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Thought. O Sir, this is the Friend I want, and Bleffed be God I have found him, I am refolved to make use of his help and affiftance continually. Now Old-man look to your felf, Laborious I hope, will do your Bufinefs, and I shall quickly prevail, and open the Door to true Godlines.

es there about os help him eth to help him eth our to get bit à hough te Nor Vpon this he became very diligent in attending upon all the means of Grace. Moreover, by the help of Endeavour he cut of fome one or two of the Members of Old-man, that Curfed Body of Sin, and prayed Morning and Evening, efchewing all open Prophanenefs and Scandalous Sins, and would not speak at random with his Tongue, nor neglect to hear one good Sermon, if possible he could get an God kaons by opportunity, and became mighty just in all his Dealings and Commerce with Men. But foon upon this, Apollyon, by the treachery of Old-man , raifed up an other Enemy which had almost infensible undone him; his Name was Self-Righteoufnefs, a very great Enemy to true Godlinefs, which Godlinefs foon perceived; and called upon him to open the Door, for it appeared he had not received him yet.

Godli. Thoughtful, What is the caule of this great neglect? What shall I not yet be received? O What a long time have I flood at your Door ? what is the matter now ?

Thought. Truly Sir, I concluded now the Door had been open, by the help of my good Friend Laborious, for I have done what he required of me.)

Godli. No, no, Thoughtful, I am ftill kept out, Wilful-will and Old-man have beguiled you, and have let in another dangerous Enemy,

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whole name is Self-Righteoufnefs; this was he that quite undid poor Legalift, and will ruine you too, if you take not heed, I would not have you to flight Endeavour, but not to make an Idol of Endeavour. If you be found in your own Righteoufnefs, you will be loft by your own Unrighteoufnefs, Duties can never have too much of your diligence, nor too little of your dependance; 'tis not the falt Seas of thy own Tears, but the red Sea of Chriff's Blood muft wafh away thy Sins. You owe the Life of your Soul to the Death of your Saviour.

If you have no better Righteoufnels than what is of your providing, you will meet with no higher happinels than what is of your own deferving, you must take up Duties in point of performance, but lay them all down again in point of dependance. There is as much caufe to fear you now as ever there was before; what will you do?

Thought. Lord help me, what fhall I do indeed?

O how are many deceived, who think it is an eafie thing to be faved; fure I fhall never obtain to a flate of Grace and true Conversion.

Upon this a melancholy and very dangerous Fellow (called Defpond) fell upon him, and almoft knock'd him down; nay, I perceive he broke fome of his Bones, wounding him fo grievoully, that he was left Bleeding in fuch a fort, that he concluded there was no hope of Life. Indeed he was wonderfully overwhelmed with trouble, and that which grieved him molt of all, was, to think, that all this time, not only true Godline fs, but Chrift him felf alfo waited at his Door. Godline fs perceiving what

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what a fad Condition he was in, spake to him after this manner.

Godli. Poor Thoughtful, do not give way to Apollyon, that curfed Prince of Darkness, for tis he who hath flirred up that cruel Enemy Defpond to take away thy Life ; that Bloody Villain hath fent many Thousand Souls to Hell. Come, though thy own Righteousness is worth nothing, being but like filthy Rags, Yet Chrifts Righteousness is sufficient to cover thee, and his Blood to heal all thy Wounds. Your great bufiness is to believe, viz. Wholly to get out of your felf, and rely upon Chrifts Bleffed Merits; and know affuredly, that that very moment you caft your felf, by a lively act of Faith upon Jesus Christ, I shall come. into your House.

O know Poor Thoughtful, that Chrifts Righteoufnefs hath more worth in it to fave you, and raife you up to Heaven, than your own Unrighteousness has weight to cast you down to Hell. you fay you are a great, a black and bloody Sinner, but you can be but a Sinner, and Chrift Died for Sinners, and never any threw themselves by an Act of true Faith upon him, but were faved by him; alas, he Died for the chiefest of Sinners; and do you not hear him fay, Come unto me all ye that labour and areheavy laden, and I will give you reft, Mat. 11. 28, 29. Sir, He that believes not, makes God a Lyar, for he hath faid in his Son, There is Life and Salvation for you, and all that come to God by him.

Thoughtful, O that I could believe! my Sins! my Sins.

