A clear description of New Jerusalem, not built by the Jews at their return out of Captivity.

The very confideration of this New Jerusalem is sufficient to ravish the hearts of all fuch as are heavenly-minded, it was that which did stay and support the mindes of the suffering Saints of old, and indeed it is sufficient, because it is of fuch an excellent fituation that it is to be admired, as the Pfalmist saith, Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Sion on the fide of the North is the City of the great King, God is known in her Palace for a refuge; which City in the Mystery is no more but that New Ierusalem, which shall be the City of the great King, Pfal. 48. 2. compare Pfal. 47.8. even fo New Ierusalem shall come hom Gos down from God out of Heaven, and being fituated about Sion, it is Metaphorically called mount Sion, because Sion of a Cheyle old did represent it, which was Davids high And Throne, the which David and his Throne was a lively type of Christ, and

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his Throne, and as David placed himfelfin Sion, with his Family, fo Jefus Christ will place himself in that New Fernsalem, with his Family, the which Family confifteth of rifen faved glorified Saints; the which agreeth with the Word of the Lord that faith, The people that are saved shall malk in the light of it, and the Kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honour unto it, and there shall in no wife enter into it any that defileth, neither what soever workerh abomination, or maketh a lye, but they which are written in the Lambs Book of Life, Revel. 21. 24, 25, 26, 27. but now I shall pass briefly to a review of that glorious City New ferusalem, the which is treated of, Revel. 21. beginning at the tenth verlex And be carried me away in the Spiris unto a great and high Mountain, and Shewed me that great City, the holy Jerulalem, descending out of Heaven from God, having the glory of God, and her light was like umo a stone most precious even like a fasper stone; clear as Chrystal, and bad a wall great and high and had imilie Gates, and at the Gates twelve Angels, and names mritten.

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written thereon, which are the names of the twelve Tribes of the Children of Ifrael; on the East three Gates, on the North three Gates, on the South three Gates, and on the West three Gates; and the wall of the City bad twelve foundations, and in them the names of the tweive Apostles of the Lambe, and he that talked with me had a golden reed to meajure the City and the Gates thereof, and the wall thereof, and the City lyeth four square, and the length is as large as the breadth, and he measured the City with the reed twelve thousand Furlongs, and the length, and the breadth, and the height of it are equal, and he measured the wall thereof an hundred forty and four Cubics, according to the measure of man, that is of the Angel, and the building of the wall of it was of Fasoer, and the City pure Gold, like untocker Glass, and the foundations of the wall of the City were garnished with all manner of precious Stones; the first foundation was fasper, the second Saphir, the third Chalcedonie, the fourth an Emerauld, the fifth Sardomix, the fixth Sardius, the seventh Chry-

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18, 19, 18, FOR Chrysolite, the eighth Beryl, the winth Topas, the tenth Chrysophrasus, the eleventh a facinch, the twelfth an Amethyst; and the twelve Gates were twelve Pearls, every severall Gate of one Pearl, the Breets of the City were pure Gold, as it were tranf-Parent Glass; and I saw no Temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty, and the Lambe were the Temple of it; and the City had no need of the Sun, neither of the Moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lambe was the light thereof, and the Nations of them that are saved shall walk in the light of it, and the Kings of the North hall bring their glory and honour into it, and the Gates of it shall not be shut at all by day, and there shall be no night there, and they shall bring the glory and bonour of the Nations into it; there shad in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither what seever worketh abomination, or maketh a Lye, but they which are written in the Lambs Book of Life, Rev. 21.10,11, 12, 13, 14,15, 16,17; 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27. From hence we may take notice of

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the fplendency of this glorious City, and the excellency of the foundations; and doubtless this was the City that our bleffed Father Abraham looked for, when he did so dis-regard his native Country, and Fathers house, that he forfook it, and was a Sojourner in the Land of Promise, a strange Land, as he is recorded of in the Epistle to the Hebrows in these words, By faith he abode in the Land of Promise as in a strange. Country, as one that dwelt in Tents with Isaac and Jacob, as beirs the same Promises, for he looked for a City having a foundation, whose mas ker and builder is God, Heb. 11. 9, 10. From hence we may lee, that God did Thew Abraham that glorious City, New Jerusalem, that afterwards hee and all the faithful should inherit for their Possession, the which he did see by faith, for faith is the evidence of things not feen, and the ground of things hoped for; so that his hope being so firm in that Inheritance that he should injoy, it made him fet light of all earthly inheritances, And they that Say Such things, declare plainly that they feek a Country, wherefore Ged is not ashamed to

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be their God, for he hath prepared for them a City, Hebr. 11. 14. Compare fixteen. And certainly that City that hath foundations whose maker and builder is God, the which also God hath said he hath prepared, is the very City that John faw come out of Heaven from God, which shall be the place of Christ, and the risen Saints residence, which doth agree with the words of the Spirit of Christ, that saith, Hee that overcometh I will make a Pillar in the Honse of my God, and he shall go no more out, and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the City of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of Heaven from my God, and I will write upon him my new name, Revel. 3. 12. So that hence we may see, that as God gave his earthly Son (which is Adam) at the first an earthly Paradifical Inheritance, or Situation, so he gave his second Son, that heavenly Man, a heavenly Paradifical inheritance, or fituation, which is no other than the New Jeru-Salem, situated upon the new Earth; and that this New Jerusalem is not Heaven it felf, as some do conceive, (although

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though it be heavenly) is clear, for Christ saith, it shall come out of Heaven from his God, and it is the dwelling place of Christ, and the Saints, until the Mediatorship shall be delivered up into the hands of the Father; but when Christ shall deliver up the Mediator-Thip unto the Father, then they shall be invested into the highest degree of glory. And having shewed you a brief glimps of the glory of the New Ieru-Salome I shali give you several Reasons why that Ierusalem that shall be built upon her own heap by the Iews at their return, is not the New Ierusalem which mention is made of in Kev. 3. 12. chap. 21. and fo to the first Reason, which

The Because that the City Ierusalem, that is to be built at the Iews return, shall be built by mens hands, as also saith the Prophet, And they shall build the old wast places, and raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the City that was desolate, and wast for many Generations, and the Sons of Strangers shall build thy walls, and their Kings shall minister unto thee. And that this is a Prophecy of the last

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and general return, you may fee, for the text laith, They shall not build and another inhabit, but they shall long injoy the work of their own hands, 11a. 60. 10, 11. cap. 61. 4. cap. 65.21,22,23. From which Scriptures you may fee, that that City in the which the Iews shall inhabit, is built with hands, but the New Ierusalem mentioned Revel. 2. chap. 21. Thall be built without hands, as you may see, Heb. 11. 10. So much tothe first Reason.

