently the divine word, and attend to it, with *feriou[ne[s*, when you shall hear it preached; be frequent and fervent in devotion, and avoid the very "appearance of evil" in thought, word, and deed !'

Тнат, by divine goodness, you may obtain, through CHRIST, "wildom and righteoulnels; fandification and redemption;"---be delivered,

* Pal. cxxx. 7. + 1 John i. 7.

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from the effects of Vice, and enjoy the rewards of Virtue; will God Almighty of his infinite mercy be graciously pleased to grant it; for the sake of the merits of the divine, compasfionate Jesus; to whom with the Father and Holy Ghost, three Persons, but one God, be the ascription of all honour and glory, adoration and praise, now, henceforth and for ever!

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Ogden, Uzal, and Freemasons. Lodge no. 10 (Morristown, N.J.). A sermon delivered at Morris-Town, on Monday December 27, 1784, it being the festival of St. John the Evangelist, before the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, of Lodge no. 10, in the state of New-Jersey. By the Reverend Uzal Ogden. [Four lines of Scripture texts] Published at the request of the Lodge. Printed by J. M'Lean, and Co, M,DCC,LXXXV. [1785]. Eighteenth Century Collections Online, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CW0119514449/ECCO?u= nla&sid=ECCO&xid=a43185be&pg=1. Accessed 6 Apr. 2021.