No fooner had Godliness shewed him what H3 it

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it was to open the Door, and laid before him the neceflity of Union with Chirft, and of Faith in him, but Apollyon, with the Old-man, and other Curfed Enemies, began to caufe dreadful Combuftions in his Houfe, for nothing doth the Devil fear more than true Faith ; and Thoughtful found it very hard to believe, Wilful-will being fuch a stubborn, crooked and perverse Fellow; also Apollyon tryed his Skill many other ways to undo him, fo that he was hard befet; but when Apollyon faw none of those ways were like to do, he laid before him the outward danger he would be in , if true Godliness was embraced, he told him, he was like to fuffer great Perfecution, it being the Portion of all who entertained true Godlinefs, infomuch that his very Life might be in danger; but Godlinefs comforted him fweetly, with many precious Promifes, telling him alfo he had fuch a Glorious Retinue to attend him, which he would bring into his Houfe with him, that he need not to fear any Difficulty, provided that he would but let him in ; but he feeing he was not able to open the Door, his Enemies being to ftrong for him, notwithftand ing his own Strength. To his Joy he told him, there was one Friend of his, whom, if he could prevail with to come unto his Affiftance, he would foon make the way clear, and open the Door. Who is that, faid Thought ful ? Godlinefs then discovered immediately the Excellency of his Perfon, and the Nature of his Operation, by which he foon underftood it was the Holy Ghoft ; upon this he was not a little glad, but prefently cryed out as one whole Life is in danger, to God to fend the Holy Spirit to affift him

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him, O Lord, the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, now Lord ! Thus he cry'd, and prefently there was ftrange Struglings indeed, (the Holy Spirit Working upon all the Faculties of his Soul) yea, fuch a Conflict that he never met with in all his Life, Judgment, in the Combat behaved himfelf bravely; Confideration, was not wanting, Confcience laid on home Blows, being back'd with Endeavour, alias Laborious: in the beginning of the Battel, the Holy Spirit came in, and with him Faith, and other of Godlines's Attendants, and the Door flew open, and Oldman immediately went to the Wall, crying out Quarter, pleading his great Age, but had no Mercy thewed him. Wilful-will ftrait-way fubjefted himfelf (that Scripture being made good, My People shall be willing in the day of my Power) and became Thoughtful's very good Servant Carnal-affections changed their Minds, and were made Heavenly, and to they abode, to his great Joy, untill his Dying day.

True Godliness being now entred into his House, with his Attendance, Thoughtful was not a little comforted. Now, Godliness's Retinue, who came in with him, were thefe following, (fome of which. you had an account of before) viz. Heavenly, New-man, True-love, Innocency, Humility, Sobriety, Sincerity, Temperance, Self-clearing, Faithful, Excellent-knowledge, Bleffed Experience, Godly-zeal, Filial-fear, Precious-promifes, Holy-revenge, Vehement-defire, Constant-Supplication, Spiritual-indignation, Chri-Stian-courage, Sincere Alms and Ends, Careful, Patience, Hospitality, Stability, Charity, Liberality, Chastity, Purity, Holy-fympathy, Wake-man, Watch-well, Peaceable, Harmelefs, Gentlenefs, H 4. Brotherly170

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Brotherly-kindnefs and Love-all; befides feveral others of like Quality, and by reafon thefe, as I formerly told you, were all great Nobles, or Perfons highly decended, being the Off-fpring of Heaven; they had I perceiv'd alfo a moft glorious Attendance to accompany them; and to the end you may know what a happy Man poor Thoughtful is now become, and with him every true Chriftian, I fhall let you know who they were.

The first I faw was the Father of *true Godli*nefs, for he always dwells where he dwells, and abides with this his glorious and heavenly Attendance.