The second Reason is, because the materials of the New Iern salem is Gold, and Silver, and precious Stones, and ufalem which Pearls, Rev. 21. 18, 19, 20. but the Realors Which materials of the other Ierusalem is Wood, and fuch like, Ezek. 41. 16.

The third Reason is, because in the New Ierusalem there was no Temple, but the glory of God, and the Lambe was the light ofit, Rev. 21. 20. but in the other Ierusalem there was a Temple, Ezek. 41. 14, 15. Revel. 11. 1. 2 The f. 2. 4.

The fourth Reason is, because in the elolates and New Ierusalem we finde mention of no trees but the Tree of Life only, Revelations 22. 2. Cap. 2. 7. but in the other

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forfood, Ezek- 47. 12.

The fifth Reason is, because in the New Ierusalem there shall be no need of the Sun, nor Moor, for God is the light of it, neither shall there bee any night there, Revel. 21, 23 Compare Chap. 22. 5. but in the other Ierufatem there shall be night and day, and thereby there shall bee an account of years; they shall have the use also of the Sun, and the Moon, in which time they shall have their persect strength, thining forth most excellent in their folendor, as you may see, Isa. 30. 26.

The fixth Reason is, because that the New Ierusalem shall come down out of Heaven from God, as I before have fpoken, as faith the Scripture, And I John fam the New Jerusalem come down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a Bride for her Husband, Revel. 21.1. That is, it was a City lacking no reparation, or beautifying, but it was sufficiently trimmed, decked, and beautified, which is called by the Spirit, trimmed as a Bride for her Husband; but the other Ternsalem wanted both re-edifying, trimming, and beautifying. And so brief-

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boly I have given you a review of that New ferusalem, and have proved it not to be that Ierusalem that shall be built upon her own heap. I have shewed you also it cannot be meant Heaven, be-Veaute it came down from God out of Heaven; neither can it bee meant the Saints, as some have supposed it, because orhe Saints are faid to walk in the ffreets of it, which streets are pure gold like to clear glasse, the Saints also are said to have the name of it written in their fore-heads, but there shall in no wife enter into it any that defileth, or maketh alye, but such as are written in the Lambs Book of Life The which sheweth (and much more I could speak to it) that it is a marerial City, yet not Heav n it felf, though heavenly, as I have taid; neither can it he the Saints, but the City that the Saints shall enter into. Bieffed and thrice hap-Py are they that have their portion in it. And so I pass to the Eighth Particular.

The restoration of the Creation into the Primitive purity.

The truth of this Particular need not much

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much be questioned, that is to fave Whether the Lord will restore the whole Creation into its Primitive excellency, (when I fay the whole Creation, I mean Man, though happily not every man, also the Beasts of the Field, and the Earth, into that condition that they were in the time of Adams innocency Isay there is no question to be made of the truth of this Particular, for all the Prophets that ever writ, have writ more or leffe to the affirming of this to bee true, as I could instance in them all in particular order, but because it will take up much time, I shall give you one plaintext of Scripture, that doth affirm, that all the holy Prophets have spoken of this great restoration more or less, the text of Scripture is in Acts 3. 20. 21. in these words, For I will send lesus Christ, which before was preached unto you, whom the Heavens must contain untill the restoration of all things. spoken by the mouth of all his boly Prophets fince the world began. From hence you may fee, that all the Prophets ever fince the world began, did fore-tel, or Prophese of the restoration of Man and Beast into their first excellincy; which.

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which also agreeth with the words of Paul that faith. We know the whole Creation groaneth with us, and travelleth with us in pain together untill this present time, because the Creature was made subject to vanity, not of its own will, but by reason of him that hath subdued it under hope, because the Creatures themselves shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberry of the children of God, Rom. 8. 20, 21, 22. From these words wee may take notice, that the Cr atures with Man shall be delivered from that groaning condition which they were made subject to by reason of Adams transgression, and that there shall be a perfect refloration of all Creatures, unless it be the Serpent, and such men as live and dye in the state of unbelief, and thereby deprive themselves of that good which otherwise they should injoy. Bus for the better understanding of this truth, I shall divide the Creation into three parts, that is to fay, the Creature Man, the creature Beaft, and the creature Earth, and shall treat of them in order.

And first of the Creature Man, that he shall be restored unto that Primitive

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state, that is to say, all manner of corruption to be done away, as namely, Sicknels, Weaknels, Faintnels, Lameness, Blindness, and all other things that are as Corruptions, or defections in Nature, and then shall the saying be made good that is written by the Propher, Then hall the eyes of the blinde be opened, and the eares of the deaf unstop. ped, then hall the Lame man leap as an Hari, and the tongue of the dumbe Mall be loosed; for in the Wilderness (ball waters break out, and rivers in the Defart; neither shall the inhabitants of the Land say, I am sick, and the people that are therein shall be forgiven their iniquities, Ifa. 32. 24. cap. 35. 53 6. they shall not dye in their nonage, in that juncture of time, but shall live an hundred years old without frailty in Naure, whereby they shall see their Childrens Children in great peace. as the Prophet Saith, There shall not be thence an infant of days, or anold man that hath not filled his days, but the childe shall dye being an hundred years old, but the Sinner being on bundred years old shall be accurfed; even such as do not submit to that great King Je-2 300 200

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fus, Isa. 65. 20. Ezek. 14.12: so that the weakness, and corruptions, and frailty of Nature shall be clear taken away, so that those Jews that live in the slesh, and others, which is to say the Gentiles, who also are living at that time in the slesh) shallnot dye by reason of any malady over-coming their Nature, but by vertue of Gods appointment, in that set time before mentioned; the envie also of the Sons of men shall depart away, so that one shall not envie another as afore-time, Isa. 11.13. And so I shall briesly pass to the second thing.