Secondly, The Lord Jefus Chrift, which brought that word to my Remembrance, If any Man loves me, he will keep my Words, and my Father ill love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him, John 14 23. Alfo the other Words, I will come in to him, and fup with him, and he with me, Rom. 3. 20. 2 Tim. 1. 14. Thirdly, the Holy Spirit, for he alfo is faid to dwell in us; and befides thefe, there was, Fourthly, Union. Fifthly, Reconciliation. Sixthly, Juffification. Seventhly, Acceptation, Eightly, Communion with the Father and Son. Ninthly, Adoption. Tenthly, Pardon of Sin. Eleventhly, The Image of God. Twelfthly, Peace of Confcience. Thirteenthly, And Joy in the Holy Ghoft, Fourteenthly, Free access to the Throne of Grace. Fifteenthly, A place in the Heavenly Family. Sixteenthly, Fellowthip with Saints. Seventeenthly, The earneft. and fealing of the Spirit. Eightteenthly Encrease of Grace. Nineteenthly, The Attendance of an innumerable Company of Angels. Twentiethly,

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Twenticthly, Divine Protection, or fure Refuge in God. One and twentiethly, A full Affurance of Heaven, but 'twas a great while before they could see him, he lay hid, it appears, tho' he came in with the reft. And laftly, Final Per-feverance. But 10, I look'd, and behold a good way off, I espy'd another glorious Train tollowed, in the midft of which I plainly difcern'd, amongst others (whose glory was fo great, I could not behold them) thefe following, Immortality, Incorruption, Perfection, Glorious Victory, Heavenly Triumph, the Beatifical Vision, Rivers of Pleasures, the Tree of Life, the King in his Beauty, a white Throne, Manfions of Glory, the Holy City New Jerufalem, the Streets whereof were pav'd with pure Gold, a Grown of righteousness, which to glifter'd, that it dazled mine Eyes in fuch a fort, that I could not look downwards, like Iome Men, ever fince; Moreover I faw Millions of Millions of Glorified Saints, (coming among ft the Holy Cherubims and Seraphims, and all the Hoft of Heaven) with Palms and Harps in their Hands, finging Allelujah to God and the Lamb; they made fuch Melody, and that it was enough to ravish ones Soul in such a manner, as to leave no Heart nor Spirit in us to the empty things of this World.

Now, the two first glorious Companies, who attend true Godlinefs here, these entred in with him immediately, and the other Glories, Thoughtful was fure of poffeffing after a few days; fo that he was wonderfully fortified against all Domestick Commotions, for Forign approaching Dangers whatfoever; for he could not. but expect new Troubles would be raifed HS againft

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against him, both from within and without : And fo indeed it fuddenly came to pals ; for Apollyon, the curfed Prince of Darkness, first raifed up all his fcattered Forces, which ftill remained within, who lurk'd in Holes and fecure corners of his Houle ; for particularly Oldman, though he was dangeroully Wounded, his. Head broke, and laid a Bleeding, yet it appears he was not quite Dead, yet was committed close Prisoner under the charge of one of Godlines's Servants, called Holy Revenue and tho' he had a ftrict command to Kill him? wet he faw he could not prefently do it; by which means it fell out, that in a little time he feem'd to revive again ; and poor Thoughtful thereby was continually plagu'd with indwelling Sin to his Dying day, which was agreat grief to him, and an hindrance alfo to true Godliness at all times; and the worft of all was, this inward Corruption, alias Old-man, alias Body of Sin, getting too great Power by the treachery of Mrs. Heart; and Apollyon the Brince of Darkneis; they laying before him his manfold Evils, and Remifnels in Holy Duties, perfwaded him, that he harboured in his. House an Enemy of true Godlines, called Hypocrify, and that he was like, upon that account, to lofe all his Hopes here, and that Happinefs which Godlinefs affured him of hereafter and had not Sincerity came in with Godlinefs, he had been utterly undone; but, as God would have it, Self-clearing, by the help of poor Confcience, made it appear to him, that Hypocrify was not hid in his House, nor in. the least countenanced by him; for, Firft, They made it out he had a general hatred of