Which is, That the Beafts of the field shall also bee restored from the bondage of their corruption, into that liberty that they did injoy in the time of Adams innocency; the envie of them also shall be taken away, so that the Lambe and the Kid shall lye down in peace with the savage Beast, the Lion shall not destroy the Lambe, neither the Leopard the Kid. There was a lively Type of this thing in Noahs Ark, and so shall it be when Jesus Christ the Ark (that is to say, the safety of his people) is listed up as an Ensign in the Nations, for so saith the Prophet, With righteraus neithers

ousness shall be judge the poor, and reprove with equity, for the meek of the earth, and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall bee slay the wicked, and righteousness shall be the girdle of his loyns, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins; the Wolf also hall dwell with the Lamb, and the Leopard hall lye down with the Kid and the Calf, and the young Lion and the fatling together, and a little childe (hall lead them, and the Cow and the Bear (hall feed the young ones, and lie down together, and the Lion shall eate straw with the Oxe, and the sucking Childe shall play on the hole of the Alp, and the weaned Childe (hall put his hand on the Cosk atrice Den, they shall not burt or destroy in all my boly Mountains, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, Ifa. 11. 4. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Cap. 65. 25. Hence you may see, that there is a time wherein the Creatures shall be restored into the Primitive state; for in the Garden of Eden, in the which they were first placed, they lay down in peace, and did not destroy each other. The reason why S STATES

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why they did destroy one another afterwards was, because of the Curse that Adam brought upon the whole Creation by the transgression of the Law of God. Hence it connects to pass, that the Creature Man destroyeth one another, and the Creature Beast, but in the beginning it was not so, neither shall it be so in the time of the perfect Redemption, as is clear from the fore-mentioned Scripture.

Obj. But if it should be objected and faid, That this is meant by the slow-rishing state of the Church while they

remain in this Tabernacle.

ready proved, That all or every one of the godly thall suffer persecution in this Life, that although many shall run to and fro in the last days, and be purified and made white, yet the wicked shall do more wickedly, and shall wear out the Saints of the most High, so as there shall be such troubles as there hath not been since there hath been a Nation upon the Earth, insomuch that if the Lord should not shorten these days, and harsten his coming, no sless should be saved, Dan. 7. 21. cap. 8. 31. cap. 11. 35.

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cap. 12. 1. & 10. Matth. 24. 21, 22. Acts 14. 22. 2 Tim. 3. 12. Rev 6. 11. Rev. 12. 17. Rev. 13.7. and fo I hall leave these Scriptures to be perused, and

pass to the third Particular.

The third Particular is, That the Earth also shall receive her strength to bring forth, as in its Primitive time, that is to fay, before it was Curfed, by reason of the transgression of Man, as also saith the Prophet, Instead of thorns shall come up the Fir-tree, and instead of the Brier shall come up the Mirtletree, and it shall be to the Lord for a name, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut of, then shall be give thee vain of thy feed that thou shalt som the ground withall, and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plentious; in that day shall thy Cattel feed in large Pastures, the Oxen likewife, and the young Affe that ear the ground shall eate clean Provender, which hath been winnowed with a Shovel and with Fan, and there shall be upon every Mountain, and upon every high Hill, rivers and streams of water, in the day of the great flaughter when the Towers fall. Moreover, the 020

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light of the Moon shall be as the light of the Sun, and the light of the Sun shall be seven-fold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and bealeth the stroke of their wounds, Isa. 55. 13. Chap, 30. 23, 24, 25, 26. From hence we may see, that the earth shal be restored unto her Primitive purity, for thus faith the Lord concerning it in the Prophecie of Isaiah, in these words, For the Lord shall comfort Sion, he will comfort her wast places, and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her Defart like the Garden of the Lord, and they shall say, this Land that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden, and the wast, and desolate, and ruined Cities are become fenced, and as inhabited. The Wilderness and the folitary places shall also blossom as the Rose, I will open Rivers in high places, and Fountains in the middest of the Valley, I will make the Wilderness a pool of water, and the dry Land Springs of water, I will plant in the Wilderness the Cedar, the Shittah-tree, and the Mirtle, and the Oyl-tree, and I will fet in the Defart the Firre-tree, and

and the Pine, and the Box-tree torether. Morcover, The Plow-men (hall overtake the Reapers, and the treaders of Grapes him that someth Seed, and the Mountains shall drop down sweet wine, Amos 9. 13. Ifa. 41. 18, :9, cap. 35. 1, 2. Ezek. 36. 35. Ifa. 51. 3. From hence we may fee, that the earth shall be restored into its Primitive purity.

Obj. But if it be Objected and said. That here is mention made of Plowing and Reaping, and therefore cannot be a perfect redemption. To the which I

answer.

Ans. First, That Adam himself when he was in his Innocency was to dress the Garden, and to receive the fruit thereof; and whether or no this were not fuch an imployment as might keep the Garden in such a capacity, as whereby he might receive the fruit from it, I leave the Reader to judge, Gen. 2.15.

Secondly, As I have already faid, That there are some that will deprive themfelves by their transgressions, the which the Prophet saith shall be their Plowmen, Isa. 61. 5. and Vine-dreffers. Moreover I say, That the strength of

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their nature shall be such, that nothing that they do shall or can be a burden unto them, but shall be a pleasure unto them; like unto a man walking in his Garden, and taking off a degenerate Plant, which is no burden unto him, but rather his pleasure, for in the time of that perfect Redemption there shall be no kinde of weakness or faintness whereby any thing that they shall do will be a burden, as faith the Lord, In that day shall the Lord defind the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and he that is feeble amongst them at that day shall bee as David, and the House of David shall be as God, as the Angels of God before bim, Zech. 12. 8. 11a. 40. 29, 31. And so much to the Objection, and to the Eighth Particular, and fo I shall pass to the Ninth, which is the figns of the times of the accomplishment of these Prophecies.

The Signs of the times of the accomplipment of these Prophecies.

Doubtless the Lord hath not hid from his Servants those things that he will do in the latter days, nor the time when

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they shall be performed, though the day and hour knoweth no man, no not the Angels, yet the times and feafons may be known by the figns. Moreover, it is lawful and commendable for the people of God to look into the Signs of the times, for as much as we fee the Lord Jesus Christ reprove such as do not, saying, Oyee Hypocrites, yee can discern the face of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times, Matth. 16.3. therefore I shall briefly give you some few figns, that shall be as it were the Item of the Day of Christ, or the Morning Watch, and so to the First in order.

The first Sign of the second coming of Christ, is the unsetledness of Kingdoms and Nations of the earth, the Government sometimes here, and sometimes there, fometimes in the hands of one, and fometimes in the hands of another, men much striving for Honour and Kingdoms; in the midst of those days shall God set up his Kingdom that shall never be destroyed; and that the earth shall be thus unsetled, reeling to and fro, is clear from the Word of the Lord which faith, The earth hall reel to and fro like a drunken man, and be re-

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moved like a Tent, and the iniquity thereof shall be heavie upon it, so that it shall fall and arise no more, then shall the Sun he ashamed, and the Moon confounded, when the Lord hall reign in Mount Sion, and in Jerusalem before his antients gloriously; at which time the little stone hered out of the Mountain without hands shall become a great Mountain, and fill the whole earth, Dan. 2. 35. and ver. 44. Ifa. 24. 20. compare 23. From whence we may fee, that the unsetledness of Nations and Kingdoms upon the earth, and striving for Honour, and change of Governments, is a lively fign of the second coming of the Lord Jesus to be near.

The fecond Sign of the coming of Christ, Is by the abounding of wickedness or iniquity in the World, as now we see it in a great height, even by such as are worn out in their expectation, or waiting for Jefus Christ; who did nothke that good condition that they were put in, but having departed from the Faith, and are given up unto all manner of uncleanness. O the ungodly Practices, and horrid Blasphemies that are now committed in England, what by abusing the W 3 worthy

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worthy name of God, speaking reproachfully of him, and his Son Christ. and flighting those Laws and Ordinances which are given forth to be practifed till his fecond and great coming, with the abusing of themselves in uncleaneness and Lufts of the flesh, amongst which they contend for the community of Women, which is none of the least of their Uncleanenciles, and make themselves worse than the savage Beasts. Of that fort are the rude Ranters, and the blafphemous Quakers, the which have cast off Civil Humanity, and this generation of men are the men that will cause the Lord to arise, and take vengeance upon the earth, for so faith the word of the Lord, in these words, And Enoch also the seventh from Adam Prophecied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with tenthou fand of his Saints, to execute Judgement upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among ft them of all their ungodly deeds, which they have ungodily committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly Sinners have spoken against him. So that we may fee, that the Lord will fend his Son in flaming fire against all ungodly

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men, but chiefly they that walk after the Lust of the flesh in uncleaneness, as hee once did destroy the world, and fuch like Sinners with an over-flowing Floud, Gen. 6. 1, 2,3,4,5,6,7, 8. Jude 4. compare 14, 15. 2 Pet. 2. 4. com-Pare 10. cap. 3. 3. compare 10. See allo vers. 7. From hence you may see, that that ungodly generation of men that are now in the World, is a lively fign of Christs coming. And so I pass briefly to the third.

The Third fign of Christs coming, Is the Echo or found of these two things in the World, as namely, the Preaching of the Gospel about in the Nations, and the Warres, and rumours of Warres that do accompany it, for when thefe two things go together, then Christ saith the end is very nigh; and although the Gospel have been preached before in a private way, that is to fay, in some particular Nation, or privately in that Nation, yet never was the Gospel preached to Nations and Rulers as it is in our days.

Obj. If it should be Objetted and Jaid. That the Gospel hath been preached in Nations a great while by

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Lanswer.

Anf. That as the Congregations of the Nation was never called a Church of Christ, nor her Teachers the Ministers of the Gospel, neither hath that kinde of Doctrine which they have preached been called the preaching of the Gofpel; If it should be demanded of me, what it is, I should answer to them in their particuler order; First, the National Church is called by the name of the Cities of the Nation, which is a borrowed word from Christs Church, Yee are a City fet upon an Hill, Mat. 5. 14. Rev. 16. 19. and that this City of the Nations is meant the National Church is, because they shall begin to decay and fink, and shall also be destroyed at the time that Babylon shall come in remembrance before God, whereby the shall receive the Cup at his hands; for the Nations, or the National Church, hath been stained, is, and shall be, with the corruptions or pollutions of Romes Doctrine, Fer. 51. 7, 8. Again, if you shall ask me what the National Ministers are called in Scripture, I shall shew you as followeth, they are called Merchants of the Earth,

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Earth, or the Angels of the Waters; now the word Angel fignifieth Minister, as Revel. 1. 20, and the Waters fignifie Nations, for fo faith the Spirit, The Waters that thou sawest are Multitudes, Nations, and Tongues, Rev. 17. 15. fo it is clear, that the Angels of the Waters are meant the Ministers of the Nations, to that they are neither called Ministers of Christ, nor Ministers of the Gospel, but the Ministers of the Gospel are called by another name in the same place, even the Angel of the Altar, and that Christ is our Altar is clear, see Heb. 13. 10. Rev. 16. 7. Thirdly, Why their Preaching is not called Gospel-preaching, although they make use of the Gofpel, is, because they teach for Doctrine the Traditions of their Fathers; and the Apostle calleth not such Gospel-preaching, but faith to the Galathians, I marvel that you are so soon moved away from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another Gospel, which is not another, but there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the Goffel of Christ, Gal. I. 6, 7. fo that those persons that do pervert any of the layings of Christ, according to Scripture account.

account, cannot be called the Ministers of the Gospel, nor their Preaching Gospelpreaching, which the Ministers of our Nation have done, that is to fay, mingled the Commands of Christ with their Traditions, and so cannot be meant that Gospel-preaching which shall bee the fore-runner of Jesus Christ; but that the Gospel shall be preached again in the plain way of it, that is to fay, in the way which Chrift appointed when hee ascended up on high, is clear, Mat. 24.