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all Iniquity, and did not allow of, nor connive at any Sin whatfoever, by the aid of Spiritual Indignation : And Secondly, That there was no one Duty which he was convinc'd of, but he readily subjected to it by the help of New Obedience. Thirdly, That he was mighty carefull of, and had always (by the help of Christian Watch-well) kept a strict Eye over Mrs. Heart, whom he most of all mistrusted, and had a great Jealoufy of. Fourthly, That he refted not upon the external Preformance of any Duty, but did all he did to the Praife and Glory of God, by the help of true Love. Fifthly, That he was the fame continually in private which he was in publick, by the affi-Itance of filial Fear. Sixthly, And that alfo he gave according to his Ability at all times to Theology (Chrift, s Minister) and to the Poor Saints ; the one by the aid of New-Obedience, Bounty, Liberality and Godly-zeal, and the other by the help of Christian-charity. Seventhly, That he did nothing to be feen of Men, or for Vainglory fake, by the Directions of Holy-ends and Aims, and by the power of Heavenly New-man Ninthly, And that he was always conftant in his Love to and his effeem of true Godlinefs, being as much for the Work of Godliness as for the Wages by the affiftance of Faithful. Tenth-13 That he did not inordinately love, nor fet his affections upon the things of this Life, by the help of Temperance and Sobriety. Eleventhly, That he laboured to live a Spotlel's Life, being taught to to do by fiveet Purity and harmtels Innocency Twelfibly, That he bore up bravely, in the Profession of the Gospel, not being ashamed nor afraid to own Jelus Christ before H.64 Men

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Men, by the means of Stability and Christian-Courage. Thirteenthly, And that he did not faint under Afflictions and Tryals, by the help of Bleffed experience, Patience, and Preciouspromifes. Fourteenthly That he was not corrupt in Principle, nor led into Error, by the means of Excellent knowledge.

Now Confcience and Self-clearing having thus freed Thoughtful from the falle Charge about harbouring Hypocrify, he came to perceive what excellent Advantage he had, and should receive by Godlinefs's noble and heavenly Retinue; and hereupon he fell fo in Love with them, that he never would go any where, nor do any Work without their Company, which Apollyon perceiving, knew it was in vain to affault him any more in that fort, but being filled with hellish Rage and Malice against him, he railed vp mighty Forces and Powers upon him, from without ; for, first he ftirr'd up abundance of bale Fellows of the worfer fort, to abuse him, amongst which were these following : Hate-good, Time-ferver, Pride, Tofspot, Out-fide, Riot, Ignorance, Belly-god, Hardheart, Scoffer, Please-all, Love-lust, Make-bate, Giddy-head, Pick-thank, Rob-faint, Temporizer, Idolater, Oppofer, Avarice, Shamelefs, Rafh, High-minded, Lofty, Sear'd-conscience, and many more of like fort, like Bees, compafs'd him about, mif-called and abused him in a cruel and unmerciful manner; which made him wonder what the Caufe fhould be, but at laft he perceived the Ground and Reason of it was only because he had received true Godlines.

Remembring that word of Jefus Chrift Marvel not if the World hateth you. And that word,

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word, They shall fay all manner of Evil against you falfely for my Names (ake : With the Saying, of the Apostle, And all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, Shall Suffer Persecution. At this he was fomewhat troubled and caft down in his Spirits, feeing nothing could be expected, but that these Fellows would plague him, if not utterly undo him ; as touching the things of this World, and tho' by the help he had by Godliness's glorious Retinue, he was supported and established in the ways, of Grace and True Hol'inefs, yet he he was fomewhat difquieted in his Mind; which Godlinefs foon perceiving, begun to Confider what the Caufe of it should be; but he quickly found out the Reafon of it; for upon enquiry, he underftood amongst all the good Company Thoughtful had got in his House, yet there wanted one (whom Godliness dearly loved, and Thoughtful could not be without) whole Name, it feems, was Christian Contentment, and also it appeared. that this noble and high-born Hero Content, had been a long time wandring about in the Wilderness of this World, and to feek a fit Companion to co-habit or dwell with, but could find not one.

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CHAP. XIII.

Shewing how Thoughtful meeting with bis dear Friend Contentment, finding now nothing wanting in order to the making his Life Sweet and comfortable here, and eternally happy hereafter, fell a Singing Allelujah, Hymns, of Praise and Thanksgiving, to God and the Lamb.