14. Rev. 14.6.

The Fourth and last Sign of the second coming of Jesus Christ, is those false Signs and Miracles that shall bee wrought by the false Prophets, for a little before the coming of Christ there will be a Generation of men that will deny the way and Ordinances of the Gospel, because they are not accompanied with Miracles, and so shall deny the power of the Word. The Devil feeing this, hee shall impower the false Prophets, whereby they shall do great Signs and lying Wonders, to deceive by multitudes all incredulous persons, who will beleeve a lying Sign before they will beleeve that Word that was confirmed by Signs; for

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the Mind of their knowledge, God is pleased to the them strong delusions to believe a of an our days that have denied the Truth that once they owned, and are grown the meaning of the they owned, and are grown that they do show they are the show they are the show the ruth of this, let them but go to London, be on those Meetings and go to those Meetings that they call the Quakers Meetings, and they shall brove that false Signs, and lying the be fore-runners of Christs coming, fee tom these Scriptures following, Mar. 12-2. Cap. 24. 24. 2 Thess. 2.9. Rev. 13. 13, 14. Cap. 16. Latter these tombers of the coming half for hould adde fome more Signs of Christs oming, as the gathering to the form of the oming, as the gathering together of the arms into their own Land, which cerding might eafily be proved. at Visible and the confutation that there is among them, but the returning of the fleet from the Straights will give us more certain intelligence as to that thing; and fo I shall leave these few Stones and fo I shall leave these few Stones and for I shall leave these few Stones are the stones and for I shall leave these few Stones are the stones and for I shall leave these few Stones are the stones and fo I shall leave these few Signs unto your confideration, and pass to the Tenth Thelece and last Particular.

Signs; for

Aprofitable Application of the Sum of as fur mhat is fore-mentioned.

Christian Reader, I having shewed the you what excellent injoyment the Lord & hath laid up for his people, even for fuch as feek him, as for hidden as feek him, as for hidden treasure. Sith the Lord hath fet before thine eyes such a Kingdom, and such an Inches Kingdom, and fuch an Immortal Crown of Life, be exhorted to run with patience the race that is fet before you had What if though troubles do befet and the Christian life, yet these light afflictions of which are but for amoment, work in us have a farre more and exceeding weight of the glory. Dear Christian, be of the minder of the worthy Apostle, that counted all with of the excellent knowledge of the excellent knowledge of of the excellent knowledge of his Christ, porcone reckoning that the fufferings of this prefent time were not worthy to be compared to the clary red to the glory that shall be revealed. See, thy bleffed Saviour hath led thee an 83% example of fufferings, Who for the joynes that may let before him. that was set before him, indured the still Cross, despised the Shame, and is now set all down at the right hand of the Father. I fay, confider him who indured fuch Buffe.

Bufferings, fuch Crowning with Thoras, pay such spitting on, and yet turned not away his back from the smiter, nor his cheek from him that plucked off the hair, Ifa. 50. 6. 2 Cor. 4.26,27, Again in the second place, let me exhort the Day of Christ, or the day of thy Diffolution is a very uncertain day, for as ir was in the diffolution of the old World, to shall it be in the coming of Christ; for the day before the Floud, they ate, they drank, they married, and gave in Marriage, until the Floud came and took them all away. Even so was it with the Sodomites, they continued in their fecurity until the wrath of the Almighty broke out, and there was no remedy. Moreover, when Lot fore-warned his Sons in Law of the Wrath of God upon the City, he feemed to them as one that mocked, Gen. 19. 14. Matth. 24. 37, 38,39,40. Moreover the Apostle faith, That the Day of the Lord shall so come as a Thief in the night, that when they Shall say peace and safety, then sudden held Velupon a Woman with Childe, and

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they shall not escape, I Thest. 5. 1, 2, 3. So, forasmuch as the Day of the Lord is so uncertain, let us labour for a watchful Spirit, for it is a duty of a very high concernment, both from the example of the Saints that have gone before, and from a command of our bleffed Saviour and his Apostles, as you may see from these Scriptures, Pfal. 102. 7. Pfal. 103. 6. Ifa. 21. 5. Hab. 2. 1. Mat. 24. 42. Cap. 25. 13. Mar. 13. 33, 34, 37. Atts 10. 31. 1 Cor. 16. 13. 1 Theff. 5. 6. The Apostle also gives two maine Reasons to urge Christians to thar duty of watchfulness; the first is from this consideration, That the end of all things is at hand, in these words, saying, The end. of all things is at hand, watch and be fober, & Per. 4. 7. The second Reason is, because faith he, your Adversary the Devillike a roaring Lion runs about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist be stedfast in the faith. 1 Pet. 5. 8. the Spirit of God lays down the danger that will follow fecurity, and faith, If thou Shalt not watch, I will come upon thee as a Thief, and thou halt not know, whenever I will come upon thee, Revel. 3. 3. therefore bleffed

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blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his Garment, lest he walk naked, and they fee his shame, Revel. 16. 15. Therefore, for as much as it is a duty of fuch concernment, let us labour to watch, to the end we may know the Signs of the times, so as that they overtake us not as 3 Snare, whereby we be deprived of that glorious Crown that is fet before us. And so I pass to the second Use.