T'Houghtful Chriftian, for fo now we must call him, notwithstanding all the high and unutterable Bleffing Riches and Honour he had arrived at, by his late embracing true Godlinefs, remained very fad and melancholy, being attended with many diffonding Cogi-tations, by perceiving not only the great Diffreffes and Troubles which his Wife and Children where like to meet with in this World, but also what fad, unfettled and unhappy days he was fallen into, and of the abounding Evils and horrible Blasphemies which ftar'd him in the Face where-ever he came ; together with the low and deplorable Condition the Church of Chrift and true Religion was in, in this difinal Hour; which Godlinefs perceiving, told him of one Contentment, whom he faw he had not yet found; and that if he could but obtain that Favour, to perfwade him to dwell with him, his Mind would remain fweetly fettled and composed, and that he would enjoy all Calmness and Serenity of Soul imaginable , being delivered from all Anxious Thoughts about all prefent and future Events of things, and undergo all Croffes and harfheft Acci

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Accidents with Equanimity and Acquiescence of Spirit, wholly submitting unto, and being fully fatisfied with the Divine Difpofal. Now, this glorious, noble and renown'd Prince Contentment had been, it feems, travelling from place to place like a poor Pilgrim, as true Godlinefs had done, feeking a fit refting place, but could find none; for he had been to Vifit. Riches, but no dwelling there; and Poverty alfo, but found no Lodging there ; with Youth he could find no abode; and Old Age was a Stranger to him, Pleasure could give him no Entertainment; Honours were forced to fay, I know thee not; he was not Lodged in the Prince's Palace, nor in the Peafant's Cottage ; the Unmarried fought him, but could not find him, and the Married wifht for him, but there was no abiding for him neither; for none of all these States and simple Conditions of Men could yeild perfect Peace, Content, and Serenity of Mind ; but Thoughtful hearing Godlinefs speaking of him, that he was used to dwell with him or where he took up his Lodging, fent prefently his Old Friend Confideration to feek out for him, and by the Providence of God it was not long before he found him ; yet for the Information of my thinking Reader, I shall shew thee a way how Confideraton, by the affiftance of Faith, met with him, and brought him home to his dear Master, Thoughtful Christian, and made him his fixt Companion. First, Confideration led him forth to ponder upon the Divine Attributes, Providences, and Promises of God, he caused him to confult Infinite Power, Wildom, Omnisciency, Holines, Mercy, Goodnels, Truth and Faithfulnels, Gr.

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Secondly, He also flirred him up to feek for Contentment, by pondering upon his prefent fate and condition. WV hat (faith he) hath God done for thee ? Thou wast in the gall of bitterness. and bond of Iniquity, and God hath brought thee out, and yet not Content ! Thou wast a Child of Wrath, and now art a Child of God, yet not Content! Haft thou God for thy God, Chrift for thy Saviour, the Holy Spirit for thy Comforter, and yet not Content! Nay, doth God, Chrift, and the Holy Spirit dwell with thee, and vet not Content ! Haft thoureceived true Godlinefs's glorious Retinue into thy House, to abide, with thee, to enrich thee, to ftrenghten thee, to comfort thee, and make thy Life sweet to thee, and yet not Content! Are thy Sins pardoned, thy Soul justified, haft they Union and Communion with the Father and Son, and yet not Content ! Is thy Name writ in the Book of Life? Shalt thou dwell with God and Christ for ever? Is Heaven thy Inheritance? art thou an Heir of a Crown and Kingdom that fadeth not away, and yet not Content! Nay, let me tell thee, all these things, and many more are abfolutely thine with Contentment. Come art thou willing. to poffels them, to make them thine owu, and enjoy them for ever, yea or no ? if thou wouldest be fure of them, then get Contentment to dwell with thee; for Godlinefs with Contentment is great gain, I Tim. 6.6. It doth not fay Godlinefs without Contentment, but with Contentment. 'Tis this glorious Prince it appears, who puts thee into the prefent poffeffion of all true Happiness and yet not Content.

Thirdly, Ponder, faith Confideration upon the excellency of Contentment; for a Saint never

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never looks like himfelf, acts like himfelf, acts like a perfon of fuch Rank and Quality, a Perfon who hath received fo many Glorious and Excellent Graces and Priviledges, but when in all Conditions he is therewith Contented,

Fourthly, Ponder faith Confideration, upon the Evils of Difcontent; Oh what Difhonour doth it bring unto God! What Reproach to true Godliness ? and what great Wrong to thy own Soul ?