Secondly, Be informed, Christian Use 2. Reader, of the vanity, or emptiness of all injoyments, unless fuch injoyments as shall be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ at that day, under these two confiderations; The first is, The instability, or breviousness of their continuance. Secondly, from the little peace, or Soul-satisfaction they speak to a Soul when they do injoy them, and fo to the first thing considerable, which is the instability, or breviousness, or short continuance of the injoyments of all things below that inheritance. We shall take notice first of the Wise-mans words that saith, Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that that is not, verily riches make themselves mings and fly towards Heaven, riches are not for ever, and the

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crown of them doth not indure to every Generation; for as we brought nothing into the World, foit is certain we hall carry nothing out, so that every man walketh in a vain show, getting goods. knowing not who shall injoy them; and thus spending their days in wealth; in a moment go down to the Grave, and his bones being full of the Sins of his youth which (hall lye down with him in the dust, Job 20. 11. Cap. 21: 13. Pfal. 39. 6. 1 Tim. 6. 7. Job 1. 21. Prov. 23. 5. Cap. 27. 24. From hence we may fee, that we have no continuing City here, but all our injoyments are very brevious and full of frugality; fo that we are like unto Dreaming men, that dream they injoy much, and wake, and behold they have nothing. So it is with all men that have not affurance of that Kingdom to come, that Riches and Honour before mentioned, although they may have much riches in this world, yet when the Lord faith, Return you children of men, they return to dust, and be as if they had not been, and all the riches that they have injoyed is but to them a Dream, as the Pfalmist faith, How are they brought to desolation, as at a

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moment, shey are utterly consumed with terror, as a Dream when one awaketh; fo Lord when thou awakeft. thou wile despise their Image, Pial. 73. 19, 20. Heb. 13. 13. Pfal. 90. 3, 4, 5, 6. Again, wile thou fet thy heart upon honor, that is as vain as the former: for men of high degree are vanity, and men of low degree are alike, when they are put in a ballance they are altogether lighter than vanity; their inward thoughts is, that their houses should continue for ever, and their dwelling places unto all generations, they call their Lands after their own names: neveribelesse man being in honor abideth not, but is like the beast that perisheth: this their way is their folly, yet their posterity approve their sayings, like Sheep they are laid in the grave. Death shall feed on them, and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning, and their beauty shall consume in their graves from their dwellings, though while he dive he bless himself, and men will praise thee when thou doest well to thy Self, he shall go to the generation of his Fathers, and never see light, the man

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man that is in boner and understandeth not, is like the beast that perisheth. Pfal. 49. 11, 12, 13, 14. compared with 18, Again, wile thou fet thy heart on pleasure, that is vain, and but for a moment ; therefore Moyfes did choose rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasure of Sin for a season: knowing affuredly, that those that live in pleasure were dead while they lived, and so were an ill savor in the nostrils of God, Heb. 11.25. 1 Tim. 5, 6. and so having showed you the instability, and the breviousness of all the things of this life, I shall also show you the vanity, and the little peace that they speak to a Soul here, or at the great day of Account, but rather trouble and vexation of Spirit; as you may see from the words of him that had the greatest experience that ever any before or fince had, as you may fee by the discovery of what he did injoy, in that which followeth, I faid in my heart, Go too now, I will prove thee with mirth. therefore enjoy pleasure, and behold this also is vanity. I said of laughter,

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it is madd, and of mirth, what doth it? I sought in my heart to give my self to Wine, yet acquainting my heart with Wisdom, and to lay hold on Folly till I might see what was that good for the Sons of men, which they should doe under the Heavens all the dayes of their life. I made me great works, I builded me houses, and planted me vineyards, I made me gardens and orchards, and planted trees in them of all kinds of fruits, I made me pools of water, to thater there with the wood that brought forth trees, I gat me servants, and maidens, and had servants born in my house; Also I had great possessions of great and small Cattel, above all that there in Jerusalem before me, I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of Kings and Princes, I gat me men-fingers and womenlingers, and the delights of the Sons of men, as Musical Instruments, and that of all forts; so i was great, and increa-Jed more than all that were before me in Ierusalem, also my wisdom remained with me, and what soever my eyes desired, I kept nothing from them, I withheld not my heart from any foy,

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thee, ter dat for my beart rejoyced in all my labour. weepin and this was my portion of all my labor ; then I looked on all the works that fax be a my hands had wrought, and on the lawhen h bour ibat I had laboured to do, and behold all was vanity, and vexation of rited th spirit, and there was no profit under and for the Sun; for riches profit not in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivereth from dea b, Prov. 11. 4. Ecclefiaft. 2. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, 11. From hence you may fee, and that per many more Scriptures that might be puch hu added, the vanity and non-profit (as world, ic well as the brevity) of all the enjoyheavenly ments, below that excellent inheriee also ! tance that shall be given to the Saints Saviour at the appearance of lefus Christ, and ungodly therefore gird up the loins of your Arive to mind, and hope to the end. And fo I pass to the Third Use. God, he

The Third shall serve to reprove, thou art reproved poor Soul, whosoever thou art, that art fo foolish, that haft a prife put into thy hands, and doest not ingage thy heart to make ule of it, the Lord will reprove thee at his appearance, because thou hast not made use of that Talent he gave thee.

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thee, and will command that thou halt be bound, and be cast into utter darkness, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth for ever. O let that sad president of Efan be a warning unto thee, the which when he had fold his birth-right, afterwards, when he would have inherited the bleffing, he was rejected, and found no place of repentance, though he fought it carefully with tears. Heb. 12. 26, 27. Gen. 27. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40. From hence we fee, that persons are reproved that do so much hunt after the enjoyment of the world, so that they thereby lose their heavenly inheritance; More you may fee also from the words of our bleffed Saviour, wherein he reproveth an ungodly generation of men, that Itrive to be rich in this world, when they are not rich in the graces of God, he faith, Thou Fool, this night Shall thy Soul be required of thee, and then whose Ball all those be that thon hast laboured for ? Luke 12. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. See more in the Parable, But Abraham said, Son re-Syring ordinales N 3 to alway member

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member that thou in thy life-time receivedst thy good things, and Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented, Luke 16. 15. From which words we may fee, that fuch as delight more in the enjoyments of the things of this life, then they doe in suffering for Christs sake, and the Gospel, looking at that glorious Kingdome that shall come, when Abraham, Ifaack, and Jacob, and all the holy Prophets, and all the faithfull Saints shall enter into that inheritance of glory, they shall be cast out to utter darknesse, and banished from the presence of God and the holy Angels for ever, Matt. 8. 11. 12. cap. 13. 42, 43. So we may see such Souls are worthy of reproof, which when the Lord hath bestowed a Talent upon them, and given them time and means of grace, and yet doe not ingage their hearts to make use of it. And so I pass to the fourth Tife.

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The fourth use is a word of caution that I shall desire thee, Christian Reader, Reade is no C blefied blefied

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Reader to lay to heart, which is no other than the same that our bleffed Saviour gave to his Disciples in these words, Take heed to your Selves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenne fe, and the cares of this life, lest that day come upon you unawares, for as a snare it shall come upon all them that live upon the face of the Whole earth; Watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be counted worthy to escape those things that shall. come to passe, and standbefore the Son of man. Luke 21, 34, 35, 36. What a fad thing will it be for Souls that are not prepared for their great Bridegroom, when the noise shall be made, the Bridegroom comes? therefore take heed of carelesse security: Take heed, watch and pray, for those knowest not when the time is. Moreover, Blessed is that servant, that when the Lord comes is found watching. Mat. 25.13. Lu. 12. 37. Mat. 26. 41. 5ly; The fifth use is an use of direction; In order to the attaining of this heavenly inheritance, first feek it before and above all things in the world N4

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world, and then I can affure thee thou shalt find it, the which if thou doft find, it will fill the closet of thy Soul with glorious and durable riches; for proof of this, that thou that find it, and that thou fhalt be made rich by it; fee Prov. 8, 17, 18. 19, 20. in these words; I love them that leve me, and those that feek me early shall find me, riches and henour are with me, yea durable viches and righteousnesse; My fruit is better than gold, yea fine gold, and my revenue than choice filver; I lead in the way of righteon nesse in the midst of the paths of judgement, that I may cause those that love m to inherit Substance, and I will fill their treasure; So that those that seek first the kingdom of Heaven, and the righteousnesse thereof, and seek it as hidden treasure, that is to fay, above all things in the world, without doubt the Lord will rife and rain everlasting righteousness upon such souls rosea 10.12. Prov. 2.3,4,5. I Chron. 28. 9. Mat.9. 33. So much to the first means, in order to the attainment of this inhesignificance un und ob allantuonidata

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The second way to attain to this inheritance may be observed from the wife Merchant man , who, when he had found the Pearl of great price, fold all that he had to gain that price; do also must thou, when thou seest an excellency in Jesus Christ, thou must break off thy fins by righteoufnesse, and part with all that is near and dear unto thee, for he that comes to Christ, and hates not Father and Mother, Wife and Children, Lands and living, nay and his own life, cannot be his Disciple; not that I mean that thou shouldst hate the person of thy Father, or thy Mother, or Wife, or Children, and the like, neither did Christ mean so in that speech of his, but to cast them out of their affections when they come in competition with Christ, but still to honour and respect their persons, though flight their counsel, Luk. 14.26,27. Mat. 10. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38. fo that this is the second way to attain this Heavenly inheritance or Pearl of great price: Thirdly as thou must forfake all, and break off thy fins by righteousnesse, so thou must increase

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in thy piety and virtues, thou must not stand still, but thou must add to thy Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Teinperance, Patience, and Godlinesse. for so an entrance shall be adminifired into his heavenly Kingdom. 2 Pet. 1.5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. fo that from hence thou mayst see, that the way or means to enter into that heavenly inheritance, is to grow in grace, not to fland still, not be lukewarm, not to have a name to live, and be dead, but to excel in virtue.

.The fourth : and laftly as thou must feek that inheritance above and before all things, and as thou must forfake all things for the attainment of that precious inheritance, when thou hast found it, so as to part with all and break off thy fins by righteoufneffe, and as thou must also grow in Graces, adding to thy Faith, Virtue. and fo forth: So in the fourth and last place thou must goe on, and perfevere till death, not turn back, or be weary, or faint in thy mind, for that is the way to inherit that glorious inheritance, even that immortal crown of life, and to fit down with mwob

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Christ in his Throne, where thou shalt abide for ever and ever 2 Tim. 4. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Jam. 1. 12. Rev. 2, 10. cap 3. v. 9. compar'd with 12. v. 2. 7. cap. 21. 7. And so I shall passe unto the sixth use.

The fixth use is a use of inducement 6 use a to win thee or move thee to prife that Kingdom, which is to be at the Revelation of Jesus Christ, for then the Tabernacle of God shall be with men, & he shall dwell with them; as also saigh John in these words, I beard a great voice from Heaven, saying, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and be will dwell with them, and they hall be his people, and he will be their God, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither forrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away; and the redeemed of the Lord shall come to Sion with Songs, and everlasting foy shall be unto them; and the great King of the whole earth, who is the Son of the most high, and the great Bridegroom of the Bride, shall gird himfelfe and make them fit down

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down at meat, and they shall raign with him, as long as the Sun and Moon endureth, Luk. 12.37. Rev. 21. 3, 4, 5. E/a. 35, 10. thefe privileges in that kingdom shall be above Angels, for not unto the Angels hath he put into subjection the world to come, whereof we speak, but that he hath put it into subjection to the Saints is clear, as you may fee from these Scriptures Pfal. 149. 6,7,8, 9. Obedi. 21. Mal. 4. 3, 4, 5. Rev. 2. 26,27. from hence we may see the great gainers Saints will be, if it be fo that they lofe all the enjoyments of this life, provided they doe but attain that inheritance, I Tim. 4. 8. cap. 6. ver. 6. 1 Cor. 3. 22. But on the other hand, if thou shouldest lose that inheritance, and the glorious presence of that infinite glory, which was fo glorious, that when Peter and John law but a glimple of it, they faid, It is good for us to be here; I say, if thou shouldest loose this enjoyment, although by it thou maift gain all the friendship in the world, & the riches and quintessence thereof; yet thou wouldest be a great ratolett no mony come buy True

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lofer, Matt. 17. 4. Mark 8. 36. Christian Reader, thou art not travelling to an earthly Kingdom or Inheritance, but unto Mount Sion, and unto the City of the living God, the heavenly Ierusalem, to an innumerable company of Angels to the General Assembly and Church of the first born, which are written in Heaven, and unto God the Judge of all things, and the Spirits of Just men made perfect, where thou shale enjoy the presence of God, in whose presence there is fullnesse of Joy, and at his right hand pleasure for evermore, Pial. 16.11. Heb. 12.22, 23.

The fecond inducement is from the Freeness of the giver of this Inheritance, that whether thou art rich or poor, high or low, noble or ignoble, thou maift attain to this Inheritance; for the Lord commands his Messengers to offer it freely to every Creature, Mar. 16.15. Rev. 22. 17. Moreover he proclaims this his loving kindnesse by the Prophet, faying, Ob every one that thirstech, come ye to the maters, and he that bath no mony, come buy Wine withm

without money, and without price, why do you lay out your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which profits not? Elay 55.

1, 2. From hence we may take notice of these two things, First how the Lord exhibiteth himself freely to every Creature; and blames such as are contented with Husks, when they may have the Bread of Life

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The third Inducement or Motive to move thee, or incourage thee to feek after this Inheritance, is from the confideration of thy condicion, when the Lord is pleased to cast his eye of pity upon thee; it is not at that time when thou appearest amiable or lovely by reason of thy virtues and graces which is in thee but when thou wast a deformed Creature, by reason of lying in the blood of the pollution of thy Sin, and it was also when no eye pittied thee; neither could Angels or men do thee any good : In this appeared the love of God (indeed) as faith the Apostle; We know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though

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be were rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might be made rich, thus the Lord Jesus made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a Servant, and became obedient to death; even the death of the croffe; (and as the Apostle Paul saith) this his great love did extend it felf to us, when we by Nature were the Children of wrath, as well as others, scarcely for a righteous man will one dye, yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to dye; but God commendeth his love to us, in that while we were Sinners Christ died for us. Rom. 5. 7,8. 2 Cor. 8. 9. Phil. 2.6,7, 8. Ezek. 16. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. So that hence we may fee the time when the Lord was pleased in his mercy and pity to look upon us, and offer unto us this rich inheritance.

Fourthly, and lastly, be moved above all things to feek this kingdom, because of the indurablenesse of it, for it will never fail thee, but will remain with thee for ever and ever, as faith the Pfalmist, The Lord knoweth the days of the upright, and his in-

heritance (hall be for ever; The Apostle Peter also to confirm this faving, faith, Bleffed be the God and Father of our Lord Iefus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy bath begotten us again unto a lively hope. by the resurrection of Iesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, that faleth not amay reserved in the Heaven for you : voherefore, gird up the loyns of your mind, and be (ober and hope to the end for the grace that shall be brought to you at the revelation of lesus Christ. the which shall be an ample recombe th pence of reward for all the fufferings that thou shalt meet with for the profession of his name) in this life, hen the Pfal. 37. 18. 1 Pet. 1.3, 4. comp. ich, co 13 v. Rev. 21.6. Rev. 22. 12. Heb. e Judge. fore the

The feventh use is to set forth the misery and terror that will fall upon all fuch as fin against fuch great mervation of them from the presence of the ly Iernsalem, it might be sufficient to be a Worm never dying, and a fire

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never quenched; but there is also Tophet prepared of old, he bath made it deep and large, the pile thereof is fire and much wood, the breath of the Lord like a stream of brimston doth kindle it, Isa. 30. 33. Agreeing with the words of the Apostle that saith, Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness, and forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance, but after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up wrath against the day of wrath, and revelation of the righteous Judgement of God? Rom. 2. 4,5.2 Theff. 1.7, 8. What a forlorn condition will that Soul be in, whoever he be, that bath flighted the means of Grace, and cast behind his back all those sweet invitations of the Gospel, when the Lord Jesus Christ shall come forth, to summon all to appear before the Judgement Seat, to give an account before the Tribunal Seat? Will not fuch Souls call for the Mountains to fall upon them, to hide them from the prelence of God? Surely they will, and all fuch faces shall gather blackness; for theat

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thou that half hated knowledge, and half not chosen the fear of the Lord, but haft chosen Pleasure, and all that thy heart hath lufted after here below, and half let greater account of the praise of Men than of the praise of God, this Thale thou have at the Lords hands thou shalt lye down in forrow, where there shall be weeping, and wayling, and gnashing of teeth; therefore labour to be wife whilft thou mailt be happy, and in this thy day confider the things that belong to thy peace, lest it be hid from thine eyes for ever, and thou mourn when it be too late. Prov. 1. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32. Cap. 5. II. Luke 19. 42.

The Eighth and last life shall be for comfort and consolation to all those that shall be Heirs of that Kingdom; Blessed are all they who are found watching when the Lord Jesus Christ shall come, he will gird himself, and make them six down at meat, and he will come forth and serve them. Therefore be glad and rejoyce, for the Lord Omnipotent will reign. Blessed are all they that are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lambe.

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for they shall enter into that glorious City, even that heavenly Ferusalem, (which I have given you a glimps of) Where there shall bee singing praises by the Saints, where there shall be everlasting joy, and substantial (or perfeet I felicity; therefore I fay, Bleffed are all the Dead that dye in the Lord, for they shall be glorified at his appearance. Even so Amen, Come Lord Jesus come de happy and the things the quickly.

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Errata.

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Hammon on Original Sin, and Sions Redemption