Fifthly, 'Tis below thy Christian Relation faith Confideration, to be difcontent: It was the Speech of Fonadab to Amon, Why art thou, being a Kings Son, lean from day to day? But that was (as one obferves) for a wicked Caufe ? he faw his Spirit was troubled, for otherwife he was Fat enough. 'Tis below thy Relation to God, who is thy Portion, thy Shield, thy Sanctuary, thy Father. David thought it no finall matter to be a Son-in-Law to an Earthly King; and art thou the Kings Son of Heaven and Earth, and yet not Content ? 'Tis below thy Relation to Jefus Chrift : What art thou the Spoufe of Chrift, a Member of Chrift, the Brother and Friend of Chrift, an Heir with Chrift, and yet not Content? 'Tis below thy Relation to the Holy Ghoft, Is he thy Comforter, Guide, Witnels, Strength, and art not Content ! 'Tis below thy Relation to the Holy Angels, who are thy Guard, thy Attendance, thy Friends, thy Watchmen ; haft thou Millions of those Glorious Spirits to minister to thee, to Fight for thee, keep thee in all thy ways, and yet not Content? 'Tis below thy Relation to the Saints and Heavenly Family : Art thou brought home to fit down with

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with them, to partake of all the facred Priviledges of God's Houle with them, and to have a fhare in all their Prayers, and yet not Content? 'tis below the High and Sovereign Dignity thou art raifed to : Art thou born from above, a Prince, a Favourite of Heaven, an Heir of both Worlds, and yet not Content? *Sixtbly*, 'Tis below thole Graces, Divine Helps and Endowments thou haft received. Art thou in the Covenant of Grace ? Has God tyed and bound himfelf by Promifes and Holy Oaths to help thee, uphold thee and keep thee from falling, and yet not Content? Is thy Eternal Eftate fecur'd, art thou made fure of Heaven, and yet Difcontented?

Laftly, Confider, all thy Afflictions Troubles and Sorrows are nothing, in comparison of what other Saints have met with, nay, to those Jesus Christ mat with himself for thy fake, and art not Content ? belides, are they not lefs than thy Sins deferve ? and yet not Content? nay and all those hard things thou meeteft with, God will caufe to work for thy good, and yet not Content? all the bitter things thou art ever like to meet with, will be in this World nothing but fweet hereafter, and yet not Content? all thy Troubles will be foon gone, they are but for a moment ; befides, they are intermixt with much fweet, and yet not Content ? nay and all thy Sorrows will be turned into Joy, and all Tears will be wiped off from thine Eyes, and yet not Content ? No fooner had Confideration laid all these things and many other of like nature before him, but lo, to his Eternal Joy Contentment came in, and was immediately Glorioully

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rioufly Welcomed by Godlinefs's Heavenly Retinue; yea, it cannot be imagined what Rejoycing now there was in poor Thoughtfuls House; it would do also ones Heart good to fee how the fcattered Powers of the Enemy were forced to fly into Holes. Apollyon himfelf was fain to pull in his Horn, Despond was vanished, Curfed Disquiet and Murmur could find no more place in his Houfe : O this to him was the day of days.

Upon this, perceiving Glorious Content with Triumph was entred into his Houle, to dwell with the reft of true Godlinefs's Heavenly Reti mue, and that there was now nothing wanting to make his Life comfortable here, and happy hereafter, he fell a Singing of fweet Hymns of Praise and Thanksgiving to God.

The Travels of, &cc.

A Sweet Hymn of Praise.

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7. True Godliness is come to me, And with him alfo lo I fee, His Glorious Train who will attend, My precious Scul unto the End. No Day like this hath ever bin, Content with Triumph's enter'd in. 2. I love thee and admire thee too, What Work remains thou'l help me do. My chiefest Business it is done, Poffefs the Houfe which thou haft won. The Fruits of Conquest now begin, Content with Triumph's enter'd in. 3: What's this ! * don't boaff what can it be ? Remains there still an Enemy? * In-dwelling Sin Have I o'ercome all deadly Foes, And thall this Old-man me oppose ? moves a-The fruits of Conquest now begin, gain. Content with Triumph's enter'd in. 4: Ishall I'm fure be rid of thee, And then how happy shall I be 3 When Godlinels in me doth Reign, Alone with his most Glorious Train: And not a Foe dares once appear, O then what Triumphs I hall hear ! 5. Gan Man on Earth more happy be ? I Peace poffels, I Glory fee. God and Chrift with me do dwell, I am fure of Heaven, faved from Hell. The fruits, of Conquest now begin, Content with Triumph's enter'd in.

